Washington State Institute for Public Policy

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT AMONG CLIENTS RECEIVING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Summary

The 2001 Washington State Legislature directed the Institute to conduct a longitudinal study of state-funded mental health client outcomes. One outcome the Legislature stipulated is criminal justice involvement of clients receiving public mental health services from the DSHS Mental Health Division (MHD). Analyses of felony conviction rates among these clients reveal the following:

- Among adults who received MHD services in 2002, roughly 16 out of 100 had had at least one felony conviction in their lifetime compared with 7 out of 100 in the state general population. Similarly, lifetime rates were higher among MHD clients than the state population in three sub-categories of felony convictions examined (in order of severity): Violent Felony, Other Felony, and Substance Felony.
- Male MHD clients had higher felony conviction rates in all four categories than female clients.
- Compared with MHD clients overall, felony conviction rates were higher among African American and American Indian/Alaska Native clients and lower among Hispanic and Asian American clients.
- MHD clients in the Thurston/Mason, Pierce, and Southwest Regional Support Networks (RSNs) had the highest felony conviction rates of all RSNs.
- MHD clients with a primary diagnosis of substance dependence had higher conviction rates in all four felony categories than clients with other primary diagnoses.
- MHD clients whose primary living situations were jail/juvenile corrections facilities or homeless/shelter had conviction rates at least twice as high as MHD clients overall in all felony categories.

Introduction

The 2001 Washington State Legislature passed ESSB 5583 requiring the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to develop an outcomes-based performance system for public mental health services. In particular, the Legislature is interested in "using outcome information to identify and provide incentives for best practices in the provision of public mental health services."[1] To that purpose, ESSB 5583 directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) to conduct a longitudinal study of state-funded mental health client outcomes.

One of the key outcome measures the Legislature stipulated is criminal justice involvement of clients receiving public mental health services provided by the DSHS Mental Health Division (MHD). This report, using administrative data from multiple agencies, examines the baseline measure of this outcome in greater detail than earlier Institute reports.

This report is part of a series of Institute studies examining use of mental health services, criminal justice involvement, employment, and housing stability of public mental health clients.[2] The information in these baseline studies represents a first step in identifying ways to improve the cost-efficiency of public mental health services in Washington.

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[1] Chapter 334, Laws of 2001.

[2] Other Institute reports on this topic include the following: Steve Lerch, 2004, *Long-Term Outcomes of Public Mental Health Clients: Preliminary Report;* Wei Yen and Jim Mayfield, 2005, *Long-Term Outcomes of Public Mental Health Clients: Additional Baseline Characteristics*; and Jim Mayfield, 2005, *Employment Characteristics of Clients Receiving Public Mental Health Services.*

Methods

Administrative data from several state agencies were linked using common identifiers.[3] The linkage of administrative data provides population-level data. However, administrative data generally have limitations for research as they are not designed for such purposes. Linking administrative data across agencies presents particular challenges.[4] Therefore, findings in this report should be viewed with respect to these limitations.

Three sets of descriptive analyses were performed:

- Characteristics of MHD clients;
- Rates of felony convictions among MHD clients; and
- Profile of MHD clients with felony convictions.

Analyses in this report include adults 19 years old or older as of December 31, 2002.

Demographic and Other Characteristics of MHD Adult Clients

In 2002, the state adult population was approximately 4,432,000, 2 percent of which (90,301 persons) used services provided by MHD. Exhibit 1 shows demographic and other characteristics of adult MHD clients served in 2002. In addition to age, gender, race, and ethnicity, other characteristics examined include the Regional Support Network (RSN) where the client received MHD services, inpatient/outpatient status, primary diagnoses, Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) scores, living situations, and employment status. Some of the characteristics shown in Exhibit 1 are highlighted here:

- In 2002, MHD clients were younger than the state population. The majority of MHD clients (70 percent) were between 19 and 50 years old compared with 63 percent of the state general population.
- MHD clients included slightly more females (55.5 percent) than the state general population (50.7 percent).
- MHD clients were mostly non-Hispanic White (80.6 percent), similar to the state's race/ethnicity makeup (82.8 percent).
- Most MHD clients received services in RSNs associated with large populations; Large RSNs with over 10 percent of MHD clients included King, North Sound, Pierce, and Greater Columbia.
- One in ten MHD clients received inpatient services at some time during 2002.
- The most prevalent single primary diagnosis among MHD clients was major depression (17.8 percent).
- In terms of clients' overall functioning, half the clients had an annual average GAF score below 50 on a 100-point scale.
- Three in four MHD clients lived in private residences.
- Three out of ten clients age 19-64 were employed at least one quarter during 2002.

