

Do We Serve Equitably? Services Associated with Clinical Outcomes of Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White Youths with Emotional and/or Behavioral Disturbances in a System of Care

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ABSTRACT

The comparability of risk factors, clinical outcomes, and services were examined with regard to Hispanic and non-Hispanic White youths participating in a managed system of care for youths experiencing emotional and/or behavioral disturbances for at least six months. Intra- and inter-group differences were documented in the context of two distinct outcome groups: (1) Improvers - whose behavioral indices were rated within the clinical range at intake and then improved (to below the clinical range) after six months in the system of care; and (2) Deprovers - whose behavioral indices were rated below clinical range at intake and then deteriorated (to within clinical range) after six months in the system of care. The services delivered to the youths in these outcome groups by ethnicity are presented. The impact that various types of services may have had on the youths' internalizing and/or externalizing problems is discussed. Differences between the services received by the ethnic groups may provide evidence about what works in a system of care and how to serve these youths in a more culturally competent manner.