

The Distribution of Youth Mental Health Resources in Milwaukee County

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The following is based on the database of all licensed mental health providers and the database of all Medicaid certified (licensed) mental health providers, both for Milwaukee County for 2004. Both were provided by the State of Wisconsin, Division of Health Care Financing.

Analysis:

(1) First and foremost, 53202 as a zip code is replete with mental health resources (table 1). This concentration of capacity probably relates to the presence of large institutions that concentrate mental health providers or to the concentration of resources that serve mental health providers (e.g., training and teaching institutions). In view of the patterns described below this concentration of resources is probably not due to the relative affluence of the zip code. It is also remarkable that very, very few children resided in this area at the time of the last census.

(2) To the same degree, 53205 is underserved, *insofar as office location equates with service*. (We also know that it is not a focus of service for many of the surveyed providers.) It has the second highest poverty rate among the 12 codes examined. However, very few youth reside there, and we need not be concerned further with this area if youth are our focus.

(3) The 18 providers surveyed in our youth mental health study (Lengyel et al. 2005) are clearly providing most of their youth-oriented services in the zip codes with the highest number of resident youth, with the exception of 53218 (table 2). This is a logical outcome of marketing services to youth—this is simply where youth live. They are also clearly providing most of their youth-oriented services to youth living in high poverty zip codes (53210, 53204, 53208, 53212, 53206) (table 1). Generally speaking, their pattern of service delivery matches the residential pattern of low-income youth in the city (shaded area of table 1). In other words, this set of agencies is adapted to serving low-income youth.

(4) The distribution of other mental health resources—state certified clinics and individual providers, and Medicaid certified clinics and providers—across zip codes demonstrates that the location of these resources does not correlate with poverty rate (table 1). For example, with the exception of 53202 and 53205, zip codes whose poverty levels are below the city mean have about the same population of clinics and individual providers as those areas that exceed the city mean. This excludes the hypothesis that mental health resources cluster in more affluent zip codes.

(5) The tables equally provide evidence that mental health resources do not cluster in poor areas. We can confirm this by resorting table 1 by number of Medicaid certified MSWs (ascending rank), yielding an essentially random distribution of poverty levels with respect to Medicaid MSWs (not shown). (Were poverty-oriented resources distributed parallel to poverty level we would observe a general correspondence between the presence of Medicaid certified providers and high poverty rates for zip codes.)

(6) Areas with high concentrations of youth (i.e., the lower section of table 2) are populated with a rich and varied supply of professional mental health providers, including Medicaid certified master's, Ph.D. level therapists, and AODA counselors. In fact, areas characterized by high numbers of youth and by high levels of poverty appear to have attracted *more* mental health resources than comparably poor zip codes with small numbers of youth (compare shaded and immediately adjacent rows of table1). In other words, high youth/high poverty zip codes are relatively resource rich.

(7) With the exception of master's level therapists, the overall distribution of clinics, both state and Medicaid certified, of psychologists, and of AODA counselors matches the relative distribution of population between the City and the County. 63% of the County's population resides in the City. So do 65.1% of state certified clinics, 66.9% of Medicaid certified clinics, 62.7% of Medicaid certified psychologists, and 77.0 % of Medicaid certified AODA counselors. Non-city areas have capacity that exceeds share of population only for master's level certified therapists, of whom only about 39% appear to practice in the city proper.

(8) The general landscape captured in these data is that of a well resourced professional mental health network in which resources appear to match the contours of population. Apart from the 18 surveyed agencies, whose service delivery is documented, we do not yet know which of the certified clinics and providers are actively providing services and who they are serving (but, see Lengyel 2005). But their presence and pattern of distribution is indisputable.

References:

Lengyel, Thomas E. 2005. Psychiatric service capacity for youth in Milwaukee County: Analysis of state Medicaid provider data.
<http://www.alliance1.org/Research/resourcesmain.htm>

Lengyel, Thomas E., Jamie Harris, and Martina Graves. 2005. *Connecting Need and Capacity: A Study of Mental Health Services for Milwaukee County Youth*. Milwaukee: Alliance for Children and Families.

