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
- 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

Presentation Topics

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

Acknowledgements

Marion Becker RN, PhD
Ross Andel, PhD
John Robst, PhD
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

- 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)

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...)

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