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4-2024

Comparing Long-Term Outcomes of Two Collaborative Care Approaches for People with Depression

REACH Dissemination Committee, Maine, USA

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Recommended Citation

REACH Dissemination Committee, Maine, USA, "Comparing Long-Term Outcomes of Two Collaborative Care Approaches for People with Depression" (2024). REACH: Research Evidence-to-Action for Community Health. 7.

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Comparing Long-Term Outcomes of Two Collaborative Care Approaches for People with Depression



People with depression usually get treatment in **healthcare settings**, such as clinics. In communities with few resources, people may also get help in **community settings** such as social services agencies or churches.

Collaborative care brings together healthcare and community programs to help people with depression.

LOCATION & POPULATION

- ▶ Los Angeles area
- ▶ 980 adults with depression
- Attend a healthcare or community program to address depression
- ▶ 46% African American
- ▶ **41%** Latino
- ▶ 9% White
- ▶ 74% incomes below poverty line
- ▶ 54% homeless or at risk for long-term homelessness



STUDY DESIGN

This study compared long-term outcomes of two collaborative care approaches.

Randomization of Healthcare & Community Programs

Coalition Approach (CA)

- Programs formed local coalitions
- Planned how to distribute resources across programs, adapating to local needs
- Coalition provided training to program staff

Technical Assistance (TA)

- Expert team provided technical assistance to programs:
- webinars
- site visits
- online/written resources

FINDINGS after 3 years

- Compared with people assigned to the Technical Assistance approach, people attending programs that were part of the Coalition Approach showed:
- more improvement in physical health quality of life
- averaged fewer nights in the hospital for mental health problems
- ▶ The two approaches didn't differ in people's depression or mental health quality of life

Key Take-Away

Collaborative care approaches to help people with depression may be considered in communities with a lack of resources.

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