


Communication and Interaction of Pediatricians with Systems of Care


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Study Background and Purpose: *Relationship Between Primary Care and SOC*

- ❖ It has long been recognized that pediatrician involvement in systems of care (SOC) has been severely limited, with a very limited number of actual referrals to SOC stemming from primary care.
- ❖ There is a lack of communication and interaction between pediatricians and mental health providers with respect to service planning, medication management, and care of children.
- ❖ The extent to which pediatricians in funded communities are aware of and interact with services provided by SOC is unknown.




Pediatric Survey: *Purpose*

- ❖ The purpose of the *Pediatric Survey of Child Mental Health Services* was to:
 - investigate the role of pediatricians in systems of care
 - learn how pediatricians identify and refer children and youth with mental health needs
 - learn more about the factors that facilitate and inhibit communication and interaction between pediatricians and mental health providers




Study Methodology

- ❖ A *random stratified sample* was drawn from a comprehensive list of pediatricians in target areas that reflected zip code areas of youth participating in SOC programs funded between 2002 and 2004.
- ❖ These funded SOC programs included a total of 29 sites located in 17 states and two U.S. territories (Guam and Puerto Rico).
- ❖ The sample was proportionally allocated based on the total number of pediatricians in each SOC community.
- ❖ 675 pediatricians were identified for the study and 351 (52%) pediatricians responded to the survey.




Study Methodology [cont.]

- ❖ **Instrumentation** - The survey assessed:
 - Educational background and training
 - Knowledge of and involvement with local systems of care programs
 - Mental health screening and referral practices
 - Medication management for mental health problems
 - Communication with mental health providers
 - Family and youth participation in mental health care
 - Attitudes toward mental health service provision
- ❖ A paper copy and online survey options were made available to each respondent.



Practice/Pediatrician Characteristics

Race	Percentage
White/Caucasian	65.3%
Hispanic/Latino	4.0%
Black/African American	6.2%
Asian	20.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.9%
Prefer not to respond	3.4%



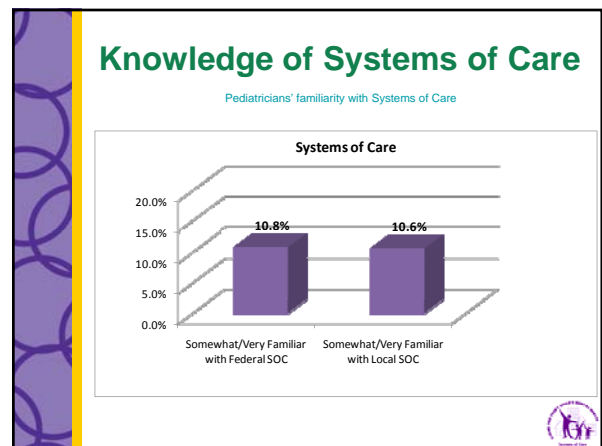
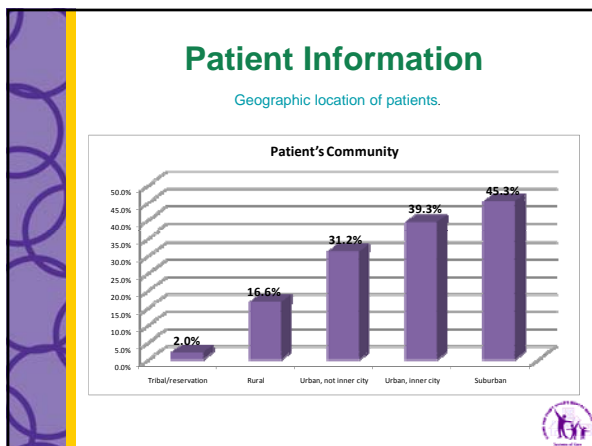
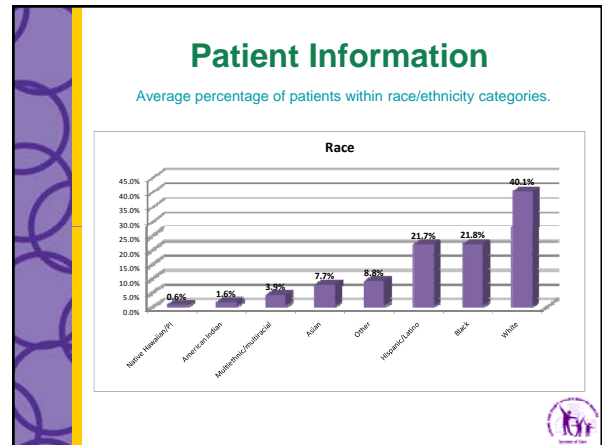
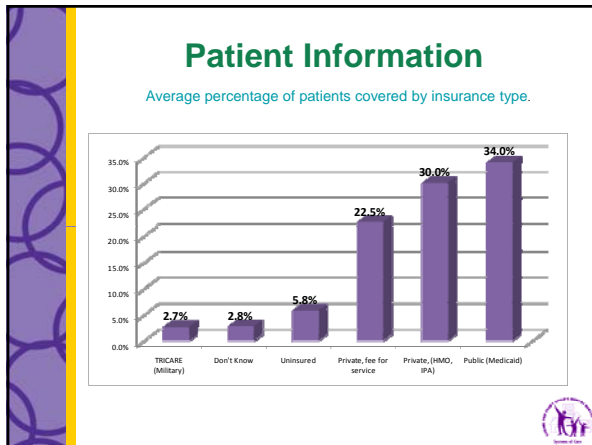
Practice/Pediatrician Characteristics

