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

William H. Fisher
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Let us know how access to this document benefits you. Follow this and additional works at: https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/psych_cmhsr

Part of the Health Services Research Commons, Law and Psychology Commons, Psychiatric and Mental Health Commons, Psychiatry Commons, and the Psychiatry and Psychology Commons

Repository Citation

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Implementation Science and Practice Advances Research Center Publications by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Temporal Patterns of Arrest in a Cohort of Adults Receiving Mental Health Services: The Massachusetts Mental Health / Criminal Justice Cohort Study

The Five Trajectories: A Thumbnail Sketch

**Mix of Offenses**

**Trajectory Group 1**
- Drug Crimes
- Domestic Violence
- Simple Assault
- Theft
- Traffic

**Trajectory Group 2**
- Drug Crimes
- Domestic Violence
- Simple Assault
- Theft
- Traffic

**Trajectory Group 3**
- Drug Crimes
- Domestic Violence
- Simple Assault
- Theft
- Traffic

**Trajectory Group 4**
- Drug Crimes
- Domestic Violence
- Simple Assault
- Theft
- Traffic

**Trajectory Group 5**
- Drug Crimes
- Domestic Violence
- Simple Assault
- Theft
- Traffic

**Implications**

- Amnesia receiving mental health services display varying patterns of offending over time
- Those patterns likely reflect different system management issues
- Simple demographic and diagnostic data do not predict group membership well
- To make these useful to service system planners, more data that would predict individual-likely trajectories is needed
- Critical is an understanding of how service use patterns are associated with these trajectories

**Acknowledgement**

The data analyses presented here would not have been possible without the perseverance, guidance and commitment of the Massachusetts Mental Health / Criminal Justice Cohort Study. The authors acknowledge the support of the National Institute of Mental Health (Grants MH-16026, MH-20253, MH-24064). The authors are also grateful for the suggestions and comments of Dr. Steven Banks.

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

**Introduction**

The Massachusetts Mental Health / Criminal Justice Cohort Study was conducted to examine the prevalence, type and temporal patterns of arrest for individuals receiving mental health services. The study was based on data collected from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health between July 1991 and June 1992. The study included a total of 41,860 charges, 27,044 for felonies and 14,816 for misdemeanors. The study found that 3,856 cohort members (27.9%) experienced at least one arrest during the 10-year observation period.

**Methods**

The study used a Five-Group Trajectory Model to examine the prevalence, type and temporal patterns of arrest for individuals receiving mental health services. The model was used to identify temporal activity patterns in the cohort members and to derive a solution consisting of a set of groups whose members have a common pattern of arrest over time. The model was used to identify five distinct trajectories: Group 1: Low Arrest Rate; Group 2: Moderate Arrest Rate; Group 3: High Arrest Rate; Group 4: Low Arrest Rate with a Spike; and Group 5: High Arrest Rate with a Spike.

**Results**

The Five-Group Trajectory Model was used to identify the prevalence, type and temporal patterns of arrest for individuals receiving mental health services. The model identified five distinct trajectories: Group 1: Low Arrest Rate; Group 2: Moderate Arrest Rate; Group 3: High Arrest Rate; Group 4: Low Arrest Rate with a Spike; and Group 5: High Arrest Rate with a Spike.

**Discussion**

The Five-Group Trajectory Model was used to identify the prevalence, type and temporal patterns of arrest for individuals receiving mental health services. The model identified five distinct trajectories: Group 1: Low Arrest Rate; Group 2: Moderate Arrest Rate; Group 3: High Arrest Rate; Group 4: Low Arrest Rate with a Spike; and Group 5: High Arrest Rate with a Spike.

**Conclusions**

The Five-Group Trajectory Model was used to identify the prevalence, type and temporal patterns of arrest for individuals receiving mental health services. The model identified five distinct trajectories: Group 1: Low Arrest Rate; Group 2: Moderate Arrest Rate; Group 3: High Arrest Rate; Group 4: Low Arrest Rate with a Spike; and Group 5: High Arrest Rate with a Spike.

**Appendix**

The Five-Group Trajectory Model was used to identify the prevalence, type and temporal patterns of arrest for individuals receiving mental health services. The model identified five distinct trajectories: Group 1: Low Arrest Rate; Group 2: Moderate Arrest Rate; Group 3: High Arrest Rate; Group 4: Low Arrest Rate with a Spike; and Group 5: High Arrest Rate with a Spike.