Title:
Fidelity and Recovery: How are Ontario Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams Doing?

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Community Partners:
83 ACT Teams throughout Ontario, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Funding Source:
Funded by The Ontario Mental Health Foundation

Project Timeline:
2006 - 2008

Abstract:
To what degree do ACT teams in Ontario achieve fidelity? Fidelity has been clearly linked to outcomes in all but one published research study. One clear goal of the increased funding to ACT teams is to enable teams to better meet Ontario ACT standards. Measuring fidelity, using a reliable and validated tool, will provide clear data for the MOHLTC about the degree to which teams are meeting standards. Research suggests that there is significant variation in fidelity scores amongst ACT teams within the same jurisdictions (Salyers), thus it is expected that there will be significant differences in Ontario. Analysis of such contrasts can serve to assist teams to move their practice towards meeting fidelity standards. Does fidelity correlate with expected outcomes in the Ontario experience? While there are some studies that demonstrate that higher fidelity is linked to improved outcomes (Latimer; McGrew; McHugo) the Ontario context provides an opportunity to compare fidelity and outcomes for over 80 teams and determine what level of fidelity can be expected to produce the desired outcomes. What aspects of fidelity correlate with which expected outcomes? The large sample of teams provides an opportunity to determine which aspects of fidelity are most critical for particular outcomes. This research on the critical ingredients of ACT and what outcomes they improve is in its infancy (McGrew) and requires replication and elaboration.