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Conditions of Children 2015 - Behavioral Health Trends

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- Downward trend in hospitalizations for substance use for children and youth over the past decade. Decrease of 59% since 2004.
- Upward trend, since 2008, in the number of hospitalizations for serious mental illness for children and youth. Increase in hospitalizations is 66% since 2008.
- Major Depression and Mood Disorders accounted for over half of all the hospitalizations, followed by Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, and Schizoaffective Disorders.
- HCA has a system of 22 County and Contract operated outpatient clinics across Orange County to address the behavioral health needs of children and youth with Severe Emotional Disturbance. Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) includes diagnoses of Major Depression and Mood Disorders, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorders as well as other diagnoses.
- HCA also has programs developed to address the needs of youth in crisis in the least restrictive therapeutic environment, thereby avoiding hospitalization when clinically appropriate. These are Children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Crisis Residential programs and In-Home Crisis Stabilization.
- HCA has an Outreach and Engagement unit dedicated to disseminating information throughout the community about the HCA services available to children and youth, as well as reaching out to, and engaging, individuals who are at risk or struggling with homelessness, mental health problems, and/or substance use.
- HCA has a dedicated Information and Referral Line (855-OC-Links) available to all county residents to link persons in the community to HCA Behavioral Health Services.
- HCA has Prevention and Intervention programs that assist community members in identifying potential behavioral health needs, and providing early intervention to prevent the development of a behavioral health disorder.



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