[3] The DSHS MHD provided service utilization records for clients of the public mental health system. Information about criminal justice involvement was obtained from the Institute's criminal justice system (CJS) database which, in turn, was compiled using administrative records from the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Washington State Patrol (WSP), and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Employment data were obtained from the Employment Security Department (ESD). The merge between the MHD data system with the CJS data used MHD clients' name, gender, and birth date. The merge between MHD and ESD used the SSN field. In addition, state population estimates were obtained from the website of the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

[4] See Footnote 2.

Exhibit 1

Demographic and Other Characteristics of the State Population and MHD Clients, 2002

	State		MHD	
	N	%	N	%
Total Adults (age 19 and older)	4,431,827	100%	90,301	100%
Age				
19–34	1,343,043	30.3%	29,417	32.6%
35–49	1,435,996	32.4%	34,109	37.8%
50–64	975,544	22.0%	16,111	17.8%
65+	677,244	15.3%	10,664	11.8%
Gender				
Total Known	4,431,827	100.0%	89,901	100.0%
Male	2,183,102	49.3%	40,023	44.5%
Female	2,248,725	50.7%	49,878	55.5%
Unknown			400	
Race/Ethnicity				
Total Known	4,355,500	100.0%	66,096	100.0%
Hispanic	282,059	6.5%	3,839	5.8%
Non-Hispanic				
American Indian/Alaska Native	58,518	1.3%	2,113	3.2%
African American	133,710	3.1%	4,894	7.4%
Asian	275,712	6.3%	1,954	3.0%
White	3,605,501	82.8%	53,296	80.6%
Unknown/Other	76,327		24,205	
Regional Support Network (RSN)				
Chelan/Douglas	70,996	1.6%	1,849	2.0%
Clark	256,258	5.8%	4,391	4.9%
Grays Harbor	50,289	1.1%	1,443	1.6%
Greater Columbia	427,427	9.6%	11,140	12.3%
King County	1,359,793	30.7%	22,835	25.3%
North Central	90,051	2.0%	1,840	2.0%
North Sound	721,088	16.3%	12,458	13.8%
Northeast	49,902	1.1%	1,285	1.4%
Peninsula	241,165	5.4%	5,047	5.6%
Pierce County	520,275	11.7%	11,175	12.4%
Southwest	68,315	1.5%	3,274	3.6%
Spokane	311,899	7.0%	7,157	7.9%
Thurston/Mason	70,136	1.6%	3,457	3.8%
Timberlands	194,235	4.4%	3,135	3.5%

(continued on the next page)

Exhibit 1

Demographic and Other Characteristics of the State Population and MHD Clients, 2002

(continued)	State		MHD	
	N	%	N	%
Patient Status				
Inpatient	N/A	N/A	9,402	10.4%
Outpatient	N/A	N/A	80,899	89.6%
Primary Diagnosis				
(Clients may have more than one primary diagnosis)				
ADD	N/A	N/A	563	0.6%
Anxiety	N/A	N/A	8,885	9.8%
Autism/Development	N/A	N/A	1,237	1.4%
Bipolar	N/A	N/A	10,084	11.2%
Conduct	N/A	N/A	679	0.8%
Dementia	N/A	N/A	3,480	3.9%
Major Depression	N/A	N/A	16,055	17.8%
Personality	N/A	N/A	6,153	6.8%
Schizophrenia	N/A	N/A	11,989	13.3%
Substance Abuse	N/A	N/A	4,921	5.4%
Other Mental Health	N/A	N/A	8,362	9.3%
Other Mood	N/A	N/A	10,297	11.4%
Other Psychotic	N/A	N/A	3,569	4.0%
No Primary Diagnosis	N/A	N/A	14,817	16.4%
Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) Scores				
Total Known	N/A	N/A	63,224	100.0%
GAF < 50	N/A	N/A	31,769	50.2%
GAF >= 50	N/A	N/A	31,455	49.8%
Unknown			27,077	
Primary Living Situation				
Total Known	N/A	N/A	73,240	100.0%
Private Residence (with or without support)	N/A	N/A	56,722	77.4%
Foster Home	N/A	N/A	490	0.7%
24-Hour Residential Care	N/A	N/A	3,402	4.6%
Institutional Setting	N/A	N/A	3,586	4.9%
Jail/Juvenile Corrections	N/A	N/A	2,674	3.7%
Homeless/Shelter	N/A	N/A	4,533	6.2%
Other (including multiple situations)	N/A	N/A	1,833	2.5%
Unknown	N/A	N/A	17,061	
Employment (age 19–64)				
Total	N/A	N/A	79,637	100.0%
Did Not Work at All	N/A	N/A	55,695	69.9%
Worked in 1 to 3 Quarters	N/A	N/A	15,537	19.5%
Worked in All 4 Quarters	N/A	N/A	8,405	10.6%

Sources: DSHS MHD, ESD, and OFM.
Some characteristic measures contain missing data. Missing data are not included in the calculation of the percents in this table. Unless otherwise noted, the denominator for each percent is the total MHD adult clients (i.e., N=90,301).

