

Veterans with co-occurring serious mental illness (SMI) and substance abuse (SA) disorders have positive outcomes when enrolled in specialized programming

Patients with co-occurring serious mental illness (SMI) and substance abuse (SA) disorders have significantly more inpatient admissions per year than other SMI patients, but do not differ in cumulative inpatient stays. In this study seriously mentally ill patients with co-occurring substance use disorders fared as well as other SMI patients when enrolled in intensive, specialized state-of-the-art treatment programs, which did not have a substance abuse focus. Measured outcomes included clinician ratings of psychiatric symptoms, functioning, and general life satisfaction.

Blow FC, Barry KL, BootsMiller BJ, Copeland LA, McCormick R, Visnic S. Longitudinal assessment of inpatient use and functioning of seriously mentally ill veterans with and without co-occurring substance use disorders. *J Psychiatr Res* 1998; 32:311-319. Contact: Frederic C. Blow, PhD, (734) 930-5106, e-mail at fredblow@umich.edu.