



Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services Program for Children and Their Families: 2006 Key Outcomes for Children and Families in Systems of Care

"Promoting Stability, Security, and Safety"

- ***Reduced self-harmful and suicide-related behaviors.*** Significantly fewer children and youth engaged in self-harmful and suicide-related behaviors 6 months after entering services in systems of care. Thirty-six percent of children and youth decreased self-harmful or suicide-related behaviors.
- ***Reduced emotional and behavioral problems.*** Clinical outcomes for children and youth improved after 6 months in a system of care. Emotional and behavioral problems were significantly reduced or remained stable for nearly 90 percent of children. In addition, the proportion of children who improved in clinical outcomes increased significantly after 18 months of services.
- ***Reduced arrests resulted in per-child cost savings.*** The reduction in the average number of arrests per child from intake to 6 months resulted in substantial reductions in associated costs. The average reduction in number of arrests per child translated into an average per-child cost savings of \$366.58 per year.
- ***Improved economic status of caregivers.*** Among those caregivers who reported they were unemployed because of their child's behavioral and emotional problems, 24 percent obtained employment during the first 6 months of system of care services, earning on average \$3591.78 over a 6-month period. Over half (51 percent) of these caregivers gained full-time employment.
- ***The education sector was the highest-referring child-serving sector to systems of care.*** Schools referred 26 percent of all children participating in systems of care.
- ***School performance improved significantly.*** The percentage of children with a passing performance (i.e., C or better) increased 14 percent from entry to 6 months after beginning services, with 68 percent of children achieving a passing performance at 6 months after entry.
- ***Suspensions and expulsions decreased.*** Delinquent behaviors decreased among 17 percent of children and youth, with significantly fewer children and youth suspended or expelled from school during the first 6 months after entry into a system of care.
- ***School attendance improved significantly.*** The percentage of children with regular school attendance (i.e., 80 percent of the time or more) increased nearly 7 percent from entry into services to 6 months after beginning services, with 87 percent of children attending school regularly at 6 months.
- ***Decreased school mobility.*** Fewer children and youth attended multiple schools after 6 months in systems of care. Of those children and youth who attended multiple schools due to their emotional and behavioral problems prior to entering systems of care, nearly 54 percent attended only one school during the first 6 months of services.