

Biannual Estimate of Need for Intensive Care Coordination among Idaho Youth, SFY 2023 (June 2023 report)

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Executive Summary

Objective: The State of Idaho Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program aims to implement a coordinated and comprehensive system-of-care that meets the mental health needs of Idaho youth who experience a serious emotional disturbance. One important component of YES is the delivery of Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) that uses high-quality Wraparound. The Wraparound model is a specific method for delivering ICC that incorporates well-specified procedures and standardized quality monitoring. It is designed to support youth with the most complex and intensive mental health needs so they can remain in the community. In order to monitor the State's progress toward meeting the needs of this population, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health contracted with Boise State University to develop biannual estimates of the need for ICC among Idaho youth. The first report of estimated need for ICC among Idaho youth in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 was delivered in March 2023. The purpose of this report was to update the March 2023 estimate based on new service utilization data for SFY 2023 quarters 1-3. This June 2023 report provides the final estimated need for ICC among Idaho youth for SFY 2023.

Method: Using two methodologies developed in prior work, two projections of the number of Idaho youth who likely needed ICC in SFY 2023 were generated. The first methodology used a predictive analytic model developed through an analysis of ICC utilization data from 11 States and the incorporation of Idaho population characteristics. The second methodology analyzed aggregate Idaho administrative data on publicly-funded, out-of-home and inpatient mental health services for youth from SFY 2023 quarters 1-3.

Results: Application of the predictive analytic model resulted in an estimate of 1,521 Idaho youth who likely needed ICC in SFY 2023. Analysis of Idaho service utilization data for SFY 2023 quarters 1-3 yielded an estimate of 1,519 Idaho youth who likely needed ICC in SFY 2023. In combination, these methodologies suggest 1,520 Idaho youth needed ICC using high-quality Wraparound in SFY 2023. This estimate of 1,520 youths is slightly lower than the estimate of 1,582 youths from the March 2023 report. This is because the March 2023 report only incorporated service utilization data from quarter 1 of SFY 2023 and utilization of services was higher during that quarter compared to quarters 2 and 3. The best estimate of need for ICC among Idaho youth based on the predictive analytic model and the most complete service utilization data from SFY 2023 is 1,520 youths.

Conclusions and Recommendations: In SFY 2023, it is estimated that 1,520 Idaho youth needed ICC using high-quality Wraparound. Reflecting the growth and change in Idaho's population, this represents a 12.6% increase in need for ICC compared to an estimate from SFY 2016. These estimates provide benchmarks for monitoring Idaho's progress toward meeting the needs of youths with intensive mental health needs.

Date of Report: June 30, 2023

The purpose of this report is to estimate the number of Idaho youth who likely needed Intensive Care Coordination using high-quality Wraparound in order to meet their mental health needs in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023. Under terms specified by the Jeff D. Settlement Agreement, the State of Idaho is required to develop and implement a sustainable, accessible, comprehensive, and coordinated array of community-based mental health services that meets the needs of children with serious emotional disturbance (SED). To fulfill this charge, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) has initiated a comprehensive children's mental health program called Youth Empowerment Services (YES). One critical component of YES is Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) using high-quality wraparound. ICC is designed to meet the needs of youths with SED who experience the most severe levels of impairment in daily functioning and who require the most intensive support to remain in the community.

One important goal of developing and implementing YES services is monitoring the provision of ICC to ensure that all youth who need ICC are able to access it. In order to accomplish this, the State requires an estimate of the number of Idaho youth who need ICC. Beginning in 2023, IDHW contracted with Boise State University to develop biannual estimates of the need for ICC among Idaho youth. The first report for SFY 2023 was delivered in March 2023. Using a predictive analytic model and mental health service utilization data from SFY Quarter 1, the March 2023 report estimated that 1,582 Idaho youth needed ICC in SFY 2023. The purpose of this report is to update the March 2023 estimate based on new service utilization data made available by the State for SFY quarters 1-3. This June 2023 report provides the final

Box 1. Idaho Definition of Intensive Care Coordination

Pursuant to the Idaho Jeff D. Settlement Agreement (Appendix C):

Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) is a case management service that provides a single point of accountability for ensuring that medically necessary services are accessed, coordinated, and delivered consistent with the Principles of Care and Practice Model. ICC includes both assessment of service needs and service planning utilizing a facilitated Child and Family Team (CFT) process. It includes assessing, reassessing, monitoring, facilitating, linking, and advocating for needed services for Class Members and their families.

