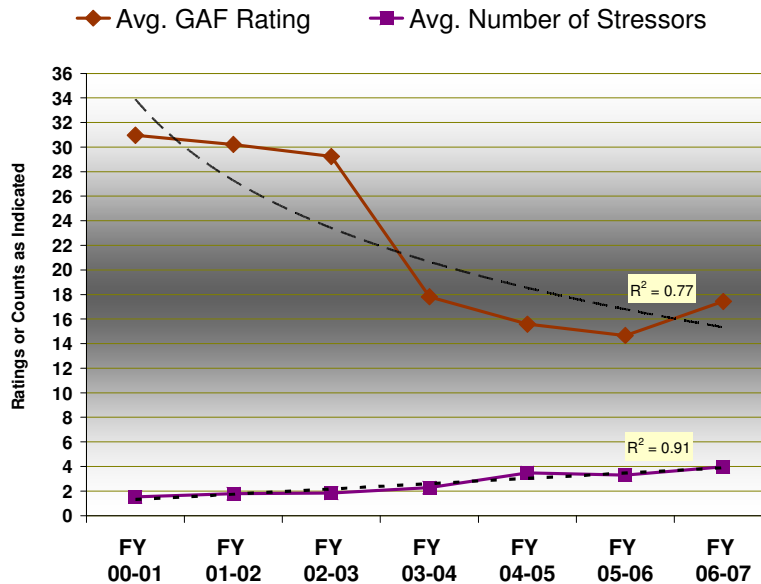


Oasis Assesses Repeat Psychiatric Hospitalizations Among Desert Residents

The Oasis *Psychiatric Health Facility* (PHF) is a 16-bed acute inpatient unit for adults suffering from a psychiatric crisis, including those requiring an involuntary psychiatric hold under Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code 5150 as being a danger to self, a danger to others and/or gravely disabled. Persons with acutely serious, non-psychiatric medical problems are redirected to local hospitals. In operation for over a decade, by FY 06-07, the program was serving 546 unduplicated clients during 769 treatment episodes within a year and is the primary acute treatment setting in Riverside County.

Many PHF clients have co-occurring substance abuse disorders (66%); medical problems that must be monitored carefully during treatment (45%); and, significant problems related to their primary support group (95%), social environment and work opportunities (77%), and/or housing situation (46%). Additionally, as shown below, there has been an increase over time in the average number of psychosocial stressors reported among clients admitted to the PHF, and a corresponding decrease in the average rating of global functioning, where lower scores mean less functioning. The trend lines account for the data points quite well.ⁱ

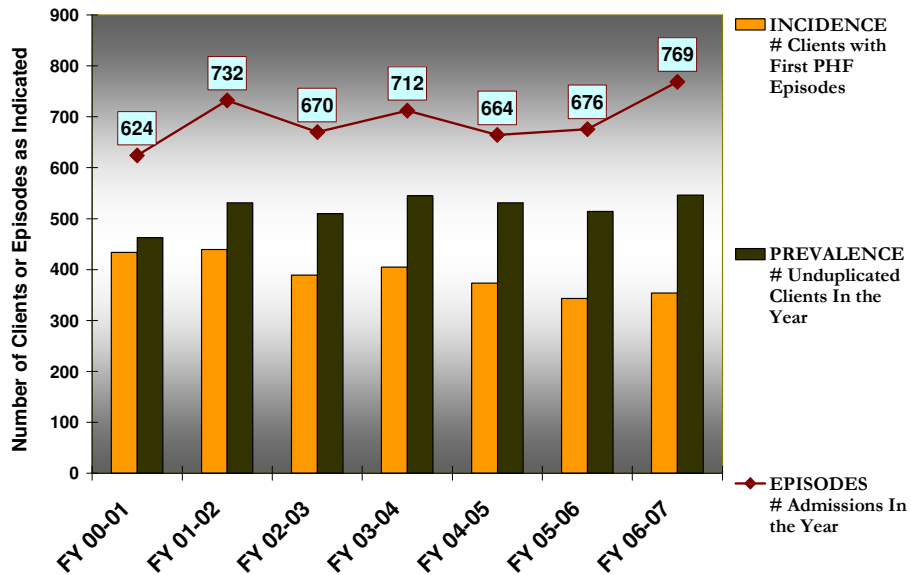
Global Functioning and Psychosocial Stressors Upon Admission by Fiscal Year



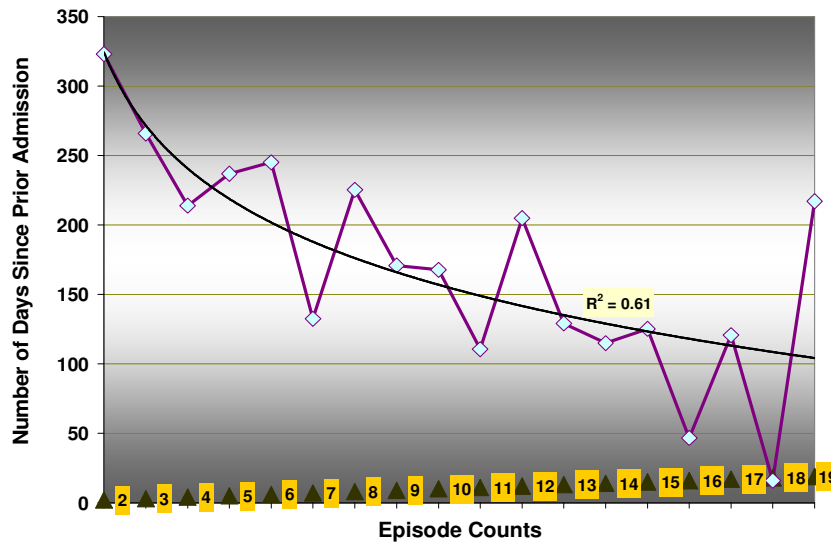
Detailed utilization data over multiple years of PHF operations were reviewed. Highlights included: a) modest declines in first ever contacts of community members with the PHF and of unduplicated client counts per year; b) recent rises in total PHF episodes per year and in the average number of repeat admissions of clients within a year (2.6 by FY 06-07); c) decreases in average episode lengths to just over 5 days currently, d) fewer days between episodes as a

function of episode count; and, e) a recent lengthening in the number of days between PHF admissions among those with repeat episodes (283 days in FY 06-07 compared to 267 days historical average). Selections of these trend data are shown in the next two graphics.