Table 1: Clinic & Therapist Distribution for Selected Zip Codes in the City of Milwaukee (2004)

Sorted by Poverty Rate - Ascending

State Certified

Medicaid Certified

	Zip code	% Youth		Surv. Prov.	Medicaid Certified							
		Below Poverty	Pop.		MH Clinics	Res. Prov.	Medicaid Clinics	Medicaid MSW	Medicaid Ph.D.	Medicaid CADC		
	53202	14.70%	798	3.80%	1	30	98	16	61	9	3	
	53209	18.20%	15,077	30.80%	4	4	26	2	8	1	1	
	53215	19.60%	16,799	30.60%	7	4	22	3	11	3	2	
Above Mean	53216	19.60%	11,053	32.60%	4	7	12	3	19	0	10	
	53218	20.50%	14,400	35.50%	1	2	3	2	9	0	0	
Below Mean	53210	24.80%	11,618	38.10%	7	4	10	3	24	5	4	High youth & High Poverty
	53204	32.40%	14,996	35.40%	7	5	3	5	23	3	4	
	53208	32.70%	12,524	35.60%	6	9	15	6	14	0	0	
	53212	36.20%	10,009	32.50%	2	6	32	4	6	2	5	
	53206	39.20%	13,013	39.60%	8	2	5	3	10	0	2	
	53205	45.40%	4,507	41.40%	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	
	53233	47.30%	1,739	11.20%	0	2	22	1	7	4	0	
	
	City Total	21.30%	171,131	28.70%		123	316	81	386	138	67	
	Co. Total	15.30%	247,707	26.30%		189	816	121	625	220	87	

Table 2: Clinic & Therapist Distribution for Selected Zip Codes in the City of Milwaukee
Sorted by Number of Youth - Ascending

Zip code	% Below Poverty	Youth Pop.	% Youth	State Certified			Medicaid Certified				
				Surv. Prov.	MH Clinics	Res. Prov.	Medicaid Clinics	Medicaid MSW	Medicaid Ph.D.	Medicaid CADC	
53202	14.70%	798	3.80%	1	30	98	16	61	9	3	
53233	47.30%	1,739	11.20%	0	2	22	1	7	4	0	
53205	45.40%	4,507	41.40%	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	<10,000 youth
53212	36.20%	10,009	32.50%	2	6	32	4	6	2	5	>10,000 youth
53216	19.60%	11,053	32.60%	4	7	12	3	19	0	10	
53210	24.80%	11,618	38.10%	7	4	10	3	24	5	4	
53208	32.70%	12,524	35.60%	6	9	15	6	14	0	0	
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Co. Total	15.30%	247,707	26.30%		189	816	121	625	220	87	

Key

% Below Poverty: reports the total number of individuals in the 2000 U.S. Census who lived below the federal poverty level in the indicated zip code

Youth Pop.: Raw count from the 2000 U.S. Census of individuals below the age of 18 years for the indicated zip code

% Youth: Youth population divided by total population for the indicated zip code

Surv. Prov.: The number of surveyed providers in the Youth Mental Health survey (Lengyel et al. 2005) that reported the indicated zip code as one of their top five areas of service delivery. Area of service delivery refers to the zip code of residence of youth served.

MH Clinics: State certified mental health clinics with primary business address in the indicated zip code, from state database current as of 5/3/05.

Res. Prov.: State certified individual mental health providers with primary business address in the indicated zip code current as of 5/3/05.

Medicaid Clinics: Medicaid certified mental health clinics with primary business address in the indicated zip code current as of 5/11/05.

Medicaid MSW: Medicaid certified individual, master's level mental health providers (MSW, MSSW) with primary business address in the indicated zip code current as of 5/11/05.

Medicaid Ph.D.: Medicaid certified individual, Ph.D. level psychologists with primary business address in the indicated zip code.

Medicaid CADC: Medicaid certified individual Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors with primary business address in the indicated zip code.

Reference: Lengyel, Thomas E., Jamie Harris, and Martina Graves. 2005. *Connecting Need and Capacity: A Study of Mental Health Services for Milwaukee County Youth*. Milwaukee: Alliance for Children and Families.

Sources of data sets

Certified mental health outpatient clinics and individual providers in Milwaukee County:

M. Bid Webb
Certification Assistant
Program Certification Unit
Bureau of Quality Assurance
DHFS

Valerie Brinkman-Kampman
Program Certification Specialist
Division of Elderly and Disability
Services
Department of Family
Services
DHFS

Medicaid certified mental health outpatient clinics and individual providers in Milwaukee County:

Kathleen Zimmerman
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Division of Health Care Financing
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