



# The Outcomes Data Mart: A Little Bit of Background

## What Is the Outcomes Data Mart?

Welcome to the Ohio Mental Health Consumer Outcomes Data Mart (ODM). The ODM is designed to help you ask meaningful questions about Consumer Outcomes and get them answered. This document should provide some basic background about the ODM.

The Ohio Mental Health Consumer Outcomes System is an ongoing endeavor to obtain outcomes measures for consumers served by Ohio's public mental health system. Consumer outcomes provide important information for the management of consumer care, the improvement of the service delivery system, and accountability for public resources.

Consumer Outcomes are one of the key components of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) Quality Agenda, and the Consumer Outcomes System is starting to produce results. As of today, production data are flowing from 50 boards and more than 300 providers, and the production data base contains well over 1,000,000 records relating to more than 300,000 unique consumers.



Putting data into a system accomplishes little if you can't get it back out. Therefore, one of the key components of the overall Outcomes System plan has been to develop tools that can generate reports from Outcomes data. The central reporting tool envisioned has been a web-based data mart that would allow users to generate reports based upon Outcomes data collected throughout the State and submitted to ODMH. Anticipated users include: (1) community mental health boards and agencies; (2) mental health consumers and family members; (3) ODMH Division of Program and Policy Development and others within ODMH; (4) ODMH Office of Program Evaluation Research; and (5) the general public.

The conceptual design of the Outcomes Data Mart (ODM) was developed by a Statewide Outcomes Data Mart Committee made up of individuals representing providers, local ADAMHS boards, ODMH, and other constituents. The Committee met for 20 months during Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004 and issued its recommendations in the form of a detailed Conceptual Model that was used for the development of the ODM.

The Committee felt that the ODM would be a useful and important tool to:

- improve accountability for public mental health funds;
- provide a combined data set for the creation of comparative benchmark data;
- provide consumer access to Outcomes data (subject to all appropriate HIPAA and confidentiality requirements);
- extend limited data management capabilities to agencies and boards that either have limited access to their own data, or lack access to the data in data mart formats;
- drive change and increase compliance within participating providers;
- provide further reinforcement for the collection of Outcomes data by facilitating their use;
- encourage agency and board participation in the system by providing comparative data submission and Outcomes information; and
- provide an interim step toward the creation of an integrated data warehouse within ODMH.

During the period from 2004 to 2006, staff of the Office of Program Evaluation and Research worked closely with their counterparts in the Office of Information Services to create an ODM that would let users with little data analysis experience or prior knowledge of the Consumer Outcomes System make effective use of Outcomes data. The resulting product went live in April 2006.

The key strength of the ODM is its ability to allow users to frame meaningful questions and get them answered. The ODM accomplishes this end by guiding users to the desired information through a series of simple, easily understood questions supported by on-screen lists and instructions.

As users respond to each prompt, the ODM presents the next appropriate options based upon what was selected before. On-screen labels are simple and basic; the general prompts are as follows:

- Consumer Population: Do you want to look at Outcomes information for adult consumers or child & adolescent consumers?
- Source: Consumer Outcomes scores come from multiple sources. Whose measurements of the consumer would you like to see?
- Consumer Characteristics: List any special characteristics of the consumers for whom you'd like to see Outcomes scores.
- Time the Consumers Have Been in Treatment: Outcomes are measured at various points during a consumer's treatment. Indicate the approximate time in treatment (as measured in time since last admission) that best describes the consumers for whom you'd like to see Outcomes scores.
- Reporting Period: Outcomes can be examined according to the fiscal or calendar year in which they were obtained. For what period would you like to see information?
- Outcomes to be Reported: Outcomes are measured for several areas of a consumer's life. From which area would you like to see information?
- Report Format: Outcomes can be displayed as bar graphs or tables. How would you like to display the Outcomes you have selected?

Bar graphs show a selected Outcome and the percentage of responses represented by each answer. Sample size, mean score and standard deviation are reported with each graph. Bar graphs can be prepared for an individual service board, an individual residence board, an individual provider agency, or for the entire state.

Tables are available for the entire state and show the responses for a selected Outcome as the columns, and service boards, residence boards, provider agencies, or a selected demographic characteristic (e.g., gender, education) as the rows.

The Outcomes Data Mart is another in a series of products designed to aid in the implementation of the Outcomes System and represents a significant step in ODMH's efforts to address one of the key goals of the President's New Freedom Commission — "Technology Is Used to Access Mental Health Care and Information."

The ODM is accessible directly from the Outcomes Web Site:

***<http://www.mh.state.oh.us/oper/outcomes/outcomes.index.html>***