Differences Between Two Groups
Entering Outpatient Services in 2014
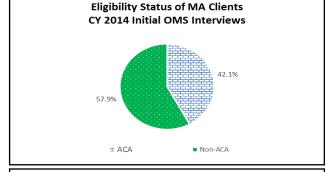## Initial Outcomes Measurement System Interviews

Many people obtained Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility through Maryland's participation in the expansion of Medical Assistance (MA) under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This Data Short examines some results for the MA eligible clients who had an initial Outcomes Measurement System (OMS) interview in CY 2014. The population is further divided into two groups, those who became eligible as a result of the ACA MA expansion and those who met the pre-ACA eligibility requirements. Calendar year 2014 was chosen because it was the first full year of ACA MA expansion.
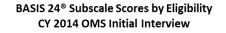
The pie graph shows the distribution of clients between the two groups; 33,386 MA eligible adults had their initial OMS interview in CY 2014. Of these, 42% became eligible as a result of the ACA expansion and the remaining 58% met traditional MA eligibility requirements.
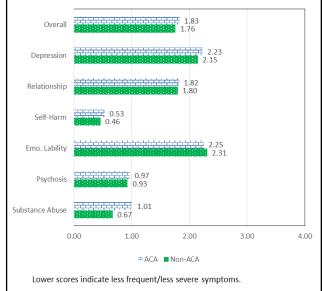
The second graph shows the results of the two groups on the BASIS 24® scores that measure psychiatric symptom frequency and severity. Average scores for the two groups are nearly identical except on the Substance Abuse subscale. The average score of the ACA group on this scale is higher than the non-ACA group, indicating that the ACA group reports more frequent and more severe substance use issues.
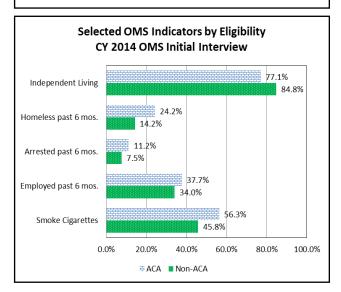
The final graph examines several other OMS indicators. In comparison to the non-ACA group, the ACA population reports they are: less likely to live in an independent setting; nearly twice as likely to have been homeless in the past six months; more likely to have been arrested; and more likely to smoke cigarettes. More positively, the ACA expansion group is more likely to have been employed in the past six months than the non-ACA group.

Overall, OMS data suggest that the ACA MA expansion population that is entering the public behavioral health system for mental health services reports psychiatric symptom severity and frequency similar to the traditional population in most areas. However, the expansion population appears to have a number of issues likely to complicate treatment including substance use, homelessness, arrests, and smoking.

Eligibility Status of MA Clients
CY 2014 Initial OMS Interviews

ACA 42.1%
Non-ACA 57.9%

BASIS 24® Subscale Scores by Eligibility
CY 2014 OMS Initial Interview

Subscale	ACA	Non-ACA
Overall	1.83	1.76
Depression	2.23	2.15
Relationship	1.82	1.80
Self-Harm	0.53	0.46
Emo. Lability	2.25	2.31
Psychosis	0.97	0.93
Substance Abuse	1.01	0.67

Lower scores indicate less frequent/less severe symptoms.

Selected OMS Indicators by Eligibility
CY 2014 OMS Initial Interview

Indicator	ACA	Non-ACA
Independent Living	77.1%	84.8%
Homeless past 6 mos.	24.2%	14.2%
Arrested past 6 mos.	11.2%	7.5%
Employed past 6 mos.	37.7%	34.0%
Smoke Cigarettes	56.3%	45.8%