

October 31, 2024

Youth Use of Residential Treatment Services: Federal and State Findings

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Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

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Overview

- Context
- Background
- Barriers to appropriate access to residential treatment
- Next steps



Context

- Little is known about the use of residential treatment by Medicaid-enrolled youth
 - No federal survey or report systematically collects and analyzes the use of residential treatment by all Medicaid-enrolled children aged 0-21
 - Limited peer-reviewed literature on access and use by Medicaid-enrolled youth
- Federal and state reports provide additional context to assist the Commission in answering our policy and research questions

Background

- Legal context
 - Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, P.L. 103-336)
 - *Olmstead v. L.C.* (527 U.S. 581)
- The United States Department of Justice may investigate states for compliance with Title II of the ADA
- State legislatures, legislative auditors, or agencies may examine access to and the use of in- and out-of-state residential treatment services



Barriers to Appropriate Access to Residential Treatment

Barriers to appropriate access

- Youth with certain demographic, clinical, and functional characteristics experienced difficulty accessing in-state residential treatment services
- A lack of timely and appropriate access to intensive home- and community-based services leads to unnecessary and sometimes prolonged placements in institutional settings, including residential treatment facilities

Barriers to appropriate access

- Difficulty in arranging appropriate transitional services and placements that can prevent timely discharge and constrain the number of available beds in residential treatment facilities
- There is limited access to timely information regarding bed availability, particularly for specialized care for youth with complex or co-occurring conditions

Next Steps

- Ongoing project work including state and stakeholder interviews, and Commission meeting panel.
- Commissioner feedback:
 - Specific areas of interest for interviews and panel discussion
 - Direction of research

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