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Data Note: People Served in Community Mental Health Programs and Employment

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People Served in Community Mental Health Programs and Employment

By *Stephanie Wallace and Frank A. Smith*

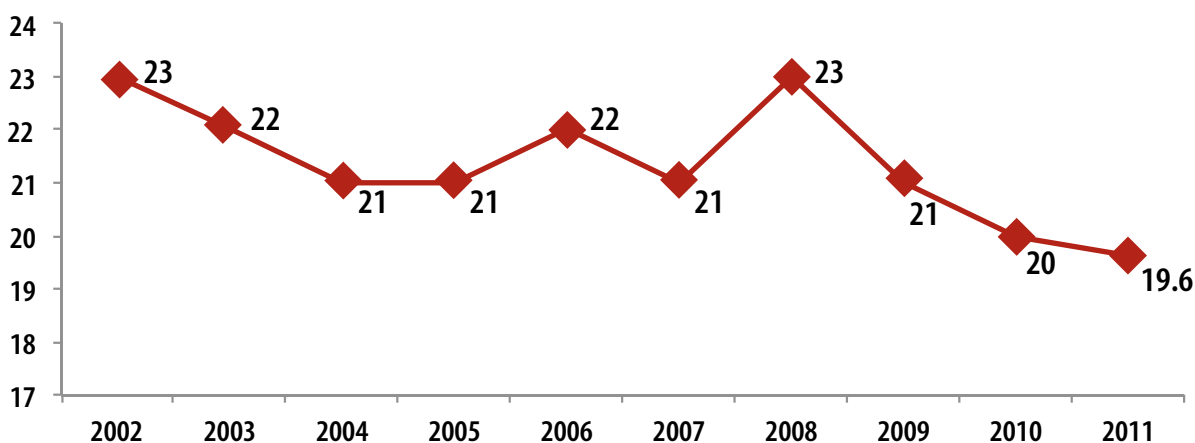
State mental health agencies provide a wide range of supports, including rehabilitation services and vocational and pre-vocational training, as well as supported and competitive employment supports. This Data Note explores how states vary in number and percentage of individuals who are employed among those served in Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs), i.e., programs with all services provided in the community, rather than in an inpatient setting. It also explores national trends that occurred from 2002 to 2011.

“Employed” is defined as competitively employed¹ (full- or part-time) at the last CMHP assessment available during the reporting year. Figure 1 shows an overall downward trend in employment for individuals served in CMHPs from 2002 to 2011. Despite a peak of 23% in 2008, the percentage of individuals served in CMHPs who are employed has since declined to 19.6% in 2011.

The number and percentage of individuals in CMHPs who were employed in each state is presented in Table 1. In 2011, the percentage employed varied from 6.9% in Maine to 43.9% in Wyoming. The wide range in number and percentage of individuals employed is not necessarily indicative of success or failure when making comparisons among states. Factors such as the percentage of people served in CMHPs for whom employment status is known can affect the numbers and percentages reported. These differences suggest a need for further research to identify the factors responsible for such wide variation, and to determine successful strategies for gaining employment outcomes for people served in CMHPs.

The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) provides guidance and technical assistance to decision makers at all levels of government on the design, structure, content, and use of mental health information systems. The goal is to improve the quality of mental health programs and service delivery. CMHS operates the only program in the nation that focuses on the development of data standards that provide the basis for uniform, comparable, high-quality statistics on mental health services. This makes it a model in the health care statistics field. Data is stored in the Uniform Reporting System Output Tables.

Figure 1. Percentage of people served who are employed (number of states = 40)



¹ Competitive employment is defined as a community job that any person can apply for, in integrated settings (and in regular contact with workers without disabilities), that pays at least minimum wage.

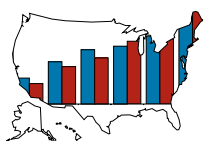


Table 1. Number of People in CMHPs Who were Served and Employed by State in 2011

State	Number of people served by CMHPs*	(A) Number of people employed	(B) Percentage of people served who are employed (B/A)
AK	--	--	--
AL	75,276	8,176	10.9
AR	40,639	8,474	20.9
AZ	101,212	16,686	16.5
CA	--	--	--
CO	55,180	12,164	22.0
CT	43,543	8,779	20.2
DC	--	--	--
DE	3,576	756	21.1
FL	183,325	28,554	15.6
GA	--	--	--
HI	5,545	577	10.4
IA	21,386	6,600	30.9
ID	6,121	1,192	19.5
IL	94,819	18,092	19.1
IN	60,957	11,744	19.3
KS	36,840	10,771	29.2
KY	90,805	14,630	16.1
LA	35,069	3,802	10.8
MA	--	--	--
MD	74,410	12,479	16.8
ME	10,455	726	6.9
MI	62,528	19,623	31.4
MN	15,684	2,354	15.0
MO	22,704	2,465	10.9
MS	--	--	--
MT	3,700	539	14.6
NC	162,513	27,659	17.0
ND	--	--	--
NE	18,053	5,156	28.6
NH	26,146	8,542	32.7
NJ	266,556	75,012	28.1
NM	9,743	2,298	23.6
NV	19,893	3,270	16.4
NY	423,953	96,639	22.8
OH	68,867	10,582	15.4
OK	48,144	9,200	19.1
OR	--	--	--
PA	--	--	--
RI	18,701	3,482	18.6
SC	45,580	5,681	12.5
SD	--	--	--
TN	--	--	--
TX	171,905	23,774	13.8
UT	29,368	5,878	20.0
VA	68,911	12,879	18.7
VT	10,029	2,208	22.0
WA	72,244	6,596	9.1
WI	11,917	2,907	24.4
WV	--	--	--
WY	12,343	5,419	43.9
All states with data (n = 40)	2,528,640	496,365	19.6

*This column includes only people for whom employment status was known at the time of data collection.

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