Lifetime Felony Convictions Among MHD Clients

Criminal offenses are typically categorized in two broad types: misdemeanor and felony. Misdemeanor offenses are minor violations of the law, whereas felony offenses are more serious. This report considers only felony offenses. The analysis is further limited to adult felony offenses that resulted in convictions.

The Institute's criminal justice system (CJS) database consists of 11 offense types. For this analysis, these offenses were combined into three felony categories, presented below in order of severity:

> **Violent Felony:** Assault, Domestic Violence, Homicide, Robbery, Sex, Property (violent), and Weapon
>
> **Other Felony:** Escape, Property (non-violent), and Other Miscellaneous Felony Convictions
>
> **Substance Felony:** Drug

An individual with more than one type of felony is coded to the most serious conviction. For analytical purposes, an additional summary category of "Any Felony" is created for individuals with at least one felony conviction of any type.

Exhibits 2 and 3 show the lifetime conviction rates of these four felony categories among various subgroups of MHD clients and certain subgroups in the state's general population. In general, MHD clients had higher conviction rates than the state general population. MHD clients' lifetime Any Felony conviction rate was 15.6 percent compared with 6.9 percent in the state population. Similar differences between MHD clients and the state population are also seen in Violent Felony, Other Felony, and Substance Felony conviction rates. MHD clients had a Violent Felony rate of 6.3 percent, an Other Felony rate of 6.5 percent, and a Substance Felony rate of 2.8 percent. In comparison, the state population was estimated to have a Violent Felony rate of 2.3 percent, an Other Felony rate of 3.1 percent, and a Substance Felony rate of 1.5 percent.[5]

The following sections review lifetime felony conviction rates among MHD client subgroups. Where data were available, felony conviction rates for the corresponding state population subgroups are also calculated for comparison.

Age and Felony Conviction Rates. Among MHD clients, the two younger age groups (19 to 34 and 35 to 49) had higher Any Felony conviction rates (18.3 percent and 20.4 percent, respectively) than the overall MHD client population (15.6 percent). These two age groups' rates of Violent Felony, Other Felony, and Substance Felony convictions were either equal to or higher than the corresponding rates for the overall MHD client population. The two older age groups (50 to 64 and 65 plus), on the other hand, had lower conviction rates than the overall MHD client population in all felony categories.

When compared with the state population, MHD clients younger than 65 had higher conviction rates in all four felony categories. MHD clients in the 65 plus age group had lower rates in all four categories than the same age group in the state population.

[5] Data presented here should not be generalized to characterize criminal justice involvement of the mentally ill population at large. Higher felony conviction rates among MHD clients could well be, among other factors, associated with the fact that MHD provides a number of outreach programs designed specifically for mentally ill felons.

Exhibit 2

Life-time Felony Conviction Rates Among Washington State's General Population and MHD Clients by Demographic Characteristics

