Mental Health in Baltimore City

Mental Illness Affects Everyone - Our Families, Neighbors, Friends, and Co-workers

- 1 out of 5 (110,468) Baltimoreans will experience a mental illness each year.¹
- 1 out of 20 (24,093) adults have a serious mental illness such as major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia.
- 1 out of 20 (6,955) children have serious emotional impairment.
- 1 out of 25 (19,275) adults need both mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Mental Disorders are Treatable; People Recover!

15,427 children/adolescents and 26,065 adults received public mental health services last year.

- 39,244 received outpatient treatment services.
- 438 received supportive employment services.
- 584 received residential crisis services.
- 60 homeless individuals moved into permanent housing.
- 36 youth diverted from institutional Residential Treatment Centers into community-based care.

Impact of Untreated Mental Illness

Untreated mental illness results in substantial social and economic costs. Individuals with untreated mental illness are more likely to experience joblessness, homelessness, and/or incarceration. These experiences in turn increase individuals’ exposure to trauma and can exacerbate symptoms of mental illness, creating a devastating cycle of poor health, instability, and crisis.

However, comprehensive mental health services can provide people with the treatment and support services they need to improve their quality of life and decrease the use of costly public services such as hospitals, jails, and shelters.

More Funding is Needed!

- Baltimore City needs more services for: victims of trauma, individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, veterans, young adults, elderly adults, homeless individuals, and other vulnerable populations.
- 20% of people with serious mental illness lack health insurance.
- 40% of homeless individuals report having a mental illness.
- Over 100 individuals are on the waitlist for residential rehabilitation.

* All data is from Fiscal Year 2011 (June 30, 2010—July 31, 2011). This is the most recent data available as of December 2011.
¹ This prevalence rate is applied to Baltimore City residents age 9 and older.
About Baltimore Mental Health Systems

BMHS is a non-profit agency that serves as the City’s local mental health authority or core service agency. BMHS focuses on: ensuring no one goes without mental health care; expanding and improving the range of services available; and ensuring accountability and active collaborations with City and State Agencies.

- BMHS promotes prevention and early intervention, improves the quality of services by setting nationally accepted standards and promoting evidence-based and promising practices, and ensures sound fiscal management of public funds.
- BMHS oversees a network of predominately private non-profit providers that delivers mental health services to Baltimore City residents who are Medicaid and/or Medicare recipients or uninsured.
- BMHS awarded $18.9 million through 137 contracts to 60 unique provider agencies.

A Snapshot of Baltimore City’s Public Mental Health System

- **41,492 Baltimore City residents** served (a 7% increase from the previous year)
- While Baltimore City represents 11% of the State’s population, it represents 33% of those who utilized public mental health system services.
- Expenditures of over $225 million for Baltimore City account for 35% of total expenditures on public mental health services in Maryland.
- Average expenditures for adult consumers was $5,247, and $126,724* for the top 50 highest cost consumers.
- Average expenditures for child consumers was $5,762, and $184,290* for the top 50 highest cost consumers.
- The City’s two crisis hotlines received a total of 31,528 crisis calls.
- **6,934 students in 89 public schools** received prevention and treatment services.

Important Contact Information


Baltimore Crisis Hotline: 410-433-5175
Baltimore Youth Crisis Hotline: 410-752-2272
Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems: 410-637-1900
Healthcare Access Maryland: 410-649-0521

Network of Care is a website that provides information about the array of services available in Baltimore City along with provider contact information. http://baltimorecity.md.networkofcare.org/mh/home/index.cfm

*These data points are based on FY 09 data, the most recent data available as of December 2011.*