



Hamilton Choices 2008



Our Mission

Our mission is to strengthen individuals and families by advancing community systems of care.

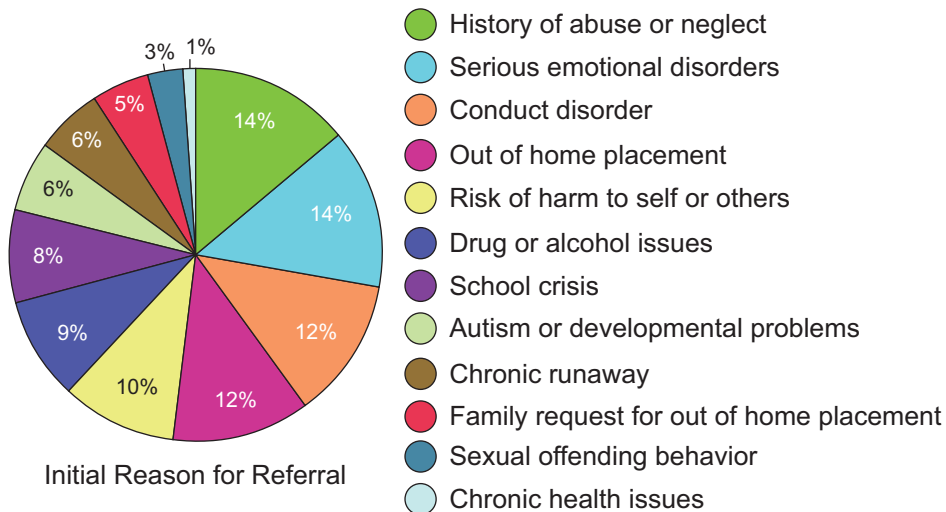
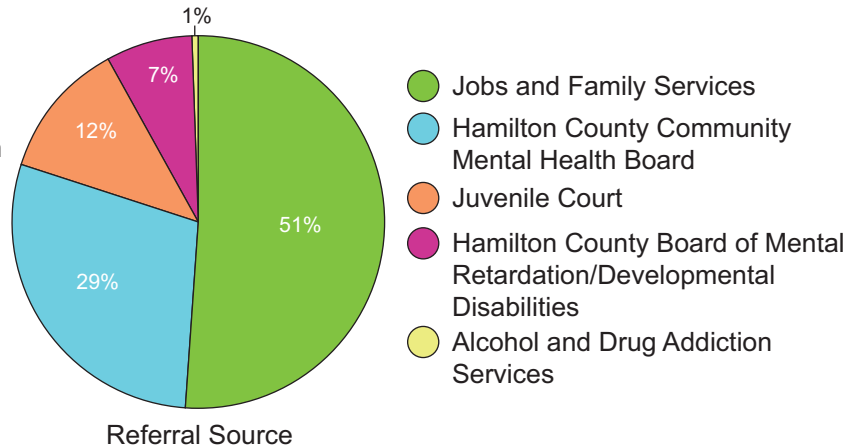
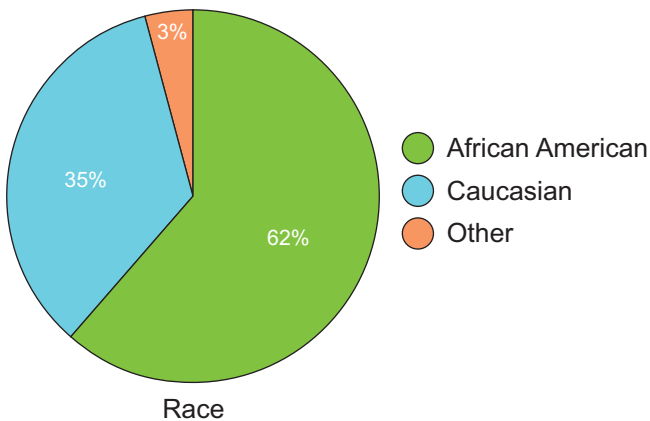
Hamilton Choices, a nonprofit organization, coordinates services and supports for youth involved in child welfare, juvenile court, MRDD and the mental health and recovery system. Hamilton Choices utilizes a funding structure and case rate that allows for access to a wide array of support for youth, from highly intensive services such as respite care or foster care, through community-based and natural supports. Hamilton Choices is highly successful in reducing lengths of stay in residential treatment, while supporting youth to keep them with their families or in their community.

Hamilton Choices is a leader for strength based, family driven, individualized and community based care. Our work is guided by the wraparound values and system of care principles.

Program Demographics

Youth referred to Hamilton Choices all have a mental health diagnosis, are involved with multiple youth-serving systems and are currently living or at risk of being placed in a costly out-of-home environment. In fiscal year 2008:

- 380 youth were served
- The average age of youth at enrollment was 13
- 65% of youth served were male, 35% female



Families referred to Hamilton Choices currently have access to more than 100 programs and services

More than 80% of youth showed improvement in their mental health status

Improved Mental Health Status/Functioning:

More than 80% of youth involved in Hamilton Choices showed improvement in their mental health status and level of functioning. This means they are better able to stay in school, participate in recreational activities and make positive contributions to their communities.

