Demographic and clinical profiles of service users in the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in seven districts of Hong Kong: Implications on collaboration with Community Psychia

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Introduction
Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) have been established, since October 2010, to support reintegration of persons-in-recovery into the community. They provide one-stop, district-based support and rehabilitation services, ranging from mental health promotion to general public, to recovery-oriented intervention in a case management model for people with mental problems and their families. There are 24 ICCMWs operated by 12 non-governmental organizations in Hong Kong. The New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (NLPRA) operates seven of them.

Objectives
This study intended to compare the demographic and clinical profiles of service users, as well as service-related information in the seven ICCMWs under the operation of the NLPRA. The null hypothesis was that there was no significant difference in those variables across the seven ICCMWs.

Methodology
Service users’ data on age, gender, psychiatric diagnosis, sources of referral, and percentage of shared cases with the Hospital Authority (HA) from the seven ICCMWs were collected from April 2013 to January 2015. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test were used to compare these variables among the seven ICCMWs.

Result
Among the 6,191 service users, no statistical difference in gender distribution ($\chi^2=11.0$, df=6, $p<.09$) was found across the ICCMWs, but the results revealed that more female members joined this service. The mean age in each district was similar to that...
of the general population in the district. Statistically significant differences were found in the distribution of major diagnostic groups ($\chi^2=140.79$, df=18, $p<.01$), sources of referral ($\chi^2=112.9$, df=18, $p<.01$), and number of shared cases with the HA ($\chi^2=30.48$, df=6, $p<.01$). In view of such differences, the ICCMW service should be tailored to the characteristics of users in each district. About one third of the members in the ICCMWs are diagnosed with Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, while two thirds suffered from Common Mental Disorders. These characteristics are different from the patient profile in the Community Psychiatric Services of the HA in which the service recipients mainly suffer from severe mental illness. The results of this study indicate that the HA and NGOs are complementary in serving different clientele. Furthermore, males are probably less ready to seek help. It sheds light to the possible unmet mental health needs of men, and the importance of assertively engaging them. Ways to strengthen the collaboration between the HA and ICCMWs should be further explored.