



Populations Studied

- Adults age 19 to 64 years
- On Medicaid (MaineCare) for 11 out of 12 months
- Service users were all adults who received Medicaid services between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007

Study Methods

- Adults were placed in one of four groups (listed to the right) based on diagnoses
- Emergency room diagnoses are based on the primary diagnoses given at the emergency room visit



A Closer Look

What do the rates mean?

- Rates are used to measure how often something happens and allows for comparisons among different groups
- Emergency room rates are based on the number of emergency room visits per every 1,000 adult service users
- Maine's emergency room rate is 1426 visits per 1,000 adult service users, while South Carolina's rate is 827
- On average, each adult in Maine used the emergency room 1.4 times yearly. Adults in South Carolina used the emergency room less than once a year.

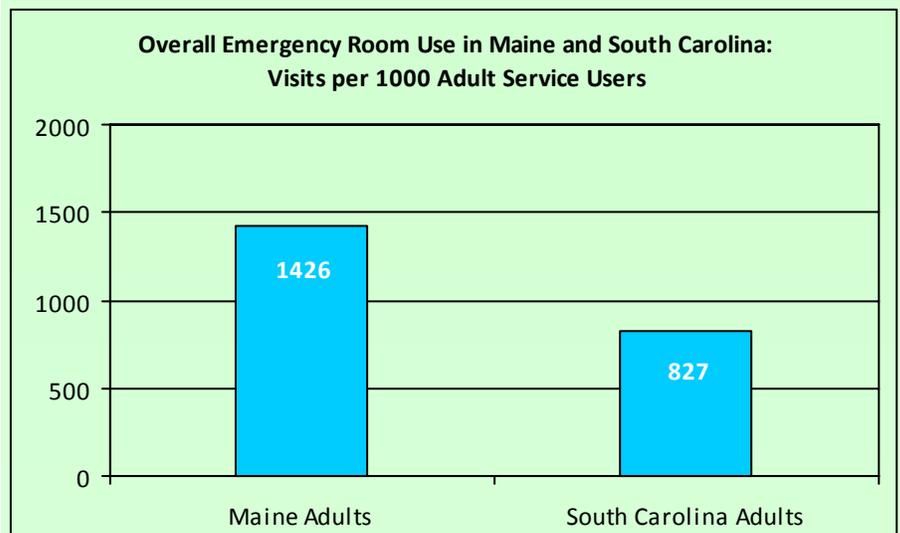
Emergency Room Use by Adults with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders

This snapshot looks at adults with mental health and substance abuse disorders who receive Medicaid services in Maine and South Carolina. The study compares emergency room use in four study groups over a year.

Four Groups Studied

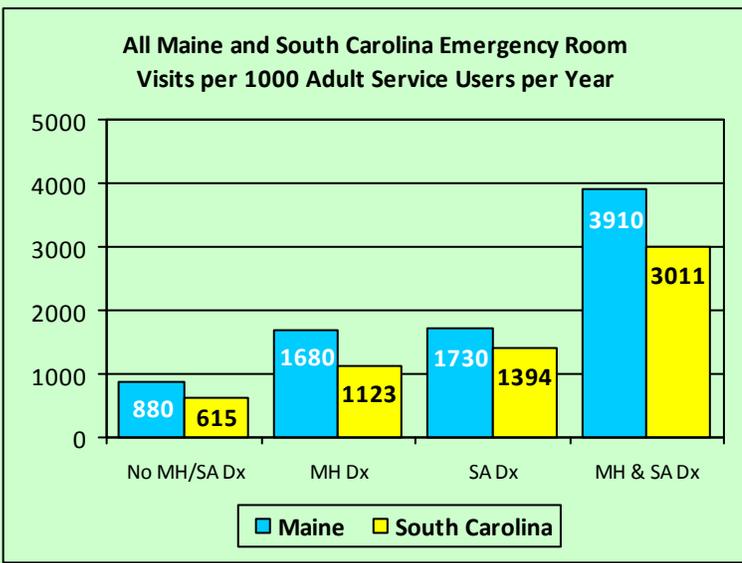
1. No mental health or substance abuse diagnosis (No MH/SA Dx)
2. Mental health with no substance abuse diagnosis (MH Dx)
3. Substance abuse with no mental health diagnosis (SA Dx)
4. Mental health and substance abuse diagnoses (MH & SA Dx)

Results



- Emergency room use for Maine's study group was nearly two times higher than in South Carolina.

Maine and South Carolina volunteered to share Medicaid claims data and be involved in this two-state study. The study was funded by a grant from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute (NRI)

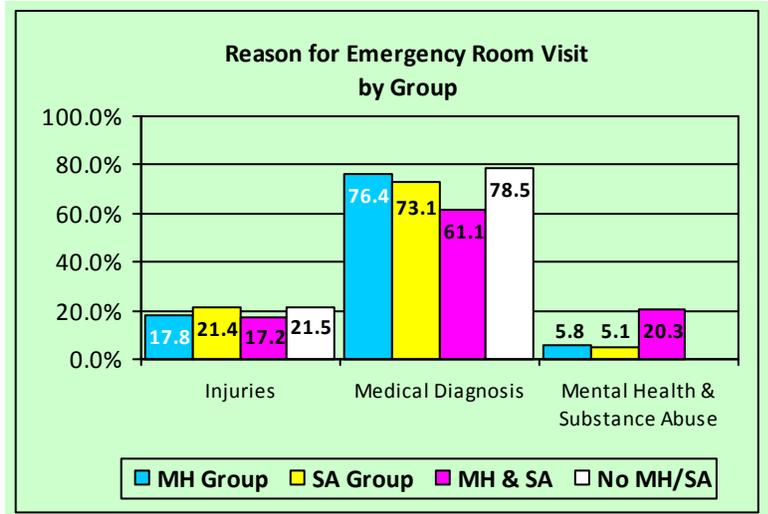


Compared to adults with no mental health or substance abuse diagnosis...

- Adults with either a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis used the emergency room two times more often.
- Adults with both mental health and substance abuse diagnoses used the emergency room four times more often, and they were more than six times as likely to have four or more emergency room visits in a year.

Compared to adults with no mental health or substance abuse diagnosis...

- Most emergency room visits are for medical conditions or injuries, not behavioral health issues.
- Adults with either a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis were twice as likely to use the emergency room for medical issues.
- Adults with both mental health and substance abuse diagnoses used the emergency room at least four times more often.



Questions to Consider...

1. What accounts for Maine's rate of emergency room use?
2. Why do adults with mental health or substance abuse disorders have increased use of emergency rooms for medical issues?
3. How can community services be changed to better provide medical care to adults with mental health or substance abuse issues?

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