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Temporal Patterns of Arrest in a Cohort of Adults Receiving Mental Health Services: The Massachusetts Mental Health / Criminal Justice Cohort Study

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Trajectory Models: What Are They?

- Derived from the "growth curve" methodology
- Technically, "zero-inflated Poisson" models
- Statistical — An iterative process which attempts to derive a solution consisting of a set of groups whose members have temporal activity patterns in common

Exempting Temporal Patterns of Arrest: Trajectory Analysis

- 2,704 (94% of arrested) were arrested once, 1,112 (3% of arrests) 2 or more times
- For those with multiple arrests (≤ 2, 2 or more), 1,112 (i.e., 51.5% of arrests ≤ 2, 2 + arrests; obtained a solution in which five trajectories were identified:

Five-Group Trajectory Model

Five Group Trajectory Model

The Five Trajectories: A Thumbnail Sketch

Mix of Offenses

Implications

- Amorous receiving mental health services display varying patterns of offending over time
- Those patterns likely reflect different symptom management approaches
- Simple demographic and diagnostic data do not predict group membership well
- To make them useful to service system planners, more data that would predict individual likelihood-trajectory is needed

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