



DATA SHORTS

Demographics of Adults Served In the Public Mental Health System in FY 2013

Many changes in Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility occurred on January 1, 2014. Under MA expansion, inpatient and other services provided on hospital grounds are now covered by MA for those consumers who had PAC eligibility. Additionally, the previous rules limiting MA eligibility to individuals who have children or those with a disability have been removed, and new income limits are in place (limits have risen from 113% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to about 139% of the FPL). As a result, it seemed an appropriate time to review the characteristics of consumers in the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) before these changes affect it and to examine how the overall demographics may change as a result of these new policies.

The first graph shows the gender and age of current PMHS adult consumers. Currently, 60% of the adults are women; once the effects of the changes are seen, it seems likely that there will be nearly an equal number of adult men and women in the PMHS. Currently, the greatest percentage of adults falls into the 41 to 64 year old category. The average age of those in the PMHS is slightly under 39 years. While there may be a slight increase in participation of younger adults, the distribution is not likely to change a great deal since it mirrors the composition of the general population.

The second graph depicts the race and ethnicity of PMHS participants. White adults currently account for the largest percentage of adults in the PMHS, followed closely by African Americans. There are very few individuals of other races. Adults of Hispanic or Latino origin constitute about 7% of PMHS adults, well below the 12% of the general population as reported in the 2010 census. As with age, it is likely that the changing demographics of the general population will have a greater impact on these distribution than the eligibility changes that have occurred.

The final graph shows the percentage of adults using various PMHS services in FY 2013. Outpatient services have been omitted from the graph; 92.4% of adults in the PMHS receive outpatient services, and including that percentage would have overwhelmed the display. Note that an individual may have received and therefore be included in multiple services during the year, but that the percentage is calculated on an unduplicated count of people across all services, meaning each person is counted only once. Other than outpatient services, the most frequently used are Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP) services (13.4%), inpatient services (7%), and Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP) services (4.8%). Slightly more than 3% of adults receive Case Management, ACT/Mobile Treatment services, or Supported Employment services. There is no expectation that the shape of this distribution will change, although, with the addition of many more adults into service, the percentage receiving each of these services may decrease.

