

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors authorized the court-ordered Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program for individuals with mental illness who meet the criteria established by Laura's Law. The Department of Behavioral Wellness launched the AOT pilot program in January of 2017, and hired Harder+Company Community Research to conduct an external evaluation of the early implementation and initial outcomes. This report presents findings from the first two quarters of program implementation, January to June 2017.



Key Findings

30 people were referred to the AOT program in the first six months of 2017. On average, the program received 5 referrals per month. Of those 30 referrals:



Half were from family members, such as parents and children.

70% were under the age of 45.



80% of people had a dual diagnosis.

57% were homeless.



On average, AOT staff reached out to referred individuals 2 times a week.

31% of individuals referred to the AOT program voluntarily accepted treatment within the first 3 weeks.

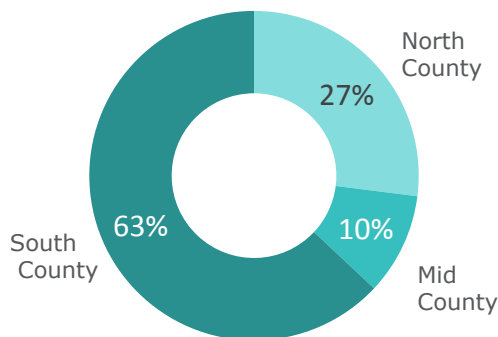
AOT engagement efforts are reducing the number of negative life events for participants.

How Many Referrals?

Early data suggests that the AOT program has surpassed its referral goals. The AOT program was designed, and it is staffed to accommodate a maximum of 10 open referrals at any point in time. However, there were 17 referrals during the first-quarter and 13 in the second-quarter. On average, the AOT program staff outreached to 11 open referrals each month.

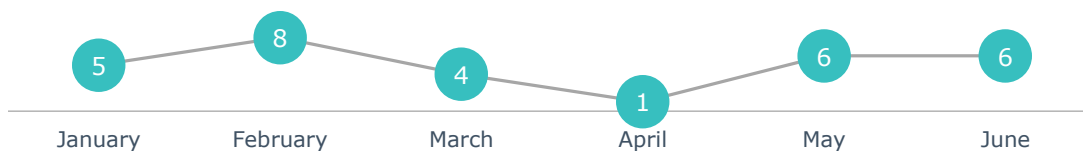
The AOT program may experience increases in referrals from several regions within the county over time. In the first two quarters, 63% of referrals originated from South County. South County community members were strong advocates for this program and were subsequently well mobilized to utilize the AOT referral system when it launched. As other regions catch up, the total number of referrals may continue to increase.

AOT Referrals by Region



AOT Referrals by Month

Total Referrals: 30
Ave # Referrals/Month: 5



Who is participating in the AOT program? Two-thirds (63%) of the people referred to the AOT program were male. AOT participants ranged in age from 19 to 64 years, and had an average age of 39. At the time of referral, approximately four-fifths (80%) had a dual-diagnosis, over half (57%) were homeless, and two-fifths (40%) were on probation. More than half (53%) identified as Caucasian, and over a quarter (27%) identified as Latino or Hispanic.

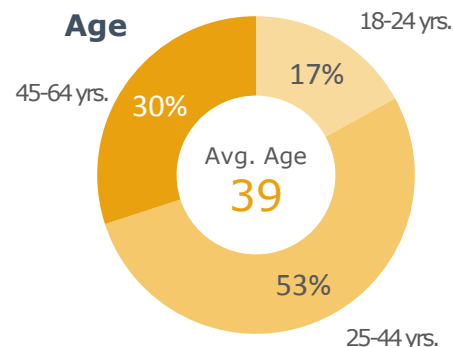
Characteristics

Gender

63%
Male



Age



Race/Ethnicity

53%	Caucasian/White
27%	Latino/Hispanic
7%	Multiracial
7%	Asian
7%	Black/African-American

Other Characteristics

80%	Dual diagnosis
57%	Homeless
40%	Probation

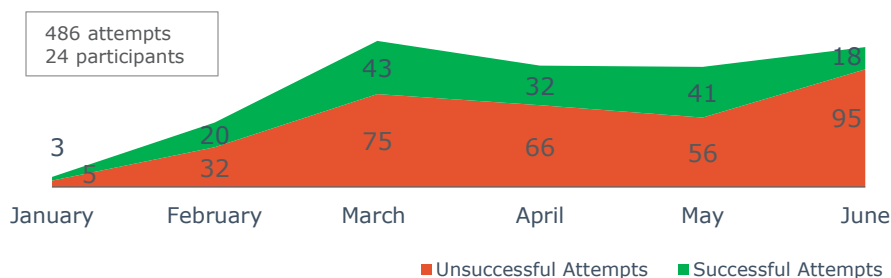
Engagement Efforts

How successful is AOT engagement? The individuals served by AOT are typically hard to reach; they are often homeless, transient, and many experience both substance abuse and mental health concerns.

AOT caseworkers aim to contact all referred clients 3 times a week, with the goal of having individuals accept voluntary treatment. Data show a high level of engagement between caseworkers and referred individuals:

- AOT staff reported **486** engagement attempts (average 2 attempts per week).
- Approximately two-fifths (38%) of referred individuals have been contacted 3+ times a week (findings include people in the AOT program for over 1 week).
- On average, the AOT team had a 3.2:10 rate of successful contact of referred individuals.

AOT Engagement Efforts by Month



Engagement Outcomes

31%	Accepted voluntary treatment
52%	Continue to attempt to engage
0%	Settlement Agreement
0%	Court Petition Filed
0%	Court Ordered to Treatment
17%	Closed*

What was the result of AOT engagement efforts?

Engagement outcomes data show that a third of the people referred to AOT (31%) have accepted voluntary treatment and have not needed court intervention thus far.

*Unable to locate/Already connected to services/Did not meet AOT criteria

AOT Outcomes

What has changed for AOT participants? The goal of AOT is to improve access and adherence to intensive behavioral health services in order to avert relapse, repeated hospitalizations, arrest, incarceration, suicide, property destruction, and violent behavior. While early data about the success of AOT in meeting these goals is limited (based on the number of participants who disclosed experiencing each event at baseline), indicators point in the right direction with decreases in incarcerations, hospitalizations and crisis calls.

Significant Life Events

