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Factors Associated With Perceptions Of Need For Child And Adolescent Psychiatry

Presenting Authors:
Dr. Cathleen A. Lewandowski
Dr. Lara Kaye

Contributing Author:
Dr. Lynn Warner

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Center for Human Services Research Team

Rose Greene, Associate Director
Janet Acker, Graduate Researcher
Nancy Chiarella, Research Support Specialist

With the support of:
Sarah Rain, Research Support Specialist
Dorothy Baum, Chris Papas, & John Heck,
Technical Assistance
Min Jeong Kang, Graduate Research Assistant


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Overview of Presentation

- Background
- Study Goals
- Methods and Design
- Findings
- Discussion


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Background

- Few studies report on mental health professionals' assessment of need for mental health services
- Little is known about factors that may impact administrators' perceptions of need.
- Professionals and mental health administrators largely determine which children receive services (Blais et al, 2003; Farmer, 2003; Hurlbut, 2003)
 - Assessment
 - Access & Referral
- Children's development is rapid. Failure to address children's mental health concerns has long term consequences (Pottick & Warner, 2002).


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Goals of Study

- Identify models to define mental health need
 - Strengths
 - Limitations
- Describe county administrators' perceptions of the current status of CAP services in New York State
- Examine factors associated with administrators' perceptions of need for CAPs and mental health services for children and adolescents.
- Discuss policy implications of using administrators' assessments of need

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Defining Need (Bradshaw, 1999)

- Comparative: Epidemiological Studies
 - Strength: data widely available & most widely used
 - Limitation: do not indicate actual demand or need for services (Zahner et al, 1992)
- Expressed: Utilization Studies
 - Strength: shows what services being used
 - Limitation: fails to account for disparities and barriers to service
- Felt: Consumer Surveys
 - Strength: Empowers individuals
 - Limitation: Fearing stigma, individuals may not self-identify
 - Children & adolescents may not be aware of their need for services
- Normative (Expert): Professional and Administrator Surveys
 - Strength: Can draw on many factors
 - Limitation: Like felt need, may also be subjective

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Method and Design

- Design: Predictive and Cross Sectional
- Sample
 - Subsample of 51 Mental Health Administrators*
 - Total sample was 58: 7 largest counties omitted
- Data Collection
 - Telephone Survey
 - Secondary Data
 - Collected between October and December 2007
- Analysis
 - Univariate and Bivariate Statistics
 - Multivariate Statistics

*Or individual with comparable knowledge

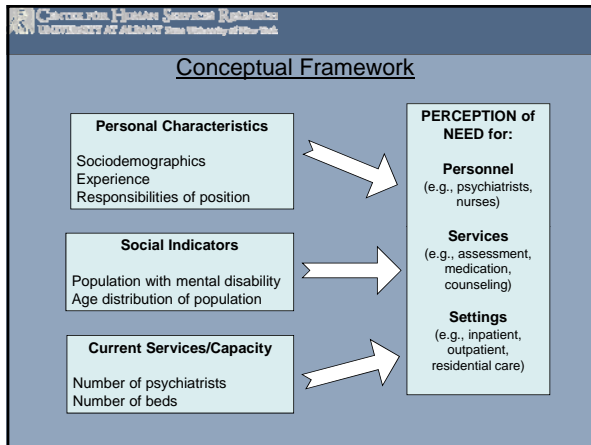
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Research Questions

- What are the factors that predict mental health administrators' perceptions of the need for child psychiatrists (CAPs) and mental health services for children and adolescents?
- Are different types of need equally influenced by the same factors?

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Rationale for Conceptual Framework

- Perception of need for personnel, services and settings is likely influenced by a number of factors:
 - Respondent Characteristics
 - Social Indicators
 - And Current Services

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Steps in the Analysis

1. Univariate analysis: Checking distribution of variables
2. Created new variables: Need for counseling and Need for beds
3. Bivariate analyses: Pearson's Correlations and one-way ANOVA
4. MR using each of 3 sets of independent variables from the conceptual model
5. Identified independent variables from 3 sets of dependent variables and Bivariate analyses
6. MR on unique independent variables for each of 3 dependent variables
7. MR using final consistent set of independent variables for each of 3 dependent variables

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Dependent Variables: Measures of Need

- CAPs (Personnel)
 - Total number of CAPs needed in county
- Counseling (Services)
 - Principal Components Analysis
 - Individual mental health counseling (by CAP)
 - Family therapy (by CAP)
- Child & Adolescent Beds (Settings)
 - Range: 0 – 3
 - Long term
 - Inpatient
 - Residential Treatment

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Independent Variables

- Respondent Characteristics
 - Position Title/Category
 - Gender
 - Number of years in position
- Social Indicators
 - Ethnicity (% white)
 - Gender (% male)
 - Population < 18 years of age
 - Median Family Income
 - Rural/Urban
 - Population 5 to 15 years with a mental disability
- Current Services (children & adolescents)
 - Number of CAPs
 - RTF in county
 - Inpatient beds in county