- 80% of youth discharged live in the community.
- 77% of the youth referred to Hamilton Choices with involvement in the criminal justice system have a decrease in their level of criminal behavior during their enrollment period.

77% of youth have a decrease in their level of criminal behavior during enrollment

Improved Family Functioning:

More than 90% of families leave Hamilton Choices with increased natural and community supports. This means that families are much more likely to get support from friends and family and less likely to return to formal services in the future. According to the Ohio Scales, Hamilton Choices achieved the following results:

- 84% of families feel they are being listened to and their ideas are valued.
- 81% of families feel they are included in treatment planning.
- 84% of families are satisfied with their mental health services.

More than 90% of families leave Hamilton Choices with increased natural and community supports

Appropriate Living Arrangements:

Hamilton Choices is successful in increasing the ability for youth to remain in their communities. Choices works diligently to reduce the length of time youth spend in residential treatment centers.

- 100% of youth with reunification as part of their treatment plan achieved stable reunification.
- 80% of youth involved with JFS remained in a stable living arrangement for six months post discharge.
- 76% of youth remained in or moved to a less restrictive environment between enrollment and discharge

Building System Capacity

77% of services accessed by Hamilton Choices are in Hamilton County.

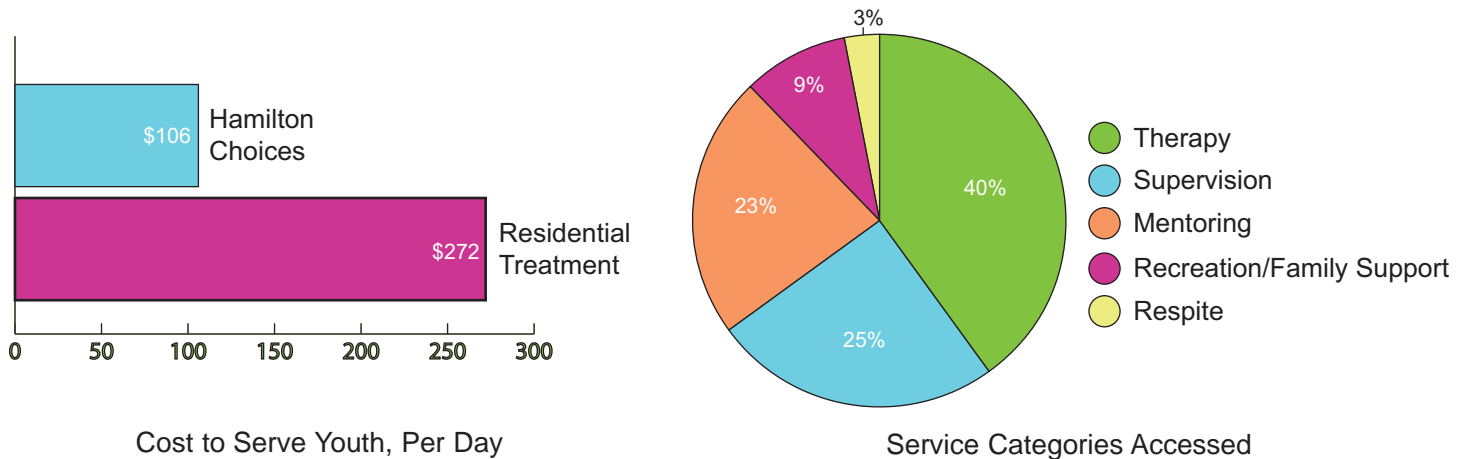
As part of our mission, Hamilton Choices is committed to developing local services that help keep youth at home, in school and out of trouble. Highlights of our progress from 2008 include:

- Leading development of a respite program for youth with both mental illness and developmental disabilities to help them maintain their community-based living.
- Developed specialized foster care for youth with special needs.
- Encouraged development of evidence based treatment models in Cincinnati.
- Decreased the number of services utilized outside of Hamilton County while developing a local, community-based provider network of more than 100 programs and services.

80% of youth maintained or moved to a less restrictive community setting.

Cost Effectiveness

The cost to serve a youth enrolled in Hamilton Choices is approximately \$106 per day. Compared to an average cost of \$272 per day in residential treatment, Hamilton Choices is a more cost effective option for youth who are at risk for residential treatment. Hamilton Choices contracts with more than 100 programs and services to meet the needs of the youth and families served. The chart below shows the type of service categories accessed.



Hamilton Choices would like to thank our funding partners of the MCSA:

Department of Job and Family Services

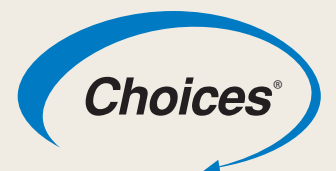
Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

Juvenile Court

Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

A Care Management Service by Choices, Inc.

Choices is a leading provider of wraparound for communities with large populations of youth in or at risk of out-of-home placement. Our care management programs work to eliminate barriers within government systems by pooling existing public funds to offer the flexibility needed to coordinate community resources across a wide range of service providers. This flexibility is critical so youth and their families can access the individualized care they need. Our approach aims to avoid duplication of services and shorten lengths of stay in the system.



Helping You Change Lives®

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www.ChoicesTeam.org