

**Prop 63 Mental Health Services
Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)
Evaluation Fact Sheet¹**

MENTAL HEALTH TRACKING SYSTEM

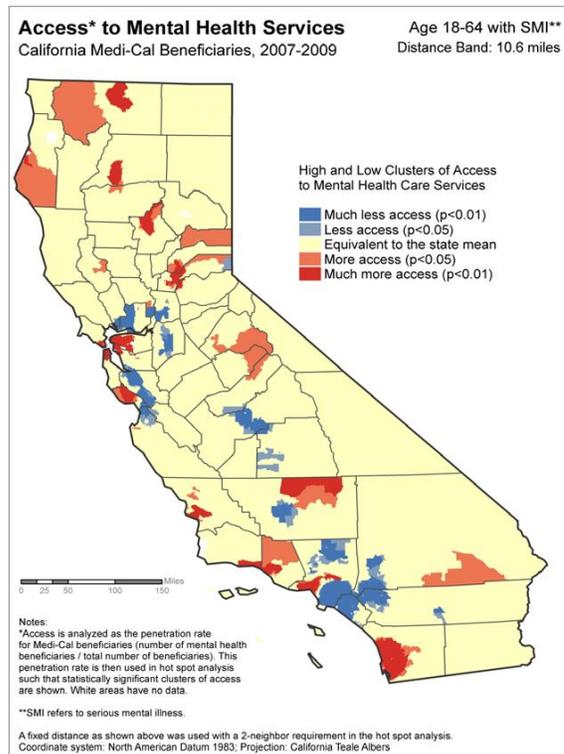
Primary Purpose: Develop and use geographic information from around the state to understand mental health needs and service utilization for Medi-Cal beneficiaries within a variety of demographic groups.

Background: This project demonstrated how use of geographic information and service-related data can be used to highlight patterns of mental health service use by Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Geo-mapping—a technique used to graphically represent data—was done. Three counties (San Diego, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus) were trained on how to use this technique to improve service delivery and resource allocations for Medi-Cal and non-Medi-Cal populations.

Major Findings:

- Analysis of Medi-Cal Service Disparities—there are significantly different levels of access to and utilization of Medi-Cal mental health services within various demographic groups and counties.
- Groups for which disparities are highest (in order) include young adults aged 18-24, women, adults aged 55-64, Hispanics, and Blacks.
- Counties demonstrating a high need for more services include Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, and Solano.
- Maps showing both the distribution of access to care and clusters of high and low access areas were included in the atlas at the end of this report, which can be found on the MHSOAC website.

Methodology: Medi-Cal fee-for-service, managed care and county specialty mental health services were aggregated. Access was measured using penetration rates for the Medi-Cal population (i.e., the proportion of persons on Medi-Cal with a serious mental illness or emotional disturbance diagnosis who received a mental health service). Census tracts were clustered to test the statistical significance of differences in rates of access. The findings were then displayed graphically. The technique brings meaningful patterns to light and provides the reader with an easy to read outcome map. A “hot spot” indicates an area of intense clustering of high values (e.g., high penetration rates indicate greater access to care).



Note. From “A Mental Health Tracking System for the State of California” by Center for Reducing Health Disparities, UC Davis School of Medicine, 2011, p. 17.

Principle Investigator: UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Link to Study:

http://www.mhsoac.ca.gov/Evaluations/docs/MHSOAC_Deliverable_1_2011_05_20_FNL.pdf

Implications: Entities (e.g., counties, state) who manage and deliver services may find geo-mapping helpful in resource allocation and service delivery decisions. More work is needed to verify validity and completeness of geo-coding before analysis results can be solidified. The study was useful in highlighting data system issues that need resolution before the techniques should be used more broadly.

Recommendations: MHSOAC should continue to monitor progress and potential uses of this technique.

¹This series of fact sheets provides brief summaries of evaluations of Prop 63 by the MHSOAC which is charged with oversight and accountability for the Mental Health Services Act also known as Prop 63.