ICC is delivered through a single consistent Intensive Care Coordinator. The Intensive Care Coordinator is responsible for facilitating CFT meetings for the purpose of developing outcome-focused, strength-based activities that assist Class Members and their families. The Intensive Care Coordinator is specifically trained in the wraparound process for treatment planning. Intensive Care Coordinators shall maintain reasonable caseloads consistent with accepted industry standards for children's mental health systems of care based on intensity of their client's acuity, needs, and strengths.

Box 2. Idaho Criteria for Identifying Youth who Need Intensive Care Coordination with High-Quality Wraparound

Pursuant to the Jeff D. Settlement Agreement, the State of Idaho has developed the following criteria for determining which Class Members experience more intensive mental health needs that may benefit from ICC. Under the Agreement, Class Members with more intensive needs include any Class Member who either:

- a. Has a qualifying Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool score, as developed pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, or
- b. Meets one of the following criteria:
 - Is at substantial risk of out-of-home placement due to mental health needs;
 - Has experienced three (3) or more foster care placements within twenty-four (24) months for reasons related to mental health needs;
 - Is involved with multiple child-serving systems related to his or her mental health needs;
 - Is under age twelve (12) and has been Hospitalized for reasons related to mental health needs within the last six (6) months;
 - Is under age twelve (12), has been detained within the last six (6) months, and has unmet mental health needs;
 - Has experienced more than one hospitalization for mental health needs within the last twelve (12) months; or
 - Is currently in an out-of-home placement due to mental health needs and could be discharged safely to their home or community within up to ninety (90) days if adequate home and community-based supports were provided.

estimated need for ICC among Idaho youth for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023.

Definition of ICC and Target Population

Box 1 presents the definition of ICC in Idaho, as established by the Jeff D.

Settlement Agreement. The Agreement specifically refers to Wraparound as the approach to be used for ICC in Idaho. Throughout the remainder of this report, the term ICC will be used to indicate ICC using high-quality wraparound, as specified in the Settlement Agreement.

The Jeff D. Settlement Agreement also defines the target population of Idaho youth who should receive ICC. This population includes Idaho youth who are *Class Members* and whose mental health needs are severe enough to meet well-defined criteria. Class Members are Idaho residents under the age of eighteen (18), who experience SED as defined in Idaho Administrative Code and as reflected in federal definition (SAMHSA, 1993).

Box 2 presents the criteria used to determine whether Class Members require ICC. These criteria are consistent with those used by other States. They also demonstrate that the target population consists of youths whose mental health needs put them at significant risk for out-of-home placement.

Method

Two methodologies were used to estimate the number of Idaho youth who likely needed ICC in SFY 2023. Both methodologies were validated and were extensively described in a prior report on the need for ICC

among Idaho youth (see Williams, 2018). The March 2023 report that generated the initial estimated need for ICC in SFY 2023 also provides details of these methodologies as applied in this report (Williams & Beauchemin, 2023). Here, we briefly summarize the two methods.

The first method employed a predictive analytic model based on ICC utilization data from 11 States (Williams, 2018). To estimate the projected need for ICC in SFY 2023 for the present report, the investigators incorporated the most up-to-date data on Idaho’s youth population from the U.S. Census Bureau into the predictive analytic model and assumed full program implementation. The U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program, which is updated annually, estimated Idaho’s under age 18 youth population was 478,941 as of July 1, 2022 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023).

The second method used to estimate the need for ICC among Idaho youth in SFY 2023 incorporated an analysis of aggregate Idaho service utilization data reflecting youth out-of-home placements, or risk for out-of-home placement, due to a mental

health disorder. These aggregate data were provided by the IDHW Division of Behavioral Health in its Quality, Management, Improvement, and Accountability Quarterly report for SFY 2023, Quarter 3 (IDHW, 2023). This method may overestimate the number of youths participating in services because only aggregate data are available and the same youth may have participated in multiple services. However, prior analyses indicate this method produces results that are consistent with other methods and therefore are sufficient for purposes of estimation and planning (Williams, 2018).