			Type of Felony					
	Any Felony		Violent Felony		Other Felony		Substance Felony	
	State	MHD	State	MHD	State	MHD	State	MHD
Total	6.9%	15.6%	2.3%	6.3%	3.1%	6.5%	1.5%	2.8%
Age								
19 to 34	7.3%	18.3%	2.5%	7.2%	3.2%	8.3%	1.6%	2.8%
35 to 49	8.8%	20.4%	2.9%	8.2%	3.7%	8.2%	2.2%	4.1%
50 to 64	5.8%	9.9%	1.9%	4.3%	2.7%	3.7%	1.1%	1.8%
65+	3.3%	1.3%	1.3%	0.7%	1.9%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%
Gender								
Male	11.4%	23.8%	4.3%	11.6%	4.8%	9.0%	2.3%	3.2%
Female	2.5%	9.1%	0.4%	2.1%	1.4%	4.5%	0.7%	2.5%
Race/Ethnicity								
Hispanic	10.1%	12.7%	3.4%	4.9%	2.8%	5.3%	4.0%	2.5%
Non-Hispanic								
American Indian/ Alaska Native	10.2%	21.4%	4.2%	9.4%	4.7%	8.8%	1.4%	3.3%
African American	28.4%	30.9%	12.0%	15.1%	10.7%	9.1%	5.7%	6.6%
Asian	3.1%	7.7%	1.3%	4.1%	1.4%	2.6%	0.4%	1.0%
White	6.1%	15.8%	1.9%	6.1%	3.0%	6.9%	1.2%	2.7%
RSN								
Chelan Douglas	8.7%	18.2%	2.5%	6.5%	4.1%	8.0%	2.1%	3.6%
Clark	6.7%	14.0%	2.3%	5.6%	3.3%	6.1%	1.2%	2.2%
Grays Harbor	9.2%	15.0%	2.6%	4.9%	4.4%	7.5%	2.2%	2.6%
Greater Columbia	9.6%	15.8%	2.9%	5.5%	4.4%	7.7%	2.2%	2.6%
King	5.6%	14.3%	1.9%	5.7%	2.4%	5.4%	1.3%	3.2%
North Central	10.6%	17.4%	3.6%	7.1%	4.6%	7.8%	2.4%	2.5%
North Sound	5.1%	11.2%	1.8%	4.4%	2.3%	4.9%	1.0%	1.9%
Northeast	7.0%	11.2%	2.3%	3.8%	3.5%	4.0%	1.3%	2.3%
Peninsula	6.2%	16.5%	2.1%	6.2%	3.0%	7.4%	1.1%	3.0%
Pierce	7.9%	24.0%	2.7%	10.6%	3.2%	9.1%	2.0%	4.3%
Southwest	12.4%	21.0%	4.0%	8.1%	5.9%	8.9%	2.6%	3.9%
Spokane	6.7%	14.8%	2.4%	6.8%	3.3%	6.2%	1.0%	1.8%
Thurston/Mason	8.1%	26.7%	2.9%	10.8%	3.7%	11.8%	1.5%	4.1%
Timberlands	10.4%	13.3%	3.7%	5.8%	4.9%	5.6%	1.7%	1.9%

Sources: DSHS MHD, OFM, and Institute.

Gender and Felony Conviction Rates. Two patterns are noticeable in the male and female felony conviction rates and with regard to the differences between MHD clients and the state population. First, male MHD clients had higher rates in all four felony categories than females. Second, both male and female MHD clients had higher rates in all four felony categories than their counterparts in the state population.

Male MHD clients had a 23.8 percent Any Felony conviction rate, more than 2 1/2 times the rate for female MHD clients (9.1 percent). The difference between male and female MHD clients was the largest in Violent Felony conviction rates, where male clients' rate was 5 1/2 times larger than female clients' rate (11.6 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively).

When compared with the state population's Any Felony conviction rates, male MHD clients' rate was about twice as high, and female clients' rate more than three times as high, as the corresponding state population groups. Similarly, both male and female MHD clients had higher rates than the corresponding state population subgroups in Violent Felony, Other Felony, and Substance Felony convictions. For both male and female groups, the largest difference between the MHD group and the state population group is in Violent Felony. The male MHD clients' conviction rate for Violent Felony is about three times that of the state population group, and the female MHD clients' Violent Felony conviction rate is about five times that of the state population group.

Race/Ethnicity and Felony Conviction Rates. MHD clients of various racial/ethnic backgrounds had different rates of felony convictions. Hispanic and non-Hispanic American Asian/Pacific Islander clients had lower conviction rates in all four felony categories than the overall MHD client population. The non-Hispanic African American and American Indian/Alaska Native clients, on the other hand, had higher conviction rates in all four categories than the overall MHD client population. African American MHD clients had the highest Any Felony rate (30.9 percent), which was about twice as high as the rate for the MHD client population overall. The non-Hispanic White MHD clients, being the largest racial/ethnic group, had felony conviction rates similar to those of the overall MHD clients.

When compared with the racial/ethnic population groups in the state's general population, the corresponding MHD client groups in general had higher conviction rates in all felony categories. The only exceptions were the Hispanic Substance Felony rate and the African American Other Felony rate, where the MHD client groups had lower conviction rates than the corresponding state population groups.

RSNs and Felony Conviction Rates. Clients in seven Regional Service Networks (RSNs) had felony conviction rates higher than the overall MHD client population rate (15.6 percent): Chelan/Douglas, Greater Columbia, North Central, Peninsula, Pierce, Southwest, and Thurston/Mason. Clients in three of these seven RSNs had an Any Felony conviction rate over 20 percent: Thurston/Mason (26.7 percent), Pierce (24 percent), and Southwest (21 percent). The lowest Any Felony conviction rate was shared by North Sound and Northeast RSNs, both at 11.2 percent. King RSN, which served the largest population, had an Any Felony conviction rate of 14.3 percent, slightly lower than the overall MHD client population's rate. In addition to their high Any Felony conviction rates, Chelan/Douglas, Pierce, Southwest, and

Thurston/Mason RSNs all had higher conviction rates in Violent Felony, Other Felony, and Substance Felony than the overall MHD client population.