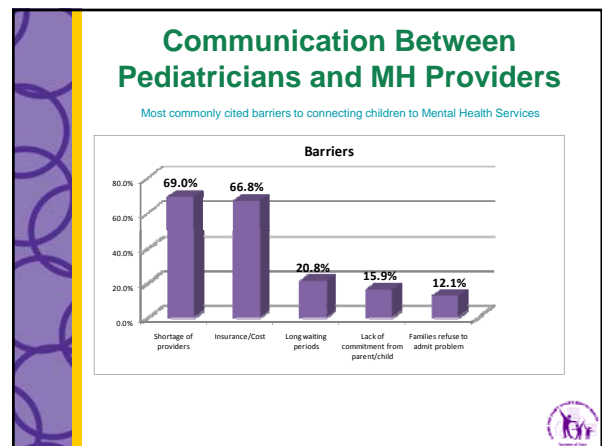
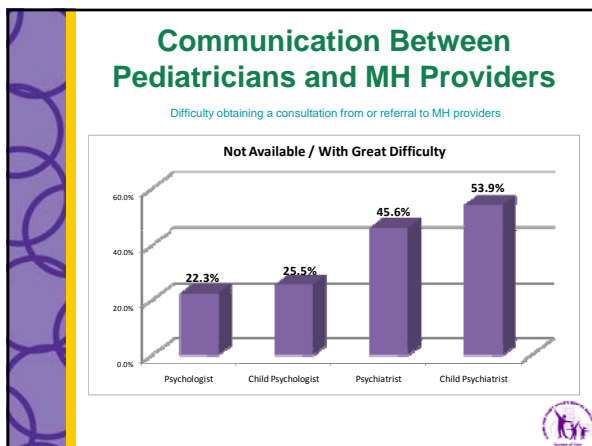
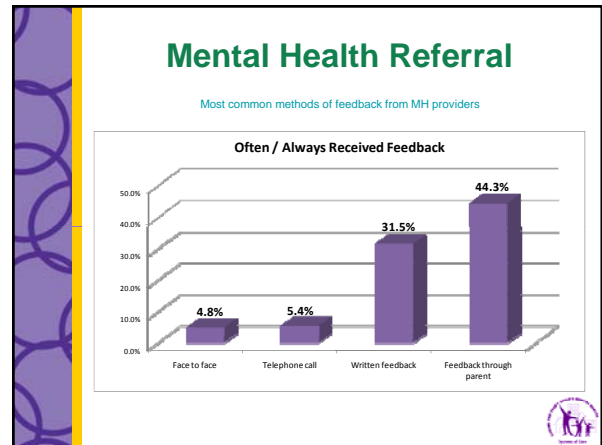
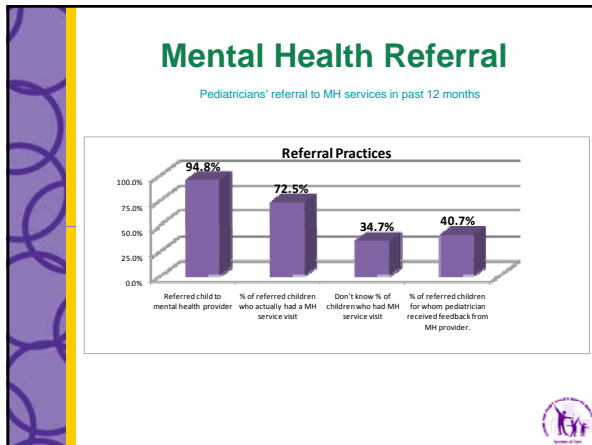
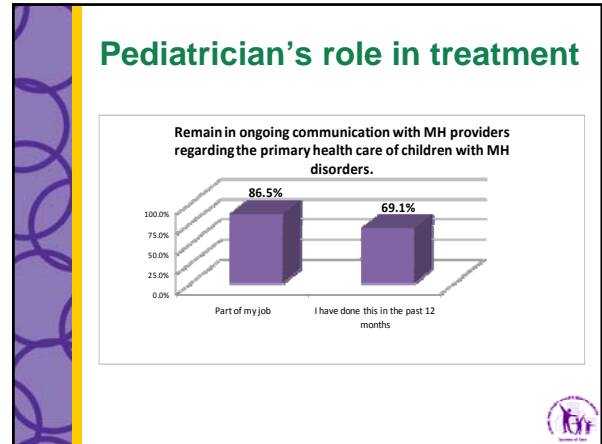
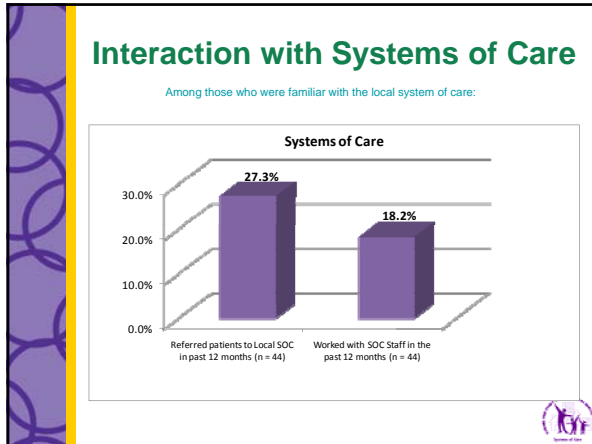
Gender	Percentage
Male	48.1%
Female	50.7%

