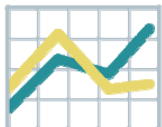




Social Connectedness

Listening to consumer and family voices is an OMHSAS strength, and a foundation upon which a transformed mental health system of care is built. In 2004, Social Connectedness became one of the ten major National Outcome Measures (NOMs) for mental health service systems. The data derived from this NOM are used to depict how well consumers are managing their illness through having a healthy perspective of social connectedness in the community.



How Are We Doing?

Pennsylvania remains in line with the national outcomes on social connectedness. OMHSAS continues to develop community integration and support programs that include consumers' and family members' involvement, which ultimately increases one's connectedness.

"Listening to consumer and family voices is an OMHSAS strength."

Talking Points:

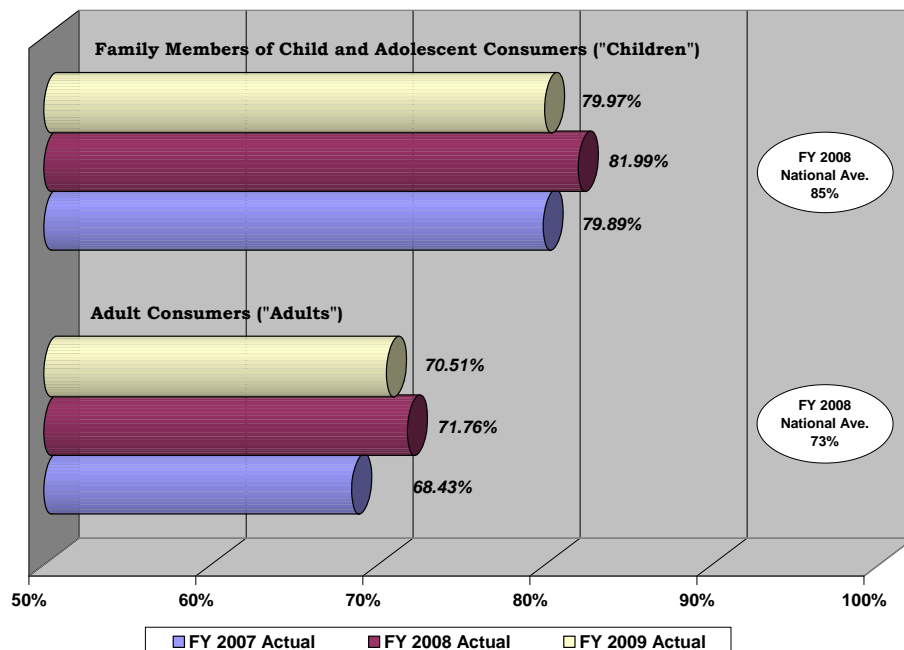
☑ **Certified Peer Specialists** help build a sense of self-worth, **community connectedness**, and an improved quality of life.

☑ The more socially connected a person is, the **greater sense of self-control and self-determination** one feels... components of **resilience and recovery**.

☑ More than **80%** of the State **MH budget** is spent on **community based services**.

☑ Social connectedness helps to **thwart suicidal behavior** in young people.

Pennsylvania Survey Respondents Reporting Positively on Social Connectedness following Receipt of Behavioral Health Services



What Do the Findings Mean? Compared with other domains, a high percentage of adult consumers and family members of child and adolescent consumers feel that their social interactions have shown improvement as a result of behavioral health services. This degree of satisfaction has remained constant over the last 3 survey years. For the most current data available, the U.S. averages for this NOM are 73% for "Adults" and 85% for "Children".

What Did We Measure? The data of Social Connectedness is derived from a combination of the Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program (MHSIP) annual adult consumer survey and its companion Youth Satisfaction Survey for Families (YSS-F). Respondents included a random sampling of adult consumers and family members of children and adolescent consumers who receive services via the HealthChoices Behavioral Health Program.

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is the state entity charged with ensuring that Pennsylvania's citizens have access to a broad array of behavioral health services. **QUIC Facts can be found online at: www.parecovery.org/omhsas_quality.shtml**