Service Use and Unmet Needs among School-Aged Children with ASD

Chelsea Zimmerman
Debra Langer
Megan McCarthy
Lindsay Lawer
Eugene Brusilovskiy
David Mandell
Recommended Services for School-Aged Children

- Limited research describing recommended services for school-aged children with ASD
  - Drop off in service use after early intervention
  - Many studies describe unmet need
- Variety of services recommended and utilized
  - Services often delivered across multiple providers
Needs Assessment Survey

- Partnership with PA Bureau of Autism Services (BAS)
  - Autism Task Force census project
  - Requested Needs Assessment survey
Methods, Demographics & Diagnoses

- BAS invited parents to complete survey on paper or online
- 2,651 parents and caregivers of school-aged children responded
  - Average age: 12 years

Diagnoses

- PDD/NOS: 40%
- Autism: 30%
- Asperger's: 20%
- Other: 10%

Race/Ethnicity

- Caucasian: 89%
- African American: 3%
- Latino: 2%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 4%
## Service Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combined Service Category</th>
<th>Services Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services/Wraparound Services</td>
<td>One-to-One Behavioral Support</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case Management</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile Therapy in Home or School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functional Therapy</td>
<td>Speech Therapy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>Extended School Year/Summer School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic Tutoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Services</td>
<td>Neurology Services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medication Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling Services</td>
<td>Mental Health Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Counseling for Anxiety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Individual services listed: Summer Camp, Sexual Health Education and Social Skills Training*
Unmet Needs

- Caregivers answered questions about service use
  - “My child is receiving”
  - “My child is receiving, but needs more”
  - “My child is receiving, but does not need”
  - “My child is not receiving, but needs”
  - “My child is not receiving”
Services Used and Unmet Needs

- BHRS / Wraparound
- Functional Therapy
- Social Skills Training
- Medical Services
- Counseling Services
- Educational Services
- Summer Camp
- Sexual Health Education

- Receiving Service
- Unmet Need
Unmet Needs Across PA

All Services - Percentage

- No Data
- 30% - <50%
- 50% - <70%
- 70% - <85%
- 85% - 100%

Cities:
- Pittsburgh
- Harrisburg
- Philadelphia
Unmet Medical Service Needs Across PA
Next Steps

- Partnership with PA BAS to enact changes
- Identify needs by region, county, school district
  - Focused changes
- Trends in unmet needs
- Develop reports for state
- Distribute data
Thank You

- Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
  - Bureau of Autism Services

- For more information
  - [www.paaautism.org/asert/](http://www.paaautism.org/asert/)

- Contact: Chelsea Zimmerman at [chelseaz@upenn.edu](mailto:chelseaz@upenn.edu)