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Descriptive Findings

- Context: Number of CAPs and Need for CAPs
- Dependent Variables: CAPs Need, Counseling Services Need and Need Beds
- Independent Variables: Respondent Characteristics, Social Indicators, and Current Services

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Number of CAPs and Need for CAPs

- 51 counties: 157 CAPS
- Average # of practicing CAPs: 3
- Counties with zero CAPs: 12
- Counties with one CAP: 9
- Nearly all counties reported need for at least one additional CAP (47 out of 51)
- Average # of CAPs Needed: 2

# of CAPs	Counties
0	12
1	9
2	8
3	8
4-7	7
8-10	5
11-17	2
Total	51

Categories of CAPs Need	Counties
1 Full or Part-time	19
2 Full or Part-time	11
3-4	14
5-9	3
Total	47

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Dependent Variables: Need (N=51)

- CAPs (Personnel)
- Counseling (Services)
- Child and Adolescent Beds (Settings)

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Need CAPs	2.13	1.87
Need Counseling	0	1.00
Need Beds	1.63	0.89

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Independent Variables: Respondent Characteristics (N = 51)

Characteristic	Percent(%)		
Gender	Male	45.1	
	Female	54.9	
Job position	Manager or Supervisor	19.6	
	Director or Assistant Director of Services	80.4	
	Mean	6.98	Std. Deviation
Years in this position		6.10	
Years in this community		13.68	10.44

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Independent Variables: Current Services and Social Indicators (N=51)

Characteristic	Percent(%)		
Current Services	Having Child/adol RTF beds	15.7	
	Having Child/adol INPT beds	25.5	
	Mean	Std. Deviation	
	Number of CAPs practicing	3.08	3.63
Social indicators	Percent Male	49.70	1.35
	Percent White	91.90	5.66
	Population <18 yrs of age	23625.22	19743.49
	Median family income, \$	52257.43	13355.015
	Rural-UrbanConti2003	3.61	1.92
Population 5-15 w/ Mental Disability	951.12	656.91	

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Building the Model

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Final Model

- Personal Characteristics (Normative/Expert)
 - Job title
 - Gender
- Social Characteristics (Comparative)
 - Population age 5 to 15 yrs with a mental disability
 - Gender (% male)
- Current Capacity (Proxy for Expressed Need)
 - Number of CAPs
 - Inpatient beds in county

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Multivariate Analysis of Need

	CAPS	Counseling	Beds
Respondent Characteristics			
Director vs. Supervisor	-.11	-.18	-.40*
Female vs. Male	-.04	.21	-.44**
Social Indicators			
% Population, ages 5-15, with mental disability	-.02	.39	.33
% Male	.14	.33*	-.10
Current Services/Capacity			
Number of CAPs	.35**	-.02	-.01
Inpatient beds in county (0 = no, 1 = yes)	.53**	-.17	-.02

Note: Standardized Betas Presented; CAPS= Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
*p ≤ .05; ** p < .01

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Multivariate Results

- Current capacity may be most important factor in estimating need for additional personnel (CAPs).
- Social indicators may be most important factor in estimating need for counseling services.
- Respondents' characteristics may be most important factor in estimating need for settings and facilities.

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Discussion

- Is expert need influenced by personal experience and biases?
 - If so why do these personal factors only influence need for beds in this study?
- Is comparative need in congruence with social indicators?
 - Why do these social factors only influence need for counseling services?
- The need for personnel (CAPs) appears to be influenced by capacity
 - Using capacity as a proxy for utilization which represents expressed need.

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Conclusion

- Types of need may be impacted by different categories of need.
- Unique patterns found in this study:
 - Current capacity → need for additional capacity
 - Social Indicators → need for counseling
 - Ind. Characteristics → need for facilities/beds
- All measures of need have strengths and limitations, especially when considered alone.
- Mental health administrators can draw on a range of sources to estimate need and are an important resource for policy makers.

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Study Limitations

- Findings may not be generalizable to other states
- Largest counties omitted
- Felt need is not represented in our model
- Measurement
 - Additional factors not included in current analysis may impact administrators' perceptions

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Implications for MH Policy

- Mental health administrators' perspectives on need add value and should be included in development of policy
- Include multiple factors and multiple perspectives
 - Perspective of need from various sources
 - Comprehensive Information on Characteristics
 - Capacity, Utilization, Prevalence, and Demographics
- Different factors appear to influence perspectives on need in different categories
- Further research on linking which factors are associated with which categories of need could help in giving weight to sources of need

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Cathleen A. Lewandowski
clewandowski@uamail.albany.edu
518-591-8784

Lara Kaye
lkaye@uamail.albany.edu
518/591-8615

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