Key Statistics on Mental Health in Illinois

- 48 percent of Americans will have a diagnosable psychiatric illness in the course of their lifetime. 75 percent of those illnesses will begin before the end of adolescence and 50 percent will start before the age of 16. (Source: National Comorbidity Survey Replication, Ronald Kessler, 2005)

- 3.2 million children live in Illinois (Source: 2009 U.S. Census Bureau) and 7.5 percent of Illinois children ages 3-17 are reported to have moderate or severe social or emotional difficulties. For children living in poverty, rates of mental and emotional difficulties are reported even higher, at 14.6 percent. (Source: Voices for Illinois Children, 2007)

- 53 percent of children ages 3-17 have one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental condition. (Source: ILCHF)


- Illinois ranks third in the nation when it comes to states with the highest dollar amounts cut from mental health programs. (Source: Medill Reports Chicago)

- Six of Chicago’s 12 mental health care facilities have been closed down by the state, including facilities in the heart of the city’s African-American community on the South Side. (Source: Medill Reports Chicago)

- 35-40 percent of children are likely to screen positive for behavioral/mental health concerns. (Source: American Association of Pediatrics, 2013)

- A recent study in Chicago found that nearly 50 percent of inner-city adolescents demonstrated signs and symptoms of depression. (Source: Illinois Children’s Mental Health Task Force, 2003)

- 34 percent of Chicago adolescents suffered signs of depression for two or more consecutive weeks, which prevented them from doing usual activities. (Source: Illinois Children’s Mental Health Task Force, 2003)

- Rates of positive depression screening are likely to increase due to the number of foreclosures, unemployment, deportation, crime and school closings; children are among the most affected. (Source: Illinois Children’s Mental Health Task Force, 2003)

- Adverse childhood experiences have been related to increased vulnerability to health problems such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder. (Source: Centers for Disease Control, 2013)

- 70 percent of the population in the juvenile justice system has mental health problems, the majority of which could have been prevented with intervention earlier in life. (Source: Illinois Children’s Mental Health Task Force, 2003)