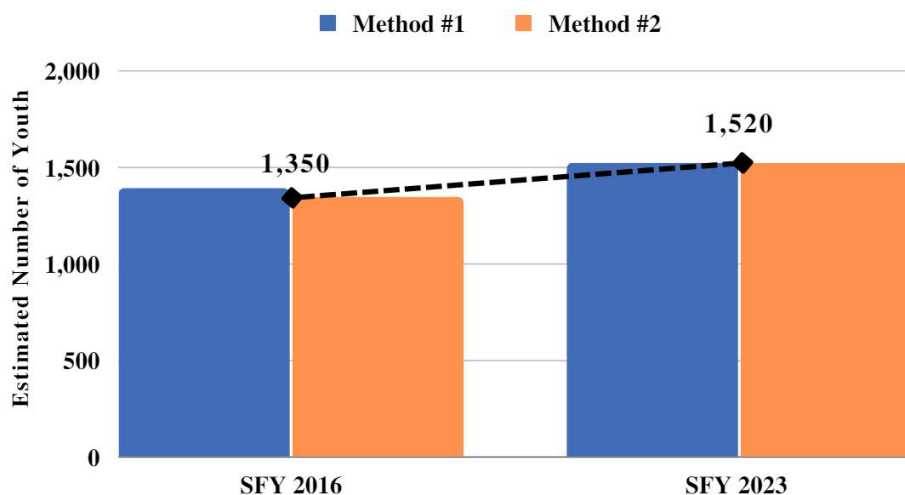
To generate the SFY 2023 estimate in this report, the total number of service utilizers in Quarters 1 through 3 of SFY 2023 were extrapolated to reflect the full 12-month fiscal year. Services included in the analysis were: (a) placement in, or approved for placement in, a psychiatric residential treatment facility, (b) placement in therapeutic foster care, (c) placement in a State Hospital, and (d) experience of an inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

Results

Predictive Analytic Model (Method #1)

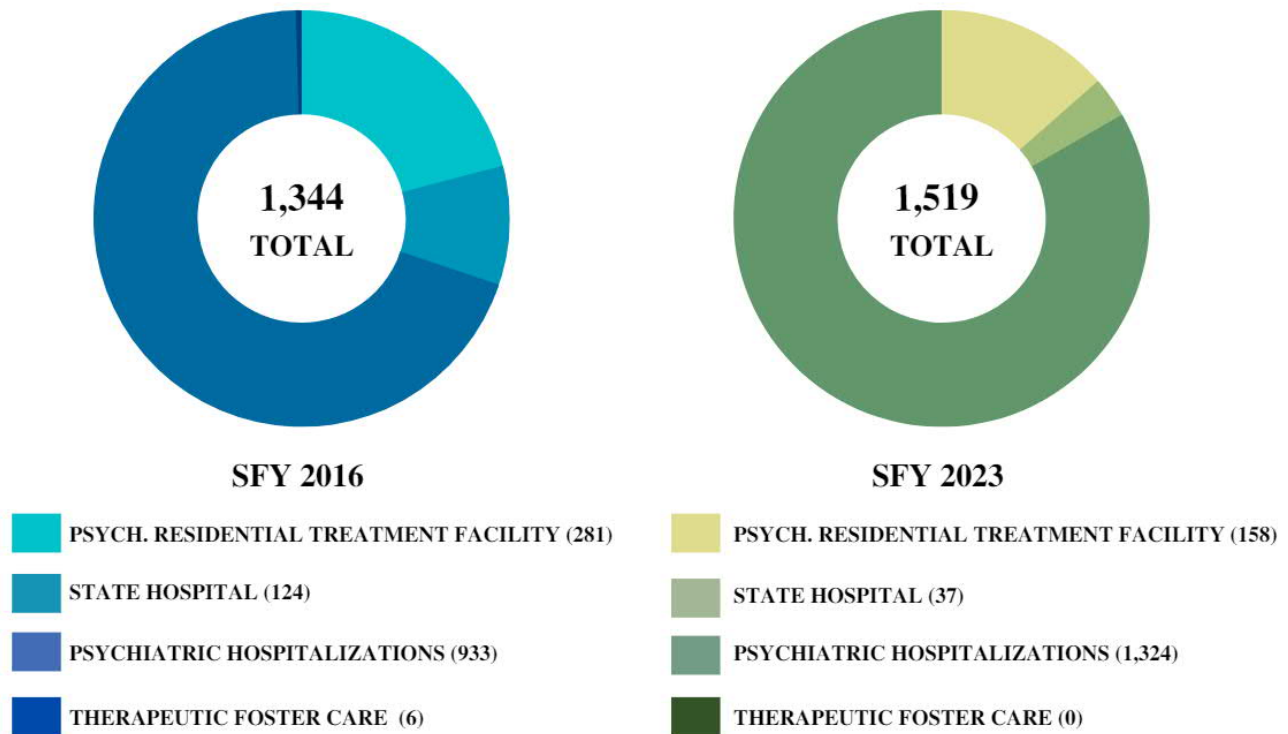
Results of the predictive analytic model indicated 1,521 Idaho youth likely needed ICC using high-quality Wraparound in SFY 2023. Based on Idaho’s estimated youth population, this represents 318 youth per 100,000. As is shown in Figure 1 (blue bars), there was a 9.8% increase in the number of youths estimated to need ICC from SFY 2016 to SFY 2023 based on Method #1. This is consistent with the 9.6% increase in Idaho’s under age 18 population during the same period (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023). This

