Prevalence of DHS and OHA Program Access Prior to First OYA Commitment: An Exploratory Analysis

Key Points

- Sample of **10,017 youth** who began their **first OYA commitment** to either probation or close custody between **January 2000 and July 2013**.
- Examined youth’s **prior involvement** with Medical Assistance, Self-Sufficiency, Mental Health Treatment Services, Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services, Child Protective Services, and Foster Care.
- Of the youth included in the sample, **90% utilized one or more service program areas** prior to commitment.
- **Percentage involved in each program area** prior to OYA commitment:
  - Medical Assistance: **80%**
  - Self-Sufficiency: **64%**
  - Mental Health Treatment Services: **58%**
  - Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services: **40%**
  - Child Protective Services: **21%**
  - Foster Care: **19%**
- **Average time** between first program involvement and OYA commitment:
  - Child Protective Services: **6 years**
  - Foster Care, Self-Sufficiency, and Medical Assistance: **5 years**
  - Mental Health Treatment Services: **3 years**
  - Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services: **1 year**
- **Average age at first program involvement**:
  - Self-Sufficiency, Child Protective Services, and Foster Care: **10 years old**
  - Medical Assistance: **11 years old**
  - Mental Health Treatment Services: **12 years old**
  - Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services: **15 years old**
  - OYA commitment: **15.5 years old**
- **Overlap** in program utilization:
  - The majority of youth who were involved with DHS or OHA **accessed more than one program** prior to OYA commitment.
  - Data show **notable overlap** between involvement with Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Mental Health Treatment Services, and Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services.
- **Key differences in program utilization by youth characteristics**:
  - Youth committed to **close custody under OYA jurisdiction** are more likely to have been involved with Foster Care compared to youth committed to OYA probation or close custody under DOC jurisdiction.
  - Compared to male youth offenders, **female youth offenders** are significantly more likely to have experienced maltreatment substantiated by Child Protective Services and to have been placed in Foster Care.
  - **Hispanic/Latino** youth appear to have **unequal access** to Mental Health Treatment Services.
  - **African American** youth are **disproportionally impacted** by certain program areas including Self-Sufficiency and Foster Care.
  - Involvement in Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services prior to OYA commitment is related to **higher recidivism risk** measured by OYA’s risk tools (i.e., ORRA and ORRA-V).