Compared with the corresponding general population, MHD clients in each RSN had a higher conviction rate in all four felony categories. The largest difference in Any Felony conviction rates between MHD clients and the general population was in Pierce RSN where MHD clients had an Any Felony conviction rate three times higher than that of the general population (24 percent vs. 7.9 percent, respectively).

Inpatient/Outpatient Status and Felony Conviction Rates. There were only small differences in conviction rates with respect to inpatient/outpatient status. Outpatients' felony conviction rates were similar to those of the overall MHD client population, as 90 percent of the overall clients were outpatients. Inpatient clients also had felony conviction rates similar to those of the overall MHD client population. Inpatient clients had an Any Felony conviction rate of 15 percent, slightly lower than the 15.6 percent of the overall MHD client population. Inpatient clients' Other Felony and Substance Felony conviction rates were also slightly lower, while their rate of Violent Felony was slightly higher than the corresponding rates for the overall MHD client population.

Primary Diagnoses and Felony Conviction Rates. Felony conviction rates varied a great deal among groups with various primary diagnoses. MHD clients with a primary diagnosis of substance dependence had the highest conviction rates in all four felony categories: Any Felony (36.5 percent), Violent Felony (14 percent), Other Felony (16 percent), and Substance Felony (6.5 percent). Other primary diagnosis groups with felony conviction rates higher than the overall MHD client population include ADD, personality, and conduct disorders. Clients with autism and dementia diagnoses had conviction rates among the lowest in all four felony categories.

GAF Scores and Felony Conviction Rates. Two related observations can be made about felony conviction rates among MHD clients when separated by their Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) scores. First, there was virtually no difference in conviction rates in all four felony conviction categories between clients with a GAF score below 50 and clients with a score of 50 or higher. Second, neither group had a felony conviction rate very different from the overall MHD client population's rate.

Living Situations and Felony Conviction Rates. Clients in various living situations were also associated with varied felony conviction rates. MHD clients in private residences comprised three-fourths (77 percent) of the overall MHD client population; their felony conviction rates were slightly lower than those of the overall client population. Other groups with low conviction rates (in comparison with the overall client population) included clients in foster homes, 24-hour residential care, and institutional settings; their rates were often one-third or less than the rates for the overall client population.

Clients in jail/juvenile corrections facilities, homeless/shelter, and multiple/other living situations, on the other hand, had higher felony conviction rates than the overall client population. Clients in jail/juvenile corrections facilities had the highest rates in all felony categories, about three to four times as high as MHD clients overall. Clients in homeless/shelter situations had

felony conviction rates that were at least twice as high as the rates for the overall MHD client population.

Employment and Felony Conviction Rates. MHD clients who did not work or worked up to three quarters in 2002 had higher felony conviction rates than the overall MHD client population; clients who worked in all four quarters had lower conviction rates. The Any Felony conviction rates for clients who did not work or worked up to three quarters of the year were 18.3 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively. Clients who worked in all four quarters had an Any Felony conviction rate of 9.5 percent. Differences in conviction rates in Violent Felony, Other Felony, and Substance Felony showed similar patterns, with clients working all four quarters having a much lower conviction rate and those working less than four quarters having somewhat higher conviction rates than the overall client population.

Exhibit 3

Lifetime Felony Conviction Rates Among Clients Receiving MHD Services in 2002 by Patient Status, Primary Diagnosis, GAF Score, Primary Living Situation, and Employment

