

Fast Fax Data Collection Results
12-Hour Wait Reporting for Psychiatric Patients
Time Period Aug 27 – Sept 17, 2008

Intent: The *FastFax* was intended to capture information regarding the excessive patient wait times in emergency departments for individuals in need of behavioral health services. Providers were requested to provide information in the event a patient in need of behavioral health services waited in emergency departments after medical clearance for 12 hours or more. A completed *FastFax* was returned to NJHA for each episode. Providers were instructed to complete a *FastFax* for each 12-hour interval, for each patient, and sent in real time. For example, if a patient was waiting for 36 hours, the provider would have returned three faxes to NJHA.

Data Collection Elements:

- Arrival date, time, 12 hour interval
- Awaiting psychiatric screening, internal transfer to inpatient setting, transfer for another facility
- Reason for wait including medical clearance (to state facility), bed availability, screener, multiple bed moves, other
- Patient age (0-5, 6-17, 18-22, 23-65, 66 plus), male/female, one:one requirement, forensic status
- Destination including community-based service, forensic facility, private psychiatric facility, CCIS unit, state psychiatric facility, county psychiatric facility, STCF unit

Response: 36 hospitals responded, 10 of which are sites for Designated Screening Centers
n = 1,378 episodes

Regions:

- Northern – Overlook Hospital (Union) to Valley Hospital (Bergen) [n = 16]
- Central – Southern Ocean County Hospital (Ocean) to Raritan Bay Medical Center (Middlesex) [n = 12]
- Southern – Cape Regional Medical Center (Cape May) to Lourdes Medical Center (Burlington) [n = 8]

Regional Episodes:

- Northern – 381
- Central – 765
- Southern - 232

Summary of Results:

- Roughly 90 percent reported waits of approximately 48 hours
- Nearly 70 episodes of waits between 48 and 60 hours were reported
- Approximately 100 episodes of patients were reported waiting between 60 and 108 hours
- 10 patients were reported to have waited between 108 and 156 hours

- Close to 70 percent of responses indicated an awaited destination of placement in an STCF, county or state psychiatric facility. Responses for “reason for wait” were consistent ~ about 60 percent were awaiting transfer to another bed type, such as a transfer to another facility or multiple bed moves
- Approximately 19 percent of episodes were waits for private psychiatric placement
- Just over 8 percent of episodes were awaiting placement in a community program
- Less than 1 percent were episodes awaiting forensic placement

- 346 reported episodes required one:one supervision
 - Costs have been annualized at approximately \$1,122,680.