



PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AND ACCESS TO CARE AMONG CHILDREN ENROLLED IN MISSISSIPPI MEDICAID

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INTRODUCTION

- The Children's Collaborative Project is funded by the Division of Medicaid to develop more efficient and effective networks of care for children diagnosed with mental health problems.
- As part of this project, the Center for Advancement of Youth (CAY) at the University of Mississippi Medical Center provides coordinated care to children with Mental Health disorders in the state of Mississippi.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study was to provide baseline epidemiology data for use by the Children's Collaborative Project. The objectives were to evaluate the prevalence of mental health diagnoses, access to mental health care and utilization of mental health medications among children (<18 years) enrolled in the Mississippi Medicaid program.

METHODS

- A retrospective analysis was conducted using Mississippi Medicaid medical claims, pharmacy claims and beneficiary eligibility data for the time period July 2013 to June 2014.
- Beneficiaries were included if enrolled in Medicaid (fee-for-service or coordinated care), were less than 18 years of age at end of observation year and enrolled 3+ months during the observation year.
- Children living in institutional setting (COE 005, 010, 011, 014) were excluded
- Since most mental health diagnoses are of a chronic nature, the diagnosis of mental health disorders was assessed using claims for the period Jan 2012 to Jun 2014 in order to be as complete as possible.
- Access to care was measured as the proportion of care received from MDs in-county, in adjacent counties, and in other counties.
- Data about treatments and costs of care are estimated only for the one year observation period (July 2013 to June 2014).

RESULTS

Table 1 – Prevalence of Mental Health Disorders in Children

Mental Health Disorder	All Children 387,838	
Attention Deficit Disorder	42,783	11.1%
Developmental Disorders	22,009	5.7%
Conduct Disorder	17,043	4.4%
Oppositional Defiance Disorder	16,728	4.3%
Miscellaneous	13,665	3.5%
Anxiety	12,409	3.2%
Adjustment Reactions	141	0.0%
Seizures	8,794	2.3%
Sleep Disorder	8,061	2.1%
Depression	7,514	1.9%
Stress Reaction	5,955	1.5%
Autism	3,902	1.0%
Drug Abuse Dependence	3,231	0.8%
Bipolar Disorder	2,103	0.5%
Schizophrenia	2,006	0.5%
Mental Retardation	1,573	0.4%
Personality Disorder	1,518	0.4%
Eating Disorders	660	0.2%
Suicide	209	0.1%
Alcohol Abuse Dependence	141	0.0%

A total number of 387,838 children are identified in the observation period. The prevalence of ADHD (11.0%) is highest followed by developmental disorders (5.7%) and conduct disorder (4.4%). Children ages 11 to 18 had higher prevalence of mental health disorders than did other ages. The prevalence of ADHD is highest in the age group 11 to 15 years (19.5%).

**Table 2 - Use of Mental Health Medications
Among Children in the Mississippi Medicaid
Between July 2013 - June 2014**

Drug Class	All Children (n = 379,838)	
Barbiturates	-	0.00%
Benzodiazepines*	212	0.10%
Misc. anxiolytics, sedatives and hypnotics*	619	0.20%
Central nervous system stimulants*	28,966	8.30%
Antidepressants - ANY*	7,673	2.00%
Phenylpiperazine antidepressants*	773	0.20%
SSNRI antidepressants*	53	0.00%
SSRI antidepressants*	5,035	1.30%
Tetracyclic antidepressants*	226	0.10%
Tricyclic antidepressants*	1,257	0.30%
Antipsychotics - ANY*	7,398	2.00%
Atypical antipsychotics*	7,088	1.90%
Conventional (typical) antipsychotics*	310	0.10%
Anticonvulsants ANY*	7,621	2.00%
Narcotic analgesics*	31,896	9.20%

CNS stimulants, antidepressants, narcotic analgesics and antipsychotics are the most frequently used mental health prescription drug categories in this population.

The total annual cost was highest for ADHD patients (\$191 million), followed by patients with oppositional defiance disorder (\$115 million). Access to mental health care varied by county with the Mississippi delta region having poorer access to care as measured by the proportion of mental health visits that were to in-county MDs.

**Table 3 – Access to Care for Children with ADHD
for 10 Counties With Most ADHD Children
(July 2013 - June 2014)**

County	No of ADHD children	Distinct number of MDs visited	% of In-county MDs	% of Adjacent-county MDs	% of other county MDs
Hinds	3,192	6,605	75.4%	16.9%	7.7%
Harrison	2,718	5,421	70.6%	20.0%	9.4%
Jackson	1,544	2,936	71.2%	19.4%	9.4%
Rankin	1,292	2,571	39.4%	46.7%	13.9%
DeSoto	1,143	1,938	53.3%	16.7%	30.0%
Lee	1,065	1,726	74.2%	9.4%	16.4%
Forrest	1,054	1,892	67.1%	10.8%	22.1%
Lauderdale	977	1,986	78.5%	3.7%	17.7%
Jones	973	1,825	36.3%	40.9%	22.7%
Warren	880	1,555	60.5%	19.4%	20.1%

The economic burden of ADHD is highest (\$191 million) considering the high number of children with ADHD in this population. ADHD is followed by oppositional defiance disorder and conduct disorder with total amounts of \$115 million and \$108 million respectively. The average amount paid per beneficiary is highest for bipolar disorder followed by mental retardation and personality disorder.

CONCLUSION

Mental health disorders among children are a significant burden to the Mississippi Medicaid program. The prevalence of mental health disorders varies significantly among counties of the state. Children from some counties of Mississippi have poor access to mental health care services.

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