Identifying and Helping Transition Age Youth at Risk of Arrest

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Arrest Rate in Public Mental Health System Users

Juveniles
- Antisocial peers
- Parental supervision/monitoring
- Unstructured time (school & afterschool)
- Substance Use
- Rational choice/distorted cognitions
- Attachment to school, prosocial peers, family

Adults
- Peers influence less
- Parental influence lessened/indirect
- Unstructured time (work)
- Substance Use
- Rational Choice/distorted cognitions
- Attachment to work, spouse

Offenders with Serious Mental Health Conditions

- Few malleable causes examined in this population
- When examined, similar causes found
- Simply addressing mental health needs unsuccessful in reducing offending
- Need offending reduction approach with good mental health treatment

Standard MST
(with juveniles, no SMHC)

- Intensive (daily contact) home-based treatment delivered by therapists; one therapist/family caseload=4-5
- Promote behavioral change by empowering caregivers/parents
- Individualized interventions target a comprehensive set of identified risk factors across individual, family, peer, school, and neighborhood domains
- Interventions integrate empirically-based clinical techniques from the cognitive behavioral and behavioral therapies
- Duration: 4-6 months

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National Comorbidity Survey (NCS)

- Nationally representative cross-sectional mental health survey conducted from 9/90 – 2/92
- Household sample of 8,096 non-institutionalized, civilian persons aged 15-54 in the 48 contiguous states, including a supplemental sample of students living in campus group housing
- DSM III-R assigned using a modification of the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (UM-CIDI)

Young Adult-Parent Relationships

- Presence of adult children at home is undesirable for parents (Ryff & Seltzer, 1996)
- Parents’ feelings of well-being tied to adult children’s accomplishments (Ryff, Schnatte, & Lee, 1996)
- Successful transitions to marriage, cohabitation, and full-time employment associated with closer, supportive, less conflicted relationships with parents (Aquilino, 1997)
- Autonomy ≠ Independence (doing it yourself)
- Autonomy = being an agent in your own life, capable of good decision-making and taking actions, while remaining related to others

Developmental Changes in Social Network (NCS Data)

- Never Married: Age x Dx (F(40,5451)=1.78, p=.002)
- Daily Friends: Age x Dx (F(40,5451)=2.41, p<.001)

In School: Age x Dx (F(41,5451)=200.7, p<.001)
- Working: Age x Dx (F(40,5451)=4.09, p<.001
MST Affects Parental Dyad to influence ecology & change Youth

Classic Pilot Randomized Clinical Trial
- 30 participants randomly assigned to MST-EA or Usual Services
- Feasibility of clinical intervention (engagement/safety)
- Feasibility of research protocol (recruitment/retention/measures)
- Site: Connecticut

MST-EA Affects Youth to influence social ecology to support change

Treatment Components
- Motivational Interviewing
- Genogram and Social Network Assessment (concentric circles)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapies to address “drivers” of problem and better behavior (domains have shifted)
- Exposure Therapy for trauma
- Contingency Management for SA

Treatment Components
- Psychopharmacology
- Life Coach (teaching life skills, buddy, maintain changes over time)
- Life Skills in relationships, working, independent living, finishing school, parenting (curricula and modeling)
- Can link to supported housing and supported employment programs