

California Reducing Disparities Project Asian & Pacific Islander Strategic Planning Conference

“Reaching, Engaging and Serving Hard-to-Reach
Asian Pacific Islanders in Mental Health Through
Collaboration”

Panelist: David J. Yim, MSW
Special Service for Groups, Inc.
Older Adults Program

Special Service for Groups, Inc.



- Established in 1952, a Non-Profit Community Based Organization serving Los Angeles, Orange and San Francisco Counties.
- Administrative Office Located in Downtown Los Angeles

Tel. (213) 553-1800

www.ssgmain.org

SSG Services & Divisions

- **Advocacy and Special Needs**
 - Benefits Assistance Clients' Urban Project (BACUP)
 - Tongan Community Service Center
- **Capacity Building and Technical Assistance**
 - Census Data and Geographic Information Services (CD&GIS)
 - Faith in Communities (FIC)
- **HIV/AIDS**
 - Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT)
 - Tongan Community Service Center
- **Health, Dental and Language Access**
 - Children's Dental and Outreach Project
 - PALS for Health
- **Children and Youth Specialized Services**
 - Occupational Therapy and Training Program (OTTP - LA & SF)
 - Parents Neighborhood Youth Program (PNYP)
- **Homeless and Emergency Services**
 - Homeless Outreach Program (HOP)
 - Hurting and Hungry Project (H&H)
- **Volunteer Placement**
 - Court Referral Services

SSG Services & Divisions (Cont.)

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers (APCTC)
- Asian and Pacific Islander Mental Health Alliance
- Asian Pacific Residential Treatment Program
- Project 180
- Homeless Outreach Program (HOP)
- Homeless Outreach Program Family Center
- OTTP - LA
- Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program (PAADP)
- *Older Adults Program (OAP)*

