**Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) Target Population**

Mobile Crisis Teams (MCTs) are mobile services that provide psychiatric emergency care to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis in the community. The target population consists of persons of any age, who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Currently the target population cannot be definitively established, but it can be estimated in a number of ways. The broadest population can be estimated using population estimates of all people in the community with mental health difficulties. SAMHSA estimates the prevalence of people in Bernalillo county with mental health problems in one year is approximately 136 people per 1,000 aged over 18 per one year (SAMHSA, 2014). Some portion of these individuals would be eligible for MCT services. Further, the NM Department of Health measures the frequency of mental distress. Using data from the NM Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) the NMDOH estimated between 2012 – 2014 18.3% of Bernalillo County adults experienced frequent mental distress (<https://ibis.health.state.nm.us/community/highlight/report/GeoCnty/1.html>).

Because the goals of MCTs primarily focus on providing community-based services to stabilize persons experiencing emergencies in the least restrictive environment, to decrease arrests of mentally ill people in crisis, to reduce police officers’ time handling psychiatric emergency situations (Scott, 2000), and to reduce hospitalization rates by diverting patients from hospital admission into community-based treatment (Guo et al., 2001) more narrow estimates can be derived.

More specific estimates can be derived from individuals contacting the NM Crisis Access Line (NMCAL)individuals who come in contact with APD’s Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) and Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST), 911 calls that are for mental health that are not related to a crime, hospital emergency room and psychiatric emergency service contacts that do not require emergency treatment, and families and individuals who are seeking help. Currently data from all these sources either is not available or does not exist to provide an estimate. NMCAL handles approximately 1,400 calls per month statewide and approximately 35% of these calls originate in Bernalillo County. CET could respond to “emergent calls” and likely handle more serious “urgent calls.”[[1]](#footnote-1) We estimate this to be an average of 90 calls per month for individuals 18 years of age and older. People from both call levels may possibly seek a rapid response to an event from the CET.

Preliminary data from the UNM Psychiatric Center Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) suggests that a segment of individuals who present to the PES or Psychiatric Urgent Care Center (PUCC), who are referred by APD may be eligible for MCT services. This primarily includes individuals who have a higher acuity level upon arrival. In discussions with PES staff individuals who present with a Level III or Level IV acuity level and who are not eligible for PES services may be eligible. Table 1 provides a monthly estimate for Level III and Level IV clients.

The estimate shown in Table 1 is the average number of individuals by each time period (calendar year 2015 and January 2016 – October 2016) and the average number of individuals for the entire time period who were assessed by PES as being Acuity Level III and Acuity Level IV. Based on our review, for the time period of January 2015 through October 2016 there were an average of 95.7 individuals per month assessed as Acuity Level III and 237.3 individuals per month assessed as Acuity Level IV. Recall only a portion of individuals in both Acuity Levels will be eligible for MCT and currently we cannot estimate this number.

Table 1 – PES Acuity Level

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Acuity Level | 2015 | 2016 (thru October) | Total |
| Level III | 85.8 | 95.7 | 95.7 |
| Level IV | 247.3 | 225.5 | 237.3 |
| Total | 333.1 | 321.2 |  |

Some preliminary data is also available using APD CIT related data. These data provided by APD showed that between January 2016 and October 2016 of 2,064 CIT related incidents reported by APD field officers 1,606 (51.6%) were transported to area hospitals that includes UNM’s PES. It is not known what portion of these calls would be eligible for MCT services. APD CIT trained officers also come into contact with individuals who might be eligible for MCT services. We currently do not have an estimate of how many of these individuals might be eligible for MCT services.

1. Routine Calls: Call is resolved with de-escalation of the caller. Caller is offered a referral to local resources. Caller initiates next steps. Urgent Calls:Call requires de-escalation. A determination is made, with consultation from clinical supervisor, that an outbound call will be scheduled to follow up with the caller. Emergent calls: require immediate emergency attention. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)