



## Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2005

### **16 The Youth of AOT: Evaluating the Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of the Young Adult Population of a New York City Outpatient Commitment Program**

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Attendees of this presentation will learn about the demographic and clinical characteristics of young adults committed to outpatient psychiatric treatment and hopefully will be better able to serve their needs.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by developing interventional strategies to reduce recidivism and re-hospitalization.

The authors' hypothesis is that the young adult population of the Manhattan based Assisted Outpatient Program (AOT) is more likely to have substance abuse related disorders, histories of violence and arrest or incarceration as compared with the general population of AOT. Also hypothesized is that these young adults are more likely to have more frequent psychiatric hospitalizations prior to age 18 and prior to their out-patient commitment. Additionally the authors hypothesize that this group will be disproportionately male and have minority backgrounds.

This will be a descriptive study using the methodology of a retrospective chart review of files on all patients who are between the ages of 18-24 who have had at least one AOT order since the inception of the Manhattan based AOT Program (\*4years). Charts will be screened for a variety of demographic data including but not limited to the following:

- 1) type of psychopathology, 2) presence or absence of substance abuse,
- 3) history of child abuse, 4) family history, 5) educational attainment,
- 6) types of medication ordered, 7) number of orders issued, 8) history of violence, arrest, and incarceration.

Medical records provided for the AOT referral process as well as the evaluations conducted by the forensic psychiatrists involved in the commitment process will be examined.

Currently there have been approximately 150 AOT participants who are between the ages of 18-24 through the Bellevue Hospital AOT program out of 1,000 total AOT clients in the history of the Manhattan program. This group represents 15% of the total population and examining their clinical and demographic qualities could have significant implication for treatment outcome. There are very few studies on young adults who are court mandated to psychiatric treatment. As the juvenile justice system expands to become a locus of primary psychiatric care for adolescents with severe psychopathology because of the lack of other care options, their interface with the judicial system becomes more pronounced and intractable. It is important to gather knowledge about this group who are likely to have long term and frequent utilization of mental health services and the criminal justice system.

#### **Young Adults, Outpatient Commitment, Mental Illness**