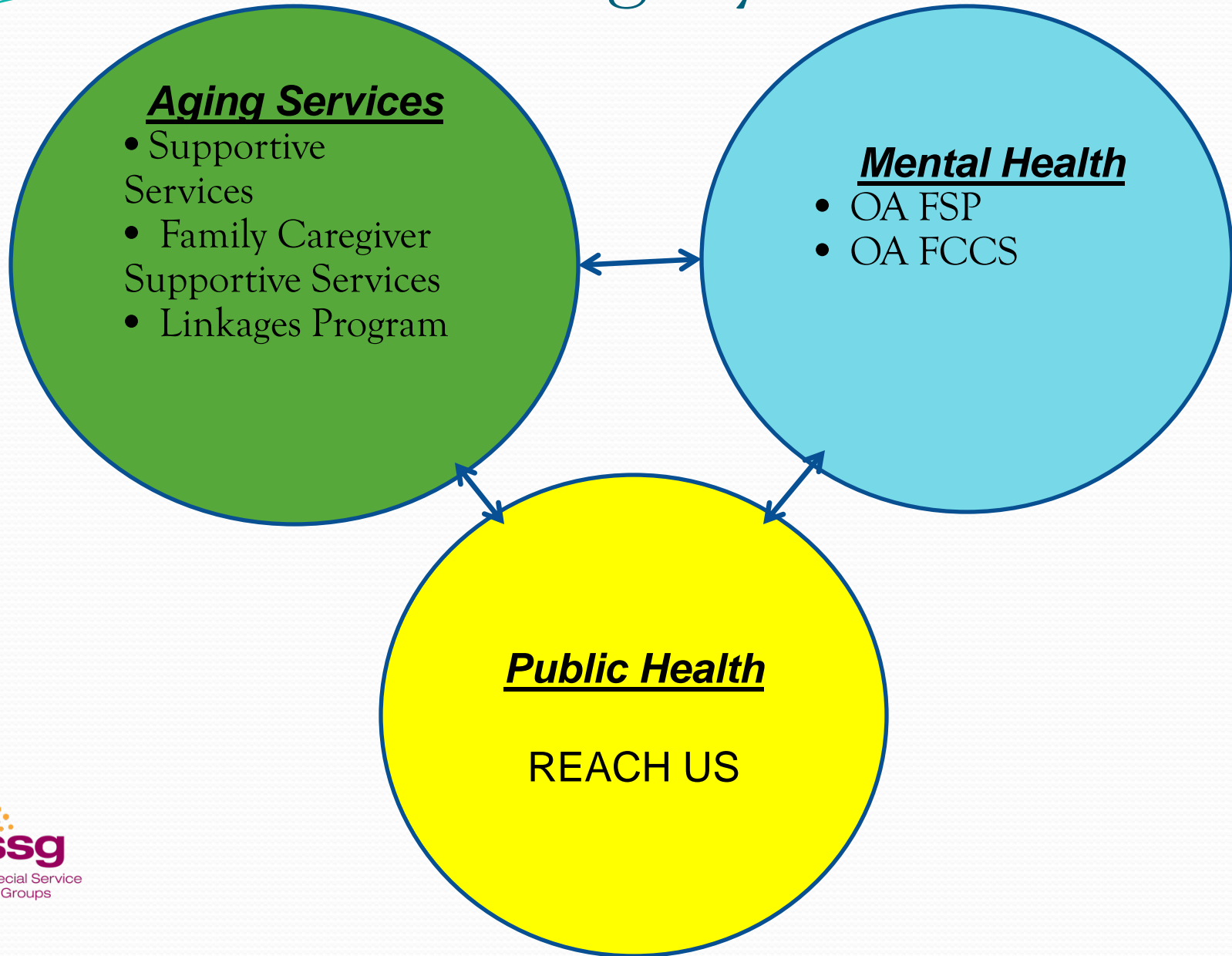
SSG/Older Adults Program Services

- Aging Services (Contracted through the County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services - AAA and the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging)
 - Linkage Services (18+ with disability)
 - Supportive Services (60+)
 - Family Caregiver Supportive Services
- Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services (Granted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
 - Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health in the U.S. (REACH U.S.)
- Mental Health Services (Contracted by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health)
 - Older Adult Full Service Partnership
 - Older Adult Field Capable Clinical Services