		Type of Felony		
	Any Felony	Violent Felony	Other Felony	Substance Felony
Total	15.6%	6.3%	6.5%	2.8%
Patient Status				
Inpatient	15.0%	6.8%	5.8%	2.4%
Outpatient	15.7%	6.2%	6.6%	2.9%
Primary Diagnosis				
ADD	28.1%	10.1%	13.1%	4.8%
Anxiety	13.6%	4.1%	6.4%	3.1%
Autism	5.3%	3.1%	2.0%	0.2%
Bipolar	17.1%	6.4%	7.7%	3.0%
Conduct Disorder	20.2%	11.8%	7.2%	1.2%
Dementia	6.4%	2.4%	2.8%	1.2%
Major Depression	13.0%	4.3%	5.7%	3.0%
Personality Disorder	21.1%	9.9%	8.4%	2.9%
Schizophrenia	15.3%	7.5%	5.9%	1.9%
Substance Dependence	36.5%	14.0%	16.0%	6.5%
Other Mood Disorder	16.8%	6.6%	7.0%	3.2%
Other MH Disorder	14.4%	5.8%	6.4%	2.2%
Other Psychotic Disorder	19.6%	9.5%	7.3%	2.7%
No Diagnosis	16.2%	6.9%	6.5%	2.8%
GAF Score[1]				
Below 50	16.2%	6.6%	6.7%	3.0%
Equal or Above 50	16.0%	6.1%	7.0%	2.9%
Living Situation[2]				
Private Residence (with or without support)	13.8%	5.3%	5.9%	2.6%
Foster Home	4.3%	2.0%	1.6%	0.6%
24-hour Residential Care	6.3%	2.8%	2.9%	0.6%
Institutional Setting	3.7%	1.6%	1.5%	0.5%
Jail/Juvenile Corrections	60.8%	27.8%	25.5%	7.5%
Homeless/Shelter	32.3%	13.2%	12.7%	6.4%
Other/Multiple Situations	21.0%	9.3%	8.0%	3.7%
Employment (Age 19 to 64)				
Did Not Work at All	18.3%	7.3%	7.5%	3.4%
Worked in 1 to 3 Quarters	19.3%	7.7%	8.3%	3.2%
Worked in All 4 Quarters	9.5%	3.7%	4.3%	1.6%

Sources: DSHS MHD, ESD, and WSIPP.

[1] About 30 percent of client records contain no GAF scores. The calculation of the felony rates are based only on records with assessment scores.

[2] Approximately 20 percent of client records contain no information on living situation. These records are excluded in the calculation of felony rates.

Demographic and Other Characteristics of MHD Adult Clients With Felony Convictions

Exhibits 4 and 5 show demographic and other characteristics of MHD clients with felony convictions. Select characteristics of the state's general population with felony convictions are also included in Exhibit 4. Overall, clients with felony convictions who received MHD services in 2002 were:

- Young, with nearly 90 percent below age 50;
- Disproportionately male (67.7 percent);
- Predominantly white (76.4 percent);
- More likely to receive mental health services from RSNs along the I-5 corridor between North Sound and Thurston/Mason and in Greater Columbia than in other areas of the state;
- Usually outpatients (nine in ten);
- Most likely to have single primary diagnoses of major depression (12.6 percent), schizophrenia (11.1 percent), substance dependence (10.8 percent), and bipolar (10.4 percent);
- Evenly distributed between GAF scores at or above 50 and GAF scores below 50;
- Likely to be in living situations of private residences (67 percent), jail/juvenile corrections facilities (14 percent), and homeless/shelters (12.6 percent); and
- Typically not working or working less than four quarters of the year (over 70 percent of MHD clients were not employed at all, 21 percent were employed up to three quarters, and 6 percent were employed in all four quarters).

The following two sections compare population characteristics of MHD clients who had felony convictions with those of the state's felony population and those of the MHD clients overall.

Differences in Population Characteristics Between MHD Clients With Felony Convictions and the State's Felony Population. Available data make it possible to compare some characteristics between MHD clients with felony convictions and the state's felony population (see Exhibit 4). Comparing the Any Felony conviction rates between these two populations reveals that MHD clients with felony convictions were:

- Younger—nearly 90 percent of MHD clients with felony convictions were below age 50 compared with 74 percent of the state's felony population;
- More likely to be female—32 percent of MHD clients with felony convictions were female compared with 18 percent in the state's felony population;
- Less likely to be Hispanic and Asian American/Pacific Islanders (AAPI)—4.4 percent were Hispanic and 1.4 percent AAPI compared with 9.5 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively, in the state's felony population; and
- More likely to be in Pierce and Southwest RSNs—among MHD clients with felony convictions, 18.3 percent were in Pierce and 4.7 percent in Southwest, while among the state's felony population the corresponding proportions were 13.6 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively.

Differences in Population Characteristics Between MHD Clients With Felony Convictions and the Overall MHD Client Population. Comparing the MHD column in Exhibit 1 with the MHD column for Any Felony in Exhibits 4 and 5 shows differences as well as similarities in population characteristics between MHD clients overall and those clients with felony convictions. The comparison shows that clients with felony convictions were *more likely* than the overall clients to be:

- Younger—nearly 90 percent of clients with felony convictions were under age 50 compared with 70 percent of clients overall;
- Male—68 percent of clients with felony convictions were male compared with 45 percent among clients overall;
- African American – 13.7 percent of clients with felony convictions compared with 7.4 percent of clients overall;
- Receiving public mental health services from Pierce, Thurston/Mason, and Southwest RSNs, which accounted for a combined 29 percent of clients with felony convictions while accounting for 20 percent of MHD clients overall;
- Diagnosed with substance dependence—10 percent of clients with felony convictions had a primary diagnosis of substance dependence while only 5 percent of clients overall had this diagnosis;
- In living situations of jail/juvenile corrections facilities and homeless/shelters; among clients with felony convictions, 26.6 percent reported living in one of these situations compared with 10 percent of clients overall; and
- Not employed in all four quarters of the year—only 6 percent of clients with felony convictions were employed all four quarters compared with 11 percent of clients overall.

