

High Utilizers of Behavioral Health

2015-2018

Mood Disorders or Schizophrenia

92% of COMCARE

64% of AVC

55% of SACK

Substance Use Disorder

100% of SACK

47% of AVC

32% of COMCARE

Population

Majority: White males between the ages of 35-54 who reside in the downtown Wichita area

1 out of 4



Are patients at two or more agencies

The Public Policy and Management Center at Wichita State University conducted a study of high utilizer patients of behavioral health services.



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Public Policy and Management Center

These patients are seriously ill and have complex physical, behavioral and social needs. This study reviewed 516 patient records from 2015-2018 for three Sedgwick County providers of mental health services including Ascension Via Christi, COMCARE and the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK).

High utilizers were defined as adults with two or more hospitalizations in a year or 10 or more emergency department visits in four years. The patient sample was further refined to include no more than the top 200 patients from each agency ranked by the largest total costs for care over the four-year period. This study was funded by the Kansas Health Foundation.



\$56 million of care delivered between 2015-2018



\$17 million was funded by public assistance or uncompensated care