

Data Trends

From: Data Trends
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2005 12:33 PM
To: Data Trends
Subject: Data Trends> News 0121

From the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Tampa, Florida...

This News brief alerts you to the following report: Committee on Crossing the Quality Chasm: Adaptation to Mental Health and Addictive Disorders, Board of Health Care Services, & Institute of Medicine. (2006). Improving the quality of health care for mental and substance-use conditions: Quality chasm series. Washington, DC: The National Academy of Sciences. Retrieved on December 13, 2005 at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309100445/html>.

(From the Forward) Improving the Quality of Health Care for Mental and Substance-Use Conditions represents the intersection of two key developments now taking place in health care. One is the increasing attention to improving the quality of health care in ways that take account of patients' preferences and values along with scientific findings about effective care. The second important development comes from scientific research that enables us to better understand and treat mental and substance-use conditions This report puts forth an agenda for capitalizing on these two developments. Using the quality improvement framework contained in the predecessor Institute of Medicine report, "Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century," it calls for action from clinicians, health care organizations, purchasers, health plans, quality oversight organizations, researchers, public policy makers, and others to ensure that individuals with mental and substance-use health conditions receive the care that they need to recover. Importantly, the report's recommendations are not directed solely to clinicians and organizations that specialize in the delivery of health care for mental and substance-use conditions. As this report notes, the link between mental and substance-use problems and illnesses, and general health and health care, is very strong. This is especially true with respect to chronic illnesses, which now are the leading cause of illness, disability and death in the US. As the Committee has concluded, improving our nation's general health, and the quality problems of our general health care system, depends upon equally attending to the quality problems in health care for mental and substance-use conditions. The Committee calls on primary care providers, other specialty health care providers, and all components of our general healthcare system to attend to the mental and substance-use health care needs of those they serve. Dealing equally with health care for mental, substance-use and general health conditions requires a fundamental change in how we as a society and health care system think about and respond to these problems and illnesses. Mental and substance-use problems and illnesses should not be viewed as separate from and unrelated to overall health and general health care. Building on this integrated concept, this report offers valuable guidance on how all can help to achieve higher quality health care for people with mental or substance-use problems and illnesses.

Data Trends are produced by the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa. Data Trends are funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There are two Data Trends products: 1) Summaries (ISSN# 1537-0399), which detail recent, published articles on systems of care for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families, and; 2) News briefs (ISSN# 1537-0402), which highlight related items or events of interest to the field.