



DATA SHORTS

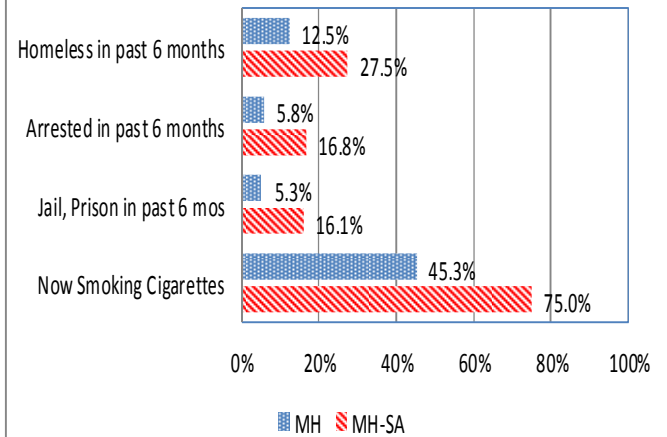
Comparing PMHS Adult Consumers With and Without Substance Abuse Issues: 2

This is the second in a series of three Data Shorts examining some differences between PMHS adult consumers identified as having only mental health problems (MH) and those identified with both mental health and substance abuse (MH-SA) problems. Using data from the Outcomes Measurement System (OMS), PMHS consumers were identified as having MH-SA problems if they responded “Always” or “Often” to at least two of the four questions in the Substance Abuse subscale of the BASIS-24®, had a substance abuse diagnosis, or both.

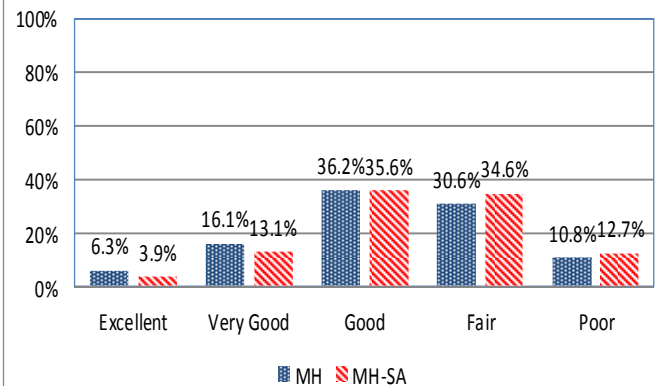
This second Data Short compares the responses of the two groups on items that address situations presenting life challenges and are based on responses to the most recent OMS questionnaire in 2012. The first graph shows the percentage of “Yes” responses to four OMS questions. The first three ask about specific situations or experiences in the past six months: whether the consumer has been homeless; whether the consumer was arrested; and whether the consumer was in jail or prison. The MH-SA group was twice as likely to have been homeless in the past six months when compared with the MH group and over three times more likely to have been arrested and/or incarcerated during the past six months. The fourth comparison in the first graph presents the percentage of individuals who responded “Yes” to “Do you smoke cigarettes?” While the smoking prevalence for the MH group (45%) is more than twice that for the general population (19.1%, <http://www.marylandbrfss.org>), those with MH-SA issues have a prevalence (75%) nearly four times that of the general population.

The second graph compares the responses to the question “Would you say, in general, that your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?” While 22% of the MH group described their health as “Excellent” or “Very Good”, only 17% of the consumers in the MH-SA group responded in these categories. Conversely, 41.4% of the MH group responded “Fair” or “Poor”, while 47.3% of the MH-SA responded that way.

"Yes" Responses to Selected OMS Items



Health Status as Reported in OMS



As the number and percentage of individuals with MH-SA issues increase with the expansion of Medical Assistance under the Affordable Care Act, these data demonstrate that the number of consumers with social, legal, and physical health problems is likely to increase. These issues will present challenges that will need to be addressed for successful treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery.