

Systems of Care Research
Summary of Key Findings from around the United States

- SAMSHA Data – Comprehensive National Evaluation of SOC Grantees
 - **Fewer days in inpatient care:** savings of \$2,777 per child in the 12 months since services began
 - **Decreased utilization of inpatient care:** 54% reduction in utilization in the last 6 months
 - **Reduced arrests:** savings of \$784 per child in the last 6 months
 - **Mental health improvements sustained:** 90% of children still stable after 18 months in SOC
 - **Fewer suicide-related behaviors:** 32% reduction in suicide-behavior after 12 months in SOC
 - **Better school attendance:** 10% increase in regular attendance the last 6 months; 75% with regular attendance after 18 months in SOC
 - **Improved school achievement:** 21% increase of students with C or better; 75% with C or better after 18 months in SOC
 - **Fewer placements in juvenile detention and secure facilities:** 43% reduction in the last 6 months
 - **More caregiver employment:** within the first 6 months of service, over 25% of caregivers, previously unemployed because of their child's problems, were employed

- North Carolina System of Care
 - **High levels of [family perceived] adherence to the SOC principles** were associated with
 - **MORE satisfaction with services**
 - Satisfaction with services is associated with **LESS internalizing and externalizing behaviors** one year later

- Hawaii System of Care
 - **Public-Private system** in which regional public guidance centers provide care coordination and administrative services, and private agencies provide direct care
 - The **median rate of improvement (CAFAS) nearly tripled** over a four-year period, whereas the mean rate [of improvement] approximately doubled.
 - Entry CAFAS = 110, Maintained at CAFAS = 85, Discharge CAFAS = 60
 - **Length of services was reduced by 40%-60%**
 - 2002 = 866 days; 2004 = 434 days; 50% decrease
 - **Costs per point of CAFAS improvement reduced 40%**
 - 2002 = \$1,083; 2004 = \$650

- SAMSHA Data – Comprehensive National Evaluation of SOC Grantees
 - **Strategies as most effective at promoting SOC sustainability**
 - Cultivating strong interagency relationships
 - Interorganizational issues proved to be the most difficult challenge to overcome
 - Infusing the SOC approach into the broader system
 - Involving stakeholders
 - Establishing a strong family organization
 - Using evaluation results
 - Creating an ongoing focus point for managing the SOC
 - Stronger, more inclusive governance structures acting with the benefit of clear theories of change are needed to produce and sustain system-level change
 - Making policy/regulatory changes for the SOC
 - **Moderately effective strategies**
 - Providing training on SOC approach
 - Creating an advocacy base
 - Mobilizing resources
 - Generating political/policy-level support
 - **Achieving and sustaining broad-scale system change is a slow process**, often requiring more than a 6-year period.
 - Community are **most successful involving families in the service planning and least successful in involving families in the case review process**
 - Almost all communities had **family members on their SOC governing boards**
 - **Family members seem more likely to have a different perspective of adherence to the SOC values/principles than people in other roles (i.e, service providers/administrators/etc), but those perspectives are not consistently more positive or negative than others'**
 - **Fully involving youth in the case review process is a challenge** for SOC communities

SAMSHA data can be found at:

<http://www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov/newinformation/eb.aspx>
<http://www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov/news/datafactsheet.aspx>

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