Exhibit 4

Demographic Characteristics of Washington State's General Population and MHD Clients With Felony Convictions, 2002

	Any Felony				Type of Felony: Violent Felony				Type of Felony: Other Felony				Type of Felony: Substance Felony			
	State		MHD		State		MHD		State		MHD		State		MHD	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	303,623	100%	14,097	100%	102,316	100%	5,681	100%	136,290	100%	5,872	100%	65,006	100%	2,544	100%
Age																
19–34	98,385	32.4%	5,393	38.3%	33,384	32.6%	2,120	37.3%	43,075	31.6%	2,437	41.5%	21,927	33.7%	836	32.9%
35–49	126,676	41.7%	6,972	49.5%	41,677	40.7%	2,787	49.1%	53,731	39.4%	2,789	47.5%	31,269	48.1%	1,396	54.9%
50–64	56,152	18.5%	1,589	11.3%	18,784	18.4%	695	12.2%	26,696	19.6%	596	10.1%	10,664	16.4%	298	11.7%
65+	22,410	7.4%	143	1.0%	8,471	8.3%	79	1.4%	12,788	9.4%	50	0.9%	1,147	1.8%	14	0.6%
Gender																
Male	248,350	81.8%	9,530	67.7%	94,347	92.2%	4,637	81.8%	104,527	76.7%	3,593	61.3%	49,484	76.1%	1,300	51.2%
Female	55,251	18.2%	4,537	32.3%	7,969	7.8%	1,032	18.2%	31,763	23.3%	2,265	38.7%	15,523	23.9%	1,240	48.8%
Race/Ethnicity[1]																
Hispanic	28,588	9.5%	487	4.4%	9,551	9.4%	188	4.2%	7,811	5.8%	204	4.4%	11,226	17.3%	95	4.8%
Non-Hispanic																
American Indian/ Alaska Native	5,987	2.0%	453	4.1%	2,442	2.4%	198	4.4%	2,736	2.0%	185	4.0%	809	1.2%	70	3.6%
African American	37,937	12.6%	1,510	13.7%	16,025	15.7%	740	16.6%	14,348	10.6%	447	9.7%	7,564	11.7%	323	16.4%
Asian American	8,535	2.8%	151	1.4%	3,569	3.5%	81	1.8%	3,894	2.9%	51	1.1%	1,072	1.7%	19	1.0%
White	221,237	73.2%	8,416	76.4%	70,251	69.0%	3,258	73.0%	106,838	78.8%	3,699	80.7%	44,148	68.1%	1,459	74.2%
RSN																
Chelan/Douglas	6,162	2.0%	336	2.3%	1,766	1.7%	121	2.1%	2,937	2.2%	148	2.4%	1,459	2.2%	67	2.6%
Clark	17,123	5.6%	614	4.2%	5,804	5.7%	246	4.2%	8,339	6.1%	270	4.4%	2,980	4.6%	98	3.7%
Grays Harbor	4,647	1.5%	216	1.5%	1,302	1.3%	70	1.2%	2,227	1.6%	108	1.8%	1,118	1.7%	38	1.4%
Greater Columbia	41,076	13.5%	1,763	12.0%	12,518	12.2%	616	10.5%	18,991	13.9%	860	14.0%	9,566	14.7%	287	10.9%
King	76,026	25.0%	3,269	22.3%	26,069	25.5%	1,302	22.1%	32,593	23.9%	1,237	20.2%	17,362	26.7%	730	27.8%
North Central	9,558	3.1%	320	2.2%	3,236	3.2%	130	2.2%	4,117	3.0%	144	2.3%	2,205	3.4%	46	1.8%
North Sound	36,855	12.1%	1,390	9.5%	13,105	12.8%	548	9.3%	16,327	12.0%	607	9.9%	7,424	11.4%	235	9.0%
Northeast	3,508	1.2%	143	1.0%	1,124	1.1%	49	0.8%	1,724	1.3%	52	0.8%	660	1.0%	30	1.1%
Peninsula	15,027	4.9%	835	5.7%	4,956	4.8%	311	5.3%	7,310	5.4%	372	6.1%	2,762	4.2%	152	5.8%
Pierce	41,315	13.6%	2,680	18.3%	13,940	13.6%	1,186	20.1%	16,856	12.4%	1,014	16.5%	10,521	16.2%	480	18.3%
Southwest	8,502	2.8%	687	4.7%	2,710	2.6%	266	4.5%	4,005	2.9%	293	4.8%	1,787	2.7%	128	4.9%
Spokane	20,772	6.8%	1,062	7.2%	7,551	7.4%	485	8.2%	10,200	7.5%	446	7.3%	3,020	4.6%	131	5.0%
Thurston/Mason	15,752	5.2%	923	6.3%	5,629	5.5%	374	6.4%	7,205	5.3%	407	6.6%	2,918	4.5%	142	5.4%
Timberlands	7,290	2.4%	416	2.8%	2,607	2.5%	183	3.1%	3,459	2.5%	174	2.8%	1,224	1.9%	59	2.2%

