



DATA SHORTS

Relationship of Selected OMS Items With Youth Symptom and Functioning Measures

In January 2015, individuals seeking Substance Related Disorder (SRD) outpatient treatment began participating in the Outcomes Measurement System (OMS); several changes were also made to the OMS interviews. Results are available for nearly 20,000 youth receiving outpatient behavioral health treatment services between January 1 and August 2015.

Symptoms in the OMS Child and Adolescent (C&A) interview are assessed using the Youth Short Symptom Index (YSSI), developed at the University of Maryland, and functioning is assessed using a scale developed by a cooperative effort between states and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This Data Short examines the relationship between selected OMS items-homelessness, arrests, school attendance, suspensions, and expulsions, and the use of alcohol, marijuana, and other substances-with symptoms and functioning. For most of these items, the percentage of "Yes" responses is small, ranging from about 2% to about 10%; the single exception is problems with school attendance, to which nearly 3,600 (18%) responded "Yes".

The bars in the first graph show the average YSSI scores of the youth who responded "Yes" to these selected OMS items; the line running across the bars shows the average for those who did not respond "Yes" to any of the items. Scores on the YSSI range from 0 to 4, with higher scores indicating more frequent symptoms. Those who responded "Yes" to any of the OMS selected items all had higher average scores on the YSSI than those not reporting these issues, indicating that they had more frequent symptoms.

The second graph shows these same comparisons with the average functioning scores. Scores on the functioning scale range from 1 to 5, with higher scores indicating more problems in functioning. As with the YSSI, individuals responding "Yes" to any of the selected items also have somewhat higher functioning scores, indicating that they tend to have more problems in functioning.

The final graph shows the average YSSI and functioning scores by the number of selected items to which the youth responded with "Yes". This shows that individuals responding "Yes" to even a single item are likely to have higher YSSI (indicating more frequent symptoms) and functioning (indicating more functioning problems) scores. For those with 5, 6, or 7 "Yes" responses, the increases are greatest on both scales. No one had more than 7 "Yes" responses.

