

Words to Deeds - Trends and Findings in Mental Health and Criminal Justice Linked Data  
Dawnté Early, PhD, MS  
Track: Words to Deeds  
CE: CPA/BRN/BBS

Narrative

The MHSOAC's Chief of Research and Evaluation will provide an overview of Mental Health Services Act funded services and programs. Full-Service Partnership and Client Services Information data were linked with Department of Justice arrest data from 2006 to 2015. Recently, data from the Employment Development Department were linked to this existing dataset. Preliminary findings regarding individuals' criminal justice involvement, employment status, mental health service, and those who have been found incompetent to stand trial will be explored and discussed. Workshop attendees will also be given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on a dashboard which summarizes the demographics of individuals found incompetent to stand trial in California between 2006 to 2015. Future directions in analyses and implications will be explored and discussed.

Bio

**Dawnté Early, PhD, MS**

Dawnte is the Chief of Research and Evaluation for the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. In her role Dr. Early guides evaluation activities to transform California's mental health system. Her work helps to ensure that Californians receive timely and effective mental health services when needed. As a public health researcher, she has led several notable statewide initiatives including research on the Affordable Care Act and its impact on the recidivism of individuals released from California's prisons. Dr. Early has also led racial and gender equity policy reforms at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; this work supported changes in work culture and practices. Dr. Early is a well-respected and sought out thought leader in California on key issues around mental health, public safety and health equity. Her mission is to use data to solve problems and answer questions for underserved communities, giving voices to individuals often unheard. Her expertise was recently called upon by West Sacramento leaders to help draft and adopt a new policing strategy for the community, in addition to her role supporting Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative. Dr. Early received her PhD in Human Development with a minor in Quantitative Psychology and Master's in Child Development from the University of California, Davis.

Learning Objectives

1. Provide a general overview of some of the data projects being led by the MHSOAC.
2. Explain the seven negative outcomes identified in the MHSA.
3. Describe demographics (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender, and age) associated with being found incompetent to stand trial.
4. Explain the identified intersection of mental health, criminal justice, and employment in California using state level data.

