

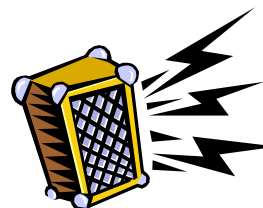
Standardized Screening for Co-Occurring Disorders

Research studies and surveys conclude that a high percentage of people in behavioral health treatment have co-occurring mental health and addiction disorders. Integrated screening is a formal process of testing for signs of these disorders and it expedites entry into appropriate assessment and treatment services. There are several well-researched standardized screening tools available in the public domain. The advantages of using these instruments include early and accurate identification, efficiency in information gathering, simplicity of use and scoring, a known level of reliability, and availability of cut-off scores. There are currently 30 mental health and addiction treatment agencies (state operated and private non-profit) participating in a statewide screening pilot. Based on more than 2000 completed screens, it is taking providers, on average, only **11 minutes** to complete both a mental health and substance use standardized screen. Almost forty five percent of the people screened showed signs of having co-occurring disorders.



The tools being piloted are:

- ◆ Mental Health Screening Form-III (MHSF-III)
- ◆ Modified MINI Screen (MMS)
- ◆ Simple Screening Instrument for Alcohol and Other Drugs (SSI-AOD)
- ◆ CAGE-AID (CAGE Adapted to Include Drugs)



Positive feedback from the participating providers!

“The screens help our staff focus on people’s current presenting symptoms and not only past diagnoses and treatment.” - United Services

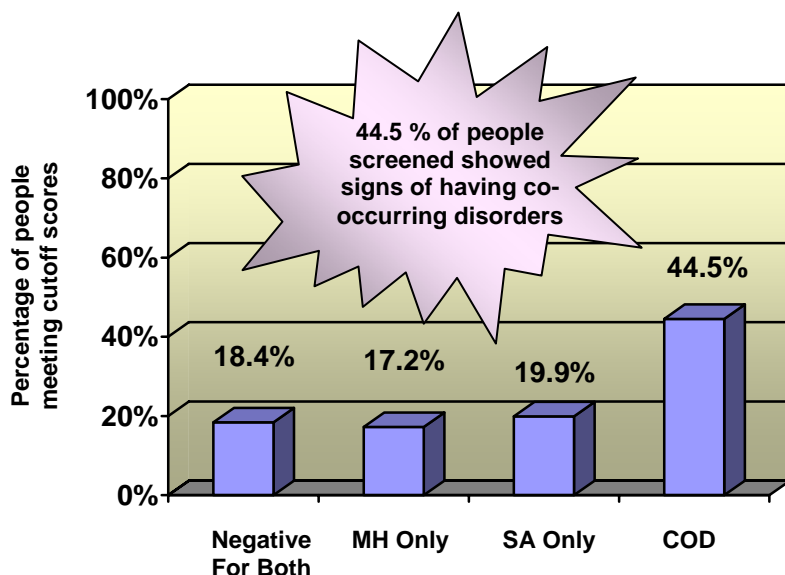
“One client responded ‘these questions hit the nail on the head’...” - Rushford Center

“We’ve had a large number of people say they do not have any mental health problems, but scored positive on the mental health screen, which facilitated needed services.” - Liberation Programs

“The questions are designed in a way that allow our clients to understand them without feeling judged.” - Hispanic Clinic, CMHC

“The screening tools give people seeking services the message that we are interested in and have the ability to work on all their problems.” - Morris Foundation

Pilot Screening Results



To read more about the DMHAS Co-Occurring Disorders Initiative and to download the English and Spanish versions of the screening instruments currently being piloted, please visit our website: <http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/cosig.htm>

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To view previous issues visit <http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/infobriefs/index.htm>.