Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders among Juvenile Detainees in Maricopa County

2009 AARIN Symposium
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AARIN Definitions of Co-Occurring Disorders

■ Co-Occurring Disorders:
  ▪ A condition when an individual presents with both a mental illness and substance abuse or dependence.

■ The AARIN Co-Occurring Addendum:
  ▪ Comprised of two parts:
    • The first specific to substance use, and
    • The second specific to mental health.
    • Not a diagnostic screening tool for mental illness.
Substance Abuse and Dependence

- The first part of the Co-Occurring Addendum included 18 substance abuse/dependence items:
  - 4 designated to assess substance abuse;
  - 10 to assess substance dependence; and
  - 4 additional items related to intravenous drug use, prior substance abuse/dependence treatment, and family history of substance misuse.

- The diagnostic criteria from the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Revision (DSM-IV) for substance abuse and dependence provided the outline for our substance abuse/dependence screening questions.
Mental Health Problems

- Mental Health Problems were assessed using respondents’ history with professional mental health:
  - **Low Risk:**
    - Have you ever been told by a counselor, social worker, or doctor that you have a mental illness or emotional problem?
    - Have you ever been treated by a counselor, social worker, or doctor for a mental health problem?
  - **High Risk:**
    - Have you ever been prescribed medication for a mental health problem?
    - Have you ever been hospitalized for a mental health problem?

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Level of Risk by Substance Abuse/Dependence and Mental Health (n=290)

![Bar graph showing the level of risk by substance abuse/dependence and mental health problems. The graph indicates the percentage of individuals in each risk category.]

- **Substance Abuse or Dependence Risk**:
  - Non-Risk: 35.5%
  - Low Risk: 33.4%
  - High Risk: 31.0%

- **Mental Health Problem Risk**:
  - Non-Risk: 59.3%
  - Low Risk: 13.8%
  - High Risk: 26.9%

* p < .05

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Co-Occurring Disorder Risk

- Respondents were assigned to one of four categories of risk for co-occurring disorders.
- A simplified version of the co-occurring disorder quadrant model was employed to create the four distinct categories:
  - None – Not at risk for either substance abuse or mental health problems,
  - Substance Abuse only,
  - Mental Health Problems only,
  - Co-Occurring – at risk for both substance abuse and mental health problems.
Co-Occurring Disorders Quadrant Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health Acuity</th>
<th>Substance Use Risk Only (34.8%)</th>
<th>Co-Occurring Disorder Risk (29.7%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Non-Risk (24.5%)</td>
<td>Mental Health Risk Only (11.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance Abuse Acuity</th>
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<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mental Health Acuity

ASU
Distribution of Co-Occurring Disorder Risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Risk (n=71)</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse (n=101)</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Problems (n=32)</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Occurring (n=86)</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p<.05
Race by Co-Occurring Disorder *

* p<.05
Homelessness by Co-Occurring Disorder *

![Bar chart showing homelessness rates by Co-Occurring Disorder.]

- No Risk (n=71): 2.8
- Substance Abuse (n=101): 3
- Mental Health (n=32): 6.3
- Co-Occurring (n=86): 8.1
- Total (n=290): 4.8

* p<.05

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Current Offense by Co-Occurring Disorder *

- Violent: No Risk (n=71) = 32.4, Substance Abuse (n=101) = 17.8, Mental Health (n=32) = 17.4, Co-Occurring (n=86) = 23.4, Total (n=290) = 37.5
- Drug-Related: No Risk (n=71) = 2.8, Substance Abuse (n=101) = 8.9, Mental Health (n=32) = 3.1, Co-Occurring (n=86) = 9.3, Total (n=290) = 6.9
- Property: No Risk (n=71) = 21.1, Substance Abuse (n=101) = 20.8, Mental Health (n=32) = 18.8, Co-Occurring (n=86) = 16.3, Total (n=290) = 19.3
- Miscellaneous: No Risk (n=71) = 0, Substance Abuse (n=101) = 1, Mental Health (n=32) = 0, Co-Occurring (n=86) = 0, Total (n=290) = 0.3

*p<.05

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Prior Arrests and Incarceration

- Respondents classified as at-risk for a Co-Occurring disorder, were:
  - Significantly more likely to have been arrested in the past 12 months.
    - 28% were arrested 3 or more times
    - On average, they were arrested 1.9 times in the past year, compared to 0.9 times for the non-risk group.
  - More than 16% of them had served time in jail/prison in the past 12 months at least 3 times, only 4-12% of other groups were incarcerated so frequently.

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Violent Victimization *

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Public Health and Treatment Concerns

- Used Needles to Get High *
  - No Risk (n=71): 0.0%
  - Substance Abuse (n=101): 9.3%
  - Co-Occurring (n=86): 9.3%
  - Total (n=290): 6.3%

- Sought Help for Substance Abuse *
  - No Risk (n=71): 0.0%
  - Substance Abuse (n=101): 17.8%
  - Co-Occurring (n=86): 21.8%
  - Total (n=290): 20.3%

- Substance Abuse Treatment *
  - No Risk (n=71): 0.0%
  - Substance Abuse (n=101): 46.5%
  - Co-Occurring (n=86): 39.5%
  - Total (n=290): 39.5%

* p<.05

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Summary

- AARIN findings support that the co-occurring disorder population place tremendous stress on the criminal justice system – in both nature and scope.
  - Scope – 29.7% of our sample qualified at-risk for a co-occurring disorder (86 of 290 arrestees).
  - Most arrestees with any mental health problems, also had co-occurring substance abuse:
    - just 11% (n=32) of respondents were classified as having mental health problems without substance abuse.
  - They are more likely to be arrested, and more frequently.
Summary, continued

- **Nature of the problem of co-occurring disorder arrestees:**
  - Societal and public health sector demands:
    - Twice as likely to be homeless
    - Significantly more likely for IV drug use
  - Criminal justice system demands:
    - Less likely to be violent offenders
    - More likely to be arrested and jailed, and more frequently
    - At significant risk for violent victimization – including assaults, aggravated assaults, injuries from firearms and other weapons, and robberies.