


Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Involvement of Adults with Severe Mental Illness and Criminal Justice  
CONTACTS: A Look Back in Time



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### Presentation Topics




- ▶ Background
- ▶ Study Objectives
- ▶ Methods
- ▶ Overall Findings
- ▶ Recommendations for practice, policy and future research

### Background

- ▶ Persons with serious mental illness (SMI) have a high risk of criminal justice system involvement
- ▶ About 7% of adults in contact with police and 16% of those in jail have a mental illness
- ▶ Every year about 1 million persons with SMI are booked in jail
- ▶ Persons with SMI are 1.5 times more likely to be jailed than admitted to a psychiatric hospital




### Background



- ▶ Jail stays are six times longer for people with SMI
- ▶ Efforts to reverse the trends include: specialized courts, jail diversion programs, and re-entry services targeting the needs of individuals with SMI
- ▶ Yet recidivism rates remain high!

### Study Objective

- ▶ Determine the frequency and relevance of prior child welfare and juvenile justice involvement for adult criminal offenders with SMI



**Methods:**  
**Administrative Data Sources**

- ▶ **Data information used (13 State and local)**
  - Physical & Mental Health services and Pharmacy
    - Diagnosis
    - Inpatient, Outpatient, Emergency
  - EMS Transports
  - Involuntary psychiatric examination data
  - Criminal Justice (Jail & Prison)
  - Child Welfare
  - Social Services
    - Rental, gas/electric assistance
    - Dental, other health assistance
- ▶ **Date range – 7/1/02 – 06/30/07**

**Study Sample**

- ▶ 37,189 incarcerated in Pinellas County Jail during FY0304
- ▶ 26,016 SMI in Pinellas County
- ▶ 3,767 adults with SMI and incarcerated in the Pinellas County Florida Jail
- ▶ 509 Participants (**STUDY SAMPLE**)
  - Incarceration
  - SMI
  - Born on or after 1980 (DJJ/CW data available)



**Demographics**



- ▶ 72% White, 21% Black, 5% Hispanic and 2% Other Races (Native American, Asian, Multi-racial)
- ▶ At start of study (2002) 18-23 years of age
- ▶ 59% were male
- ▶ 35% Bipolar 1 Disorder, 28% Major Depressive Disorder, 18% Other Bipolar or Mood Disorder, and 19% Schizophrenia, Delusional & other Disorder

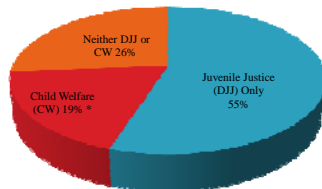
**Findings Continued**

- ▶ All 509 are involved in the adult criminal justice system, had a severe mental illness and used services paid for through local, state, and federal funds.
- ▶ 48% have received at least one Baker Act Initiation
- ▶ 61% have used EMS services
- ▶ 15% have received DUI/DWI Arrests
- ▶ 83% have been identified as having a substance abuse problem

**Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Involvement**



Juvenile Justice and/or Child Welfare Involvement



\* 77 of CW also had involvement in DJJ

**Findings**

- ▶ 281 (55%) persons had involvement in Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- ▶ Those involved in DJJ were more likely to be male, African American, homeless at some point in time, and have involvement in the Florida state prison system
- ▶ 94 (19%) persons had involvement in Child Welfare (CW)
- ▶ Those involved in CW were more likely to be White, and be enrolled in Medicaid

### Findings Continued

- ▶ Persons who had DJJ involvement had significantly more arrests and days in jail. (p-value <0.0001)
- ▶ Persons who had Child Welfare involvement received significantly more physical health services (p-value <0.0001)

### Findings Continued

	Involvement with DJJ and/or CW		
	None (N = 134)	Both (N = 94)	DJJ Only (N=281)
Total Mental Health Cost Expenditures (4 Years)	\$604,321.33	\$616,513.90	\$2,625,185.48
Total Physical Health Cost Expenditures (4 Year)	\$70,354.18	\$105,713.87	\$204,340.84
Total Jail Cost Expenditures (4 Years)	\$13,578	\$17,748.00	\$48,867.00
Total Prison Cost Expenditures (4 Years)	\$88,324.97	\$146,932.24	\$566,582.28
Total Social Service Expenditures (4 Years)	\$3,368.74	\$4,164.19	\$17,965.64
Total EMS Expenditures (4 Years)	\$79,497.30	\$89,397.50	\$185,553.30
Total Number of Baker Act Initiations	107	115	383



### Conclusion

- ▶ Points of interactions with the CW and DJJ systems during the younger years of those in the adult criminal justice system are opportunities for:
  - Early identification and intervention
  - Addressing needs and adjustment into adulthood
  - Reducing future criminal justice involvement

### Directions for Future Research

- ▶ Develop assessment tools for identification of individuals early on in the CW and DJJ service system to provide for early intervention
- ▶ Develop models for intervention at these points of early identification (above)
- ▶ Further analysis crossing system interaction over time using administrative data sources
- ▶ Study role of policies and procedures in CW and DJJ systems that facilitate or hinder early intervention

### Study Limitations

- ▶ Child Welfare data (1996 forward)
- ▶ DJJ (born on or after 1980)
- ▶ Data Limitation
  - Unknown activities outside of Florida
  - Missing information not captured



### Any Questions ?



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## Data Sources (cont...)

Child Welfare (CW) \* Limited after 1996      Mental Health/Substance Abuse (DCF) \*

Juvenile Justice (DJJ) \* Limited (DOB 1980) Death Index \*

County Jail \*

Health and Human Services \*\*

Involuntary MH Evaluation (Baker Act) \*

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) \*\*

Medicaid Claims \*

State Mental Hospital \*

Homelessness \*\*

Florida State Prison \*

\* Statewide

\*\* Pinellas County Florida