

# Perceptions of Care by Families of Forensic Out-Patients

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# Purpose

- Family members to share their perspective about the care of their family member (forensic out-patient) who is receiving care from a forensic out-patient program
- Family members to share their family's experience with care & treatment offered by the forensic service



# Design

- Pilot study
  - to determine if a larger study is warranted & feasible
- Cross-sectional
- Telephone Survey – Questionnaire
  - 5 point Likert scale with open ended questions
- Qualitative – 6 step thematic analysis
- Qualitative - Descriptive statistics

# Questionnaire

- Developed by researchers
- Questions with 5 point Likert Scale
- Open-ended statements & questions

# Background

- Little is known about the family's experience re care of the forensic out-patient
- Families may be sources of support to forensic out-patients
- Families may be exhausted by illness severity or traumatized or fearful re identified risks
- The forensic program has been challenged in engaging & seeking feedback from families
- Aim of risk assessment & management & tx is to reduce or eliminate violence risk

# Population

- Adult family members of forensic out-patients
- Sample N=20
- Purposive
- 18 years of age & older
- Speaks & understands English

# Procedure

- Forensic out-patients were asked if the researchers could contact a family member
- Family member was phoned & asked if they would be interested in participating in the study
- If family member agreed, a verbal consent was sought & documented
- An appointment was negotiated to conduct the telephone interview

# Analysis

- Quantitative data
  - descriptive statistics
- Qualitative data
  - thematic analysis
  - Saturation
    - Data ceases to provide new information
    - Member checking



Relationship to client	N=20	%
Mother	12	60
Son	3	15
Sibling	2	10
Daughter	1	5
Father	1	5
Grandmother	1	5

# Perceptions of Family Members

- 95% said their family member had experienced relief from psychiatric symptoms
- 95% said family member is being assisted by the clinical team to manage his/her risks
- 90% said forensic program had been successful in treating symptoms of their family member's mental illness
- 90% said they understood the relationship between mental illness & crime

# Perceptions of Family Members

- 90% said they able to regularly communicate with their family member
- 85% said they were offered rehabilitation options for their family member
- 85% said they wanted to be involved in their family member's care
- 80% said the forensic program offered a comprehensive discharge process for their family member

# Perceptions of Families

- 80% said they were comfortable talking to their family member about their symptoms
- 80% said they were comfortable talking to their family member about their risks
- 75% said the forensic program provided a successful symptoms relapse prevention/management program
- 75% said their family member is aware of the risks of harm to self &/or others which were associated with his/her past behaviour involving the legal system

# Perceptions of Families

- 70% said the forensic program had address the social issues associated with the needs of the family member
- 65% said the patient was aware of the risks associated with
- 65% said the patient's risks had been identified & addressed in their treatment plan
- 65% said the clinical team understands my family' needs in relation to having a family who is a forensic patient

# Perceptions of Family Members

- 60% said it was easy to access forensic services for their family member
- 60% said that SJHH had provided them with information about their family member's key
- 60% said their family member's strength had been identified & addressed in tx plan
- 55% said SJHH was helpful in educating them about the family member's mental health

# Perceptions of Family Members

- 55% said SJHH provided me with sufficient supports from the clinical team so I could navigate the forensic system
- 55% said their family member had been involved in the planning process for the journey towards recovery & improved health
- 55% said the patient was aware of the risks associated with his/her future behaviour

# Perceptions of Families

- 50% said the SJHH had included them in their family member's treatment process
- 45% said they received support from the clinical team
- 20% said they need information about the association between mental illness & crime

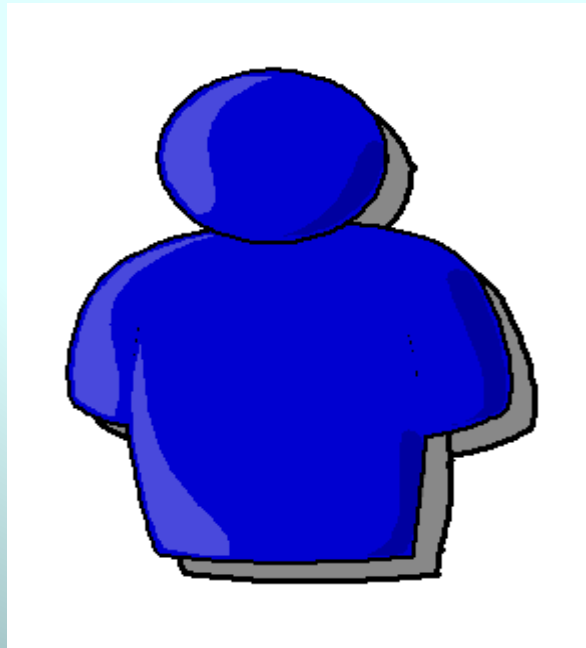


# Themes

- Happy & grateful for the help, support & quality of service provided
- Need information about the forensic unit
- Need information about the forensic system
- Difficult to travel from home to Forensic Out-patient Program due to distance & cost
- Patient needs place to be cleaned
- Patient will be ok if takes medication

# # of Months Out-Patients Connected to Forensic Psychiatry Program

- Average number of months 57
- Range 5-111 months



# Significance

- Important to understand families' experiences so that families & forensic out-patients can be engaged in patient centered treatment plans which include families
- Important to understand the families' needs for support & education
- Knowledge about forensic out-patients' families perceptions may be of benefit in the strengthening of families, & the assessment & management of risk for forensic out-patients

# Recommendations

- Develop family friendly information about the forensic unit & forensic system; determine the best ways to communicate this information
- Explore & evaluate different ways that families & forensic out-patients can connect
- Explore forensic out-patient perceptions about their needs related to their living space
- Provide information to families that is inclusive of more than pharmacological treatment
- Replicate the study with the families of forensic in-patients