Figure 1 Estimated Need for Intensive Care Coordination among Idaho Youth, SFY 2016-2023



Note: SFY= state fiscal year.

Figure 2 Utilization of Publicly-Funded Out-of-Home Services and Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitalization among Idaho Youth, SFY 2016-2023



Note: SFY = State fiscal year. SFY 2023 data are projected based on Quarters 1-3 of SFY 2023 service utilization data.

method was not updated from the March 2023 report because the U.S. Census Bureau estimate of Idaho’s youth population has not changed for the year.

Aggregate Service Utilization Data (Method #2)

Analysis of the aggregate service utilization data for SFY 2023, quarters 1-3, indicated 1,519 Idaho youth, or 317 youth per 100,000, likely needed ICC using high-quality Wraparound in SFY 2023. This represents an increase of 13% from the same analysis conducted on data in SFY 2016 (see orange bars in Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the number of service utilizers present in each category of services in SFY 2016 as well as the number projected for SFY 2023 based on data from quarters 1-3.

It should be noted that this estimate of 1,519 service utilizers is

lower than the estimated number of service utilizers from the March 2023 report on need for ICC in Idaho. The March 2023 reported estimated 1,642 service utilizers for SFY 2023. The difference in estimates (1,519 for this June report vs. 1,642 for the March report) occurred because the March 2023 report only used data from SFY Quarter 1 and utilization of services by youth was higher during that quarter than it was in quarters 2 and 3. Because the March 2023 report projected need based only on the higher SFY quarter 1 numbers, it resulted in a higher (and *less* accurate) estimate of total service utilizers for SFY 2023, compared to the current report. The current report used more complete and accurate utilization data for SFY 2023 quarters 1-3, which produced a better estimate of 1,519 service utilizers for the fiscal year. The best estimate of service utilizers for

SFY 2023 is the 1,519 number presented in this report.

Consistent with data from across the U.S. (Bojdani et al., 2020), psychiatric hospitalizations of youth were considerably higher in Idaho in 2022 and early 2023 compared to prior years. In addition, utilization of intensive out-of-home services (e.g. State Hospital) was lower than prior years, due in large part to staffing shortages associated with the COVID-19 pandemic (Idaho YES Data & Reports Committee, 2023). Despite the variation in specific types of intensive services, the overall number of anticipated service utilizers in SFY 2023 is projected to be higher than the total from SFY 2016, likely reflecting Idaho’s growth in population. Estimates generated for this report based on SFY Q1-Q3 data are more stable than those generated for the earlier report which relied exclusively on Q1 data. This stability is reflected in

the convergence of the two estimation methods.

Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health.
Boise, ID: Boise State University.

Conclusion

This report estimates that 1,520 Idaho youth (317 per 100,000) would have benefited from participating in ICC using high quality Wraparound in SFY 2023. This is the final projected estimate for SFY 2023. These estimates will be updated annually to reflect changes in Idaho's population. ■

References

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