Sources: DSHS MHD, OFM, and WSIPP.

1. Counts of race may not sum to the total population due to exclusion of other race categories and records with missing data.

Exhibit 5

Patient Status, Primary Diagnosis, GAF Score, Living Situation, and Employment Among MHD Clients With Felony Convictions, 2002[1]

			Type of Felony					
	Any Felony		Violent Felony		Other Felony		Substance Felony	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	14,097	100%	5,681	100%	5,872	100%	2,544	100%
Patient Status								
Inpatient	1,409	10.0%	636	11.2%	548	9.3%	225	8.8%
Outpatient	12,688	90.0%	5,045	88.8%	5,324	90.7%	2,319	91.2%
Primary Diagnosis[2]								
ADD	158	1.0%	57	0.9%	74	1.1%	27	0.9%
Anxiety	1,205	7.3%	362	5.4%	572	8.2%	271	9.4%
Autism	66	0.4%	38	0.6%	25	0.4%		
Bipolar	1,722	10.4%	645	9.6%	774	11.1%	303	10.5%
Conduct Disorder	137	0.8%	80	1.2%	49	0.7%		
Dementia	224	1.4%	85	1.3%	96	1.4%	43	1.5%
Major Depression	2,093	12.6%	688	10.3%	919	13.1%	486	16.9%
Personality Disorder	1,298	7.8%	608	9.1%	514	7.3%	176	6.1%
Schizophrenia	1,834	11.1%	899	13.5%	710	10.1%	225	7.8%
Substance Dependence	1,797	10.8%	691	10.3%	785	11.2%	321	11.1%
Other Mood Disorder	1,727	10.4%	676	10.1%	725	10.4%	326	11.3%
Other Psychotic Disorder	698	4.2%	339	5.1%	261	3.7%	98	3.4%
Other MH Disorder	1,203	7.3%	488	7.3%	535	7.6%	180	6.3%
No Diagnosis	2,398	14.5%	1,024	15.3%	962	13.7%	412	14.3%
GAF Score[3]								
Below 50	5,147	50.6%	2,087	52.0%	2,122	49.1%	938	51.0%
Equal or Above 50	5,026	49.4%	1,925	48.0%	2,200	50.9%	901	49.0%
Living Situation[4]								
Private Residence (with or without support)	7,811	67.0%	2,984	64.0%	3,346	68.1%	1,481	71.2%
Foster Home	21	0.2%	10	0.2%				
24-hour Residential Care	216	1.9%	96	2.1%	98	2.0%	22	1.1%
Institutional Setting	131	1.1%	58	1.2%	54	1.1%	19	0.9%
Jail/Juvenile Corrections	1,626	14.0%	743	15.9%	683	13.9%	200	9.6%
Homeless/Shelter	1,463	12.6%	600	12.9%	575	11.7%	288	13.8%
Other/Multiple Situations	385	3.3%	170	3.6%	147	3.0%	68	3.3%
Employment (Age 19–64)								
Did Not Work at All	10,165	72.8%	4,091	73.0%	4,167	71.6%	1,907	75.4%
Worked in 1 to 3 Quarters	2,991	21.4%	1,204	21.5%	1,297	22.3%	490	19.4%
Worked in All 4 Quarters	798	5.7%	307	5.5%	358	6.1%	133	5.3%

Sources: DSHS MHD, ESD, and WSIPP.

[1] Blank cells refer to categories that have fewer than 10 persons.

[2] A client can have more than one primary diagnosis of mental disorders. Thus, the counts in Primary MH Diagnosis exceed the total clients.

[3] About 30 percent of client records contain no GAF scores. These estimates are based on records with GAF scores.

[4] Approximately 20 percent of client records contain no information on living situation. These estimates are based on records with known living situations.

Future Reports

This report is part of the long-term outcomes study of public mental health clients. Future updates for this study include two-year, five-year, and ten-year reports on the outcomes.

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