

SOUTH JERSEY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATION COLLABORATIVE



South Jersey Behavioral Health Innovation Collaborative

The South Jersey Behavioral Health Innovation Collaborative was formed to improve quality, increase access, capacity and coordination to behavioral health services for residents in southern New Jersey. Based on results from the 2013 Tri-County Community Health Needs Assessment, this initiative will evaluate the current behavioral health system and make recommendations for changes that will positively affect patients, families and providers.

The first step in this endeavor is to gain a better understanding of the current challenges in the system. To do this, the hospitals are working with the New Jersey Hospital Association and Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers in data gathering and analysis to understand how patients move through their systems, identify lessons learned and work together to develop policies and procedures based on evidence-based and promising practices.

The second step will be to recommend state-level policy changes and conduct local pilot projects that will be designed to improve effectiveness and efficiency to better serve consumers of behavioral health services.

Throughout the year, the collaborative will meet with nationally recognized speakers who will outline successful and groundbreaking community-based models for improving behavioral health services.

These five hospitals joined together over a common belief that the mental health system is in crisis. Hospital leaders recognize that systemic changes must be made to enhance the health of the individuals they serve, improve the patient experience and provide cost-effective care to their communities.

At a Glance: New Jersey's Behavioral Health System

The information below is based on data from the most current calendar year available (2013).

- Hospitals statewide are now seeing more than a half a million patients in their EDs and over 300,000 in their inpatient settings in need of some form of behavioral health service.
- At this level, for every 1,000 N.J. residents, 50 were admitted to a hospital with a behavioral health diagnosis.
- On average, more than 100 people a day from southern N.J. come to EDs with behavioral health as their primary concern.
- In 2013, nearly 60,000 individuals were admitted to hospitals in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties with an underlying behavioral health diagnosis.
- During the same time, just under 53,000 individuals came to EDs in the same counties but did not require an inpatient admission. This number represents an increase of nearly 11,000 visits since 2010. Of the 53,000, more than 7,500 were under 21 years old.
- Based on data from NJHA, ED visits with behavioral health as a primary diagnosis increased by 20 percent from 2009 to 2013.
- During the same timeframe, more than 39 percent of inpatient admissions from southern New Jersey residents had a primary or secondary diagnosis involving behavioral health.
- ED volume has increased 36 percent from 2009 to 2013, and nearly 17 percent of ED volume was related to behavioral health patients.
- One in four adults experience mental illness in a given year, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).
- NAMI estimates that approximately 20 percent of youth ages 13 to 18 experience a severe mental disorder in a given year.
- Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. More people die now from suicide than car accidents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.