Age (Mean)	50.6
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Practice/Pediatrician Characteristics

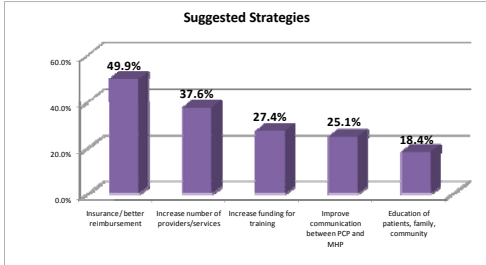
Practice Size	Percentage
Pediatric group practice 3-10 pediatricians	30.1%
Self-employed solo practice	16.3%
Two physician practice	9.5%
Medical school or university	8.6%
Multispecialty group practice with primary and specialty care	7.7%
Other	27.8%





Communication Between Pediatricians and MH Providers

Most commonly cited strategies for addressing barriers



Conclusions

- ❖ Very few of the pediatricians surveyed in this study were familiar with the federal SOC initiative, or with their local SOC programs.
- ❖ Even among those pediatricians familiar with the local SOC program, relatively few had made referrals to the program.
- ❖ A majority of pediatricians surveyed perceive that a shortage of mental health providers exists within their geographic area.
- ❖ Pediatricians report a lack of feedback from mental health providers about referrals they have made to mental health providers.

Implications

- ❖ Survey results indicate that systems of care is not effectively integrating primary care into system of care communities.
- ❖ Study results do, however, provide insight into how pediatricians can be more effectively integrated within the systems of care community, both in terms of **referrals** and in the provision of a **more integrated and appropriate service array** for participating children, youth, and their families.

Implications [cont.]

- ❖ Pediatricians recommend increasing the number of available mental health providers to increase access to mental health services.
- ❖ The lack of communication between pediatricians and mental health providers, however, indicates that merely increasing services may **not** be sufficient to increase pediatrician involvement in systems of care.

Implications [cont.]

- ❖ The strategies identified by pediatricians that may be the most comparatively simple to introduce to improve pediatrician involvement in systems of care include **increasing funding for training** and **educating patients, families and communities** – it may be useful to focus programmatic efforts there to improve involvement.
- ❖ Study results have implications for how the program can more effectively integrate primary care throughout systems of care; multiple gains for children, youths and families will result from more effective integration.
- ❖ The increased emphasis on a public health approach in systems of care and other programmatic efforts to engage the primary care child-serving sector can also offer strategies to improve communication and service integration between systems of care and pediatricians.

Slide 21

DHHS2 We need to either specify the additional insights that were generated by this study. If there are no additional findings stemming from the study, then we need to drop this bulleted text.

DHHS, 1/21/2009

Slide 22

DHHS3 We need to either specify the additional insights that were generated by this study. If there are no additional findings stemming from the study, then we need to drop this bulleted text.

DHHS, 1/21/2009

DHHS4 Kara - Not sure I agree with this statement anymore - this study identifies and documents the problems well, but have we learned enough to know how to intervene to change this pattern of limited pediatrician involvement? If not, perhaps we need to soften this statement some. I did slightly reword in order to soften this same.

DHHS, 2/25/2009