

BRIEF EXAMINATION OF DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMPOSITE SCORE METRICS

Covers HSO-Multnomah County only, for FY17. These two metrics are among seven measures currently computed for the Levels A through D composite score. A word of caution: about 1/3 of clients mark “other” as their race. This might be an actual “other” outside the established categories, or it may also serve as “unknown.” Our analysis can only work with what clients report.

Measure 1: Initiation

New clients attending a second appointment within 30 days of their first. Statistical model controls for age range, race, sex, primary language, and level of care.

- Asian and African-American clients were significantly less likely to obtain a second appointment within 30 days--42% less likely and 37% less likely than the average, respectively. Clients with a primary language other than English were 20% less likely. If we relax the standard for statistical significance (to 85% confidence levels), Native Americans are predicted to be 36% less likely than the average to have a timely second appointment. Interestingly, adults were more likely to complete the initiation metric than children, although the effect declined somewhat for older adults.

Measure 2: Retention, also known as dosage or engagement

New clients achieving minimum dosage of encounters within a 6 month period. Statistical model controls for age range, race, sex, primary language, level of care, and success on the initiation metric.

- Unsurprisingly, obtaining that second appointment in the first month vastly increased the odds of long-term retention--clients were 3.6 times more likely to achieve their level of care's long-term engagement goals.
- African-American and Native American clients were less likely to reach the long-term goals--20% and 41% less likely than the average, respectively. Meanwhile, Caucasian clients were 10% more likely to achieve this. Language and Asian ethnicity were no longer significant influences, either. In a reversal from initiation, younger clients were more likely to reach long-term engagement standards than adults.

INITIATION & RETENTION BY RACE & LANGUAGE (unadjusted for other covariates)