PHF Admissions by Fiscal Year



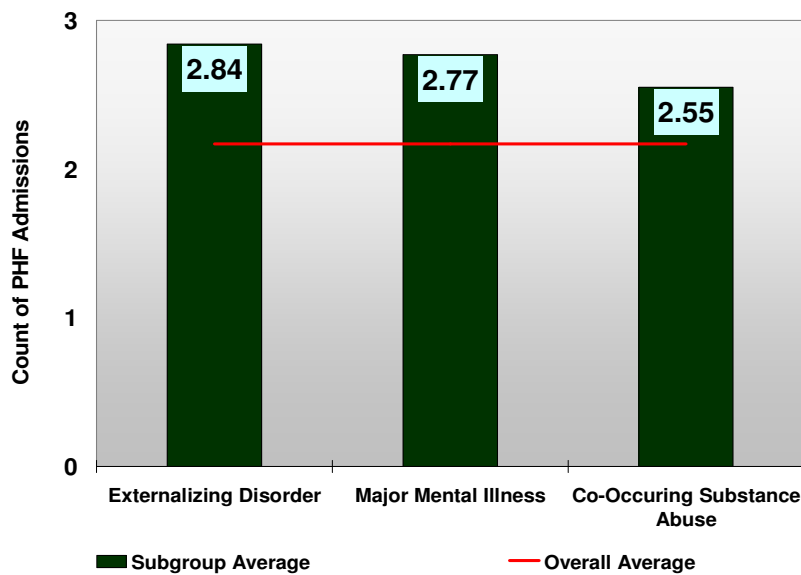
Average Days between PHF Episodes as a Function of Episode Counts



Many PHF clients are discharged to home (65%), and an additional 15% leave to community settings such as board and care. Roughly 10% leave to unstable/temporary situations, including shelters or homelessness; and, 10% are placed in intensive residential treatment such as the *Oasis Mental Health Rehabilitation Center* (scheduled for closure due to county budget cuts).

On average, clients experienced 2.17 PHF episodes over multiple years since FY 00-01. Specific demographic and clinical subgroups have higher than average utilization, as shown below. This includes the relatively small numbers of clients with externalizing disorders (impulse control, intermittent explosive disorder), and the large PHF populations of persons with major mental illness (psychotic spectrum) and/or co-occurring substance abuse.

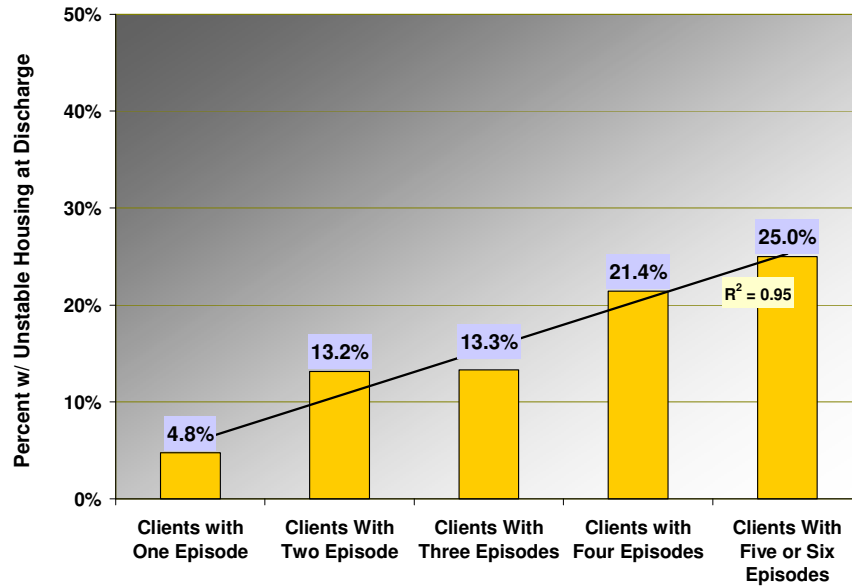
Subgroups with Higher Than Average PHF Admissions



100% Multi-Year Sample; F=68.48; p<.009

While 75% of clients are able to avoid a second PHF episode, among those with high recidivism are clients challenged by unstable housing and/or homelessness. Additional randomly analyzed cases suggest re-hospitalization is likely due to broad system of care issues, such as the availability of supported housing and employment, as well as successful substance abuse treatment for dually diagnosed clients in the communities to which clients are discharged.

Psychiatric Instability & Homelessness



Through new opportunities driven in part by California taxpayers' adoption of the *Mental Health Services Act* (MHSA), the Oasis service continuum is now able to focus more resources on outpatient community services and supports. Programming is being designed to help people with persistent mental illness remain safely living and working in the community, while avoiding multiple repeated hospitalizations. In a few short years, we shall be able to assess whether the new interventions are working.

ⁱ The R2 statistic ranges from 0 to 1 with 1 meaning perfect fit to the data.