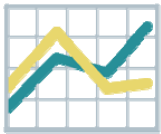




Increased Access to Quality Health Care

For persons with Serious Mental Illness, continuity of care is essential to a better outcome and to promoting strengths-based recovery. One way to improve continuity of care is to reduce the time between psychiatric hospital discharge and the first day of community-based mental health treatment. Our objective is to increase access to community mental health services for Medicaid-eligible children, adolescents, adults, and older adults following discharge from a psychiatric hospitalization.



How Are We Doing?

The Commonwealth met its key objective for this reporting year, as our regional average of 43.8% exceeded the HEDIS national median benchmark of 35.8% (for a Medicaid-covered population).

"Our objective is to increase access to community mental health services"

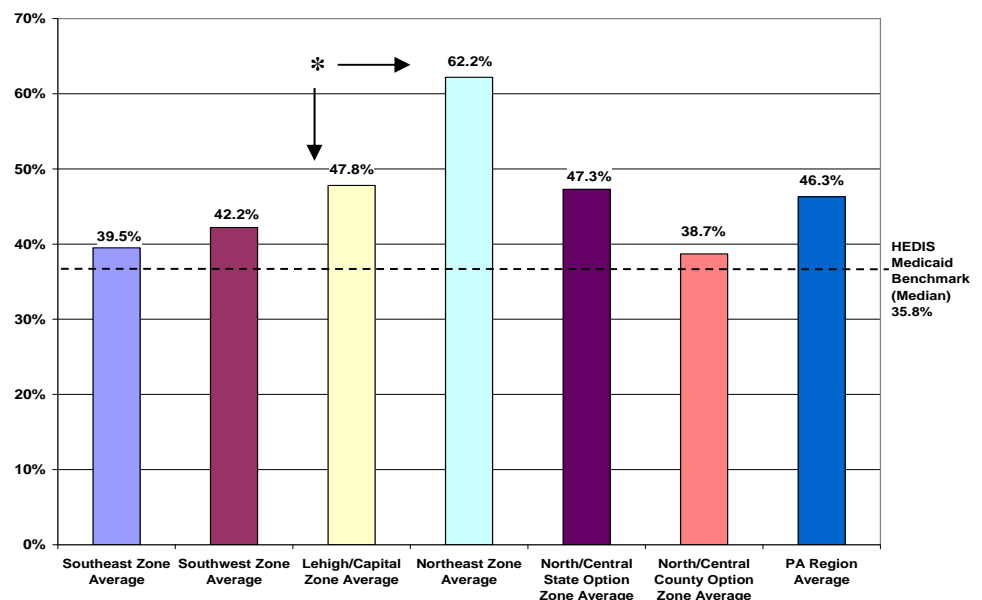
Talking Points:

Every HealthChoices zone achieved significant improvements when compared to their own respective 2007 rates.

There were remarkable improvements in two HealthChoices zones when follow-up rates were compared to the 2008 state average (see the asterisk * at right). The Northeast reported the highest rates.

Follow-up after discharge is an OMHSAS Performance Improvement Project measure.

Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (2008 Rates)
7 Day Follow-up Services after Discharge from Psychiatric Inpatient Treatment by Zone



What Do the Findings Mean? The individual HealthChoices zones have improved their efficiency to connect individuals to community-based mental health treatment after a psychiatric hospitalization. Two zones have shown a significant improvement by increasing their performance as compared to the 2008 state rate, as well as to their own zone performance over time. We hope to see more of these improvements because they will help identify best practices to move our service system further toward a strengths-based model of care.

What Did We Measure? Medicaid benchmarks from the HealthCare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) are used as comparisons to PA's performance. Progress is measured by the percentage of persons (ages 6 and older) enrolled in the HealthChoices Behavioral Health Program (Pennsylvania's Medicaid managed care program) receiving any community mental health service within 7 days following psychiatric hospital discharge.