Trajectories of Offending from Childhood to Early Adulthood in Girls With and Without Mental Health System Involvement

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Abstract

Methods

Used Two Massachusetts Statewide Administrative Databases

Female Population Overlap; DMH and Justice System

Comparative Trajectory Approach

1. Analyze DMH and Non-DMH trajectory separately
2. Determine ideal number of groups and pattern within those groups (6 vs. 11 groups)
3. Run 6 groups
4. Combined the populations, wind sorting using
5. Artificial neural network of groups and pattern within those groups (6 vs 11 group)

Results

Female Trajectory Groups - Predicted Charges/Year

Combining DMH and Non-DMH females’ court records resulted in the best model having a total of eight unique patterns of charge frequencies over time.

Goal

Develop Knowledge to Help Prevent/Minimize Justice System Involvement of Youths in MH Services

Why look at arrests in the transition age group with serious mental health conditions?

Conclusion

Developed 8 trajectory groups and determined the charge frequency over time:

- Low Rising: 30.1%
- Moderate Mid: 7.1%
- Moderate Late: 3.5%
- High Late: 1.1%
- High Rising: 3.3%
- Rising: 15.3%
- Moderate Rising: 6.2%
- Falling: 14.7%

These groups accounted for 79% of the population.

Conclusions

- There are 8 trajectory patterns that are unique to either group.
- The impact of DMH status is primarily explained by the trajectory patterns.
- The trajectory groups that are most common are among the highest levels of concern at the same age.
- Different trajectories lead to different patterns of timing and implications.

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