

# Evolution of Federal Definitions for Adults with Serious Mental Illness: A 60 Year Perspective

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# Key Feedback Principles

- ▶ Definitions have kept abreast of the evolution of the mental health research and services world.
- ▶ Definitions have had major impact upon our perception of the services field and on the focus of related services research.

# Key Concepts

- ▶ Prevalence -Total Cases for a Defined Period (usually a year)
- ▶ Incidence -New Cases for a Defined Period (usually a year)
- ▶ Treated Prevalence – Total Cases Under Care
- ▶ Community Prevalence – Total Cases (Community + Under Care)

# Evolution of Definitions – 1

- ▶ 1950s – 1970s: DIAGNOSIS
  - Treated Prevalence
  - By Diagnoses
  - Number Treated/Population
- ▶ 1980s: DIAGNOSIS – DISABILITY – DURATION
  - Community Prevalence
  - Adults with a “Serious and Persistent Mental Illness” (SPMI)
  - $5 \text{ Disorders} + \text{GAS} = 50 \text{ or less} + 1 \text{ year}$
  - Prevalence = 2.8 % of adults

# Evolution of Definitions – 2

- ▶ 1990s: DIAGNOSIS – DISABILITY
  - Community Prevalence
  - Adults with a “Serious Mental Illness” (SMI)
  - Any Disorder + GAS = 60 or less
  - Prevalence: 5.8% of Adult Population
- ▶ 2000s: Proxy Measures
  - Serious Psychological Distress and WHO Disability Assessment Scale as indicator of SMI
  - SMI Equivalent to a GAS of 50 or less
  - Prevalence: 4% of Adult Population

# Reasonable Future Assumptions

- ▶ Era of Large Scale Epidemiological Surveys, with research diagnostic criteria, is likely over (ECA; NCS; NCS-2).
- ▶ Era of complete Electronic Health Records (EHR) for everyone is under development.
- ▶ When the EHR world is in place, federal surveys will likely be replaced by person and time sampling of EHR data.

# Substantive Focus in the Future

- ▶ We are in transition from deficit-based measures to strength-based measures (see CDC *Preventing Chronic Disease* January 2010).
- ▶ Thus , work done by the Committee might consider this transition.

# Some Future Considerations

- ▶ IOM Vital Signs: Core Metrics for Health and Health Care Progress
- ▶ CDC Wellbeing (Physical, Mental, and Social Wellbeing)

# Contact Information

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