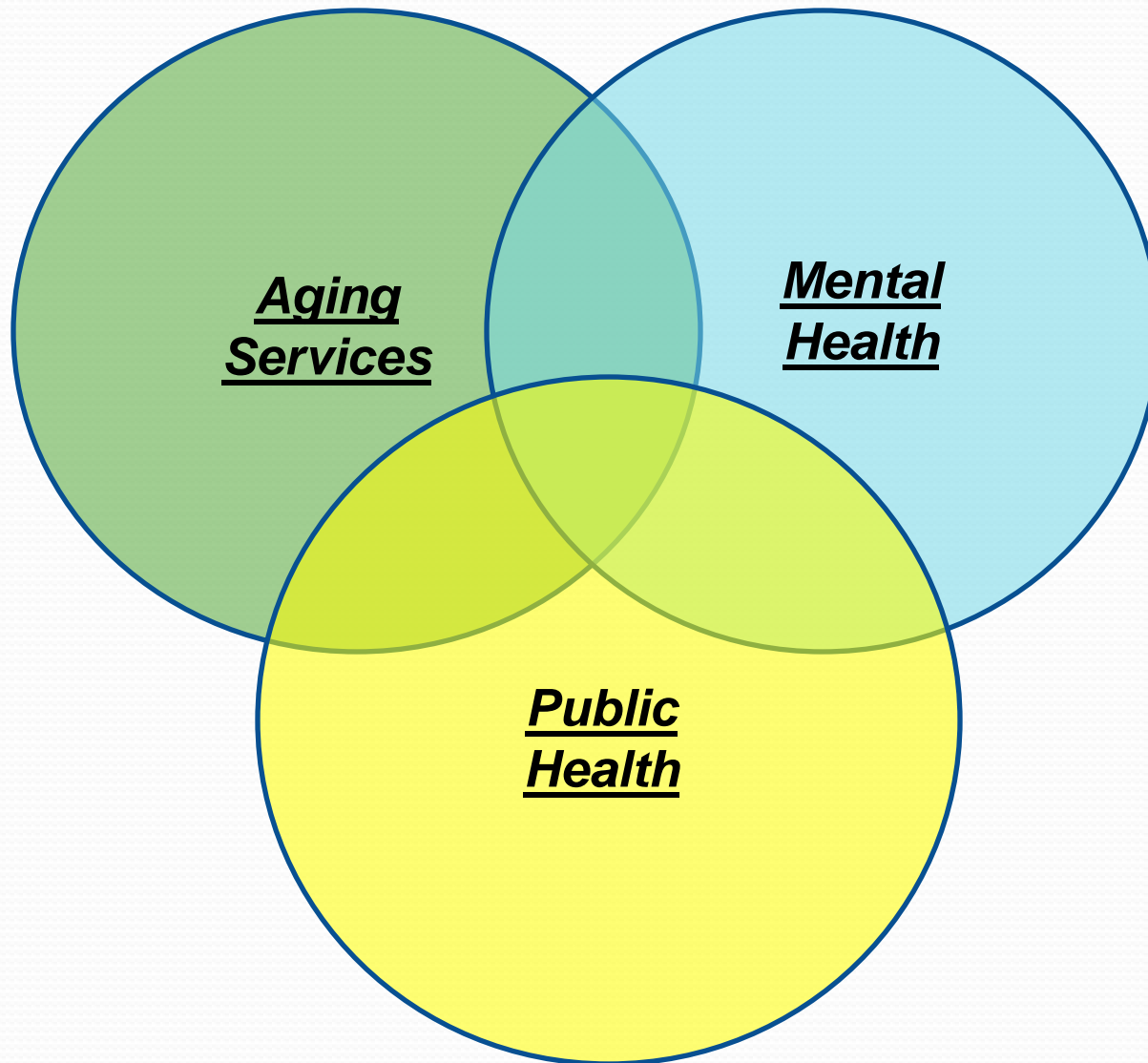
Promising Strategies in Reaching and Serving API Older Adults

- I. Integrated Multi-disciplinary Approach
- II. Collaboration
- III. Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services

Existing Systems



Promising Approaches



OA API MH Collaborative Partners

NON (DMH) Traditional Providers

- Cambodian Association of America
- Chinatown Service Center
- Little Tokyo Service Center
- South Asian Network
- South Asian Helpline and Referral Assistance (SAHARA)
- Samoan National Nurses Association

Traditional DMH Providers

- SSG/Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers (APCTC)
- Pacific Clinics / Asian Pacific Family Center

Communities and Languages Served through Collaboration

- Cantonese
- Gujarati
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Mandarin
- Punjabi
- Samoan
- Tagalog
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

Non - Traditional Providers

Contribution

- Linguistically and Culturally Appropriate Staff
- Vast Human Resources and knowledge of the community
- Access to Hard to Reach Communities
- Ability to Obtain Community's Trust
- Gain Lessons and "Stories"
- Ongoing Cultural Competency "Self Check"
- Out-of-the-Box Approach to Services
- Strengthens Lead Agency's Capacity
- Passionate for the community
- WEALTH OF COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

Traditional Providers Contribution

- Linguistically and Culturally Appropriate Staff
- Years of experience and familiarity with DMH systems, operations and technical support
- Specialization and technical expertise in the field of mental health
 - Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Nurses, etc.
 - Quality Assurance
- Name recognition in mental health services

SSG/Older Adults Program Contributions

- Subcontracts \$\$\$
 - Nearly 1/2 of the operational budget for the Older Adults Program is Allocated to partner agencies
- Capacity Building
 - Ongoing Staff Training, Development, and Mentoring
 - Grant Writing & Program Development
 - Assist with Medi-Cal (Medicaid) Certification
 - Example: Samoan National Nurses Association
- Assistance with National Exposure
- Ownership of Data and Publications
- Program Activities **MUST BE APPROVED** by the Partner Agencies
- Partners are inclusive with development and direction
- Long-Term Investment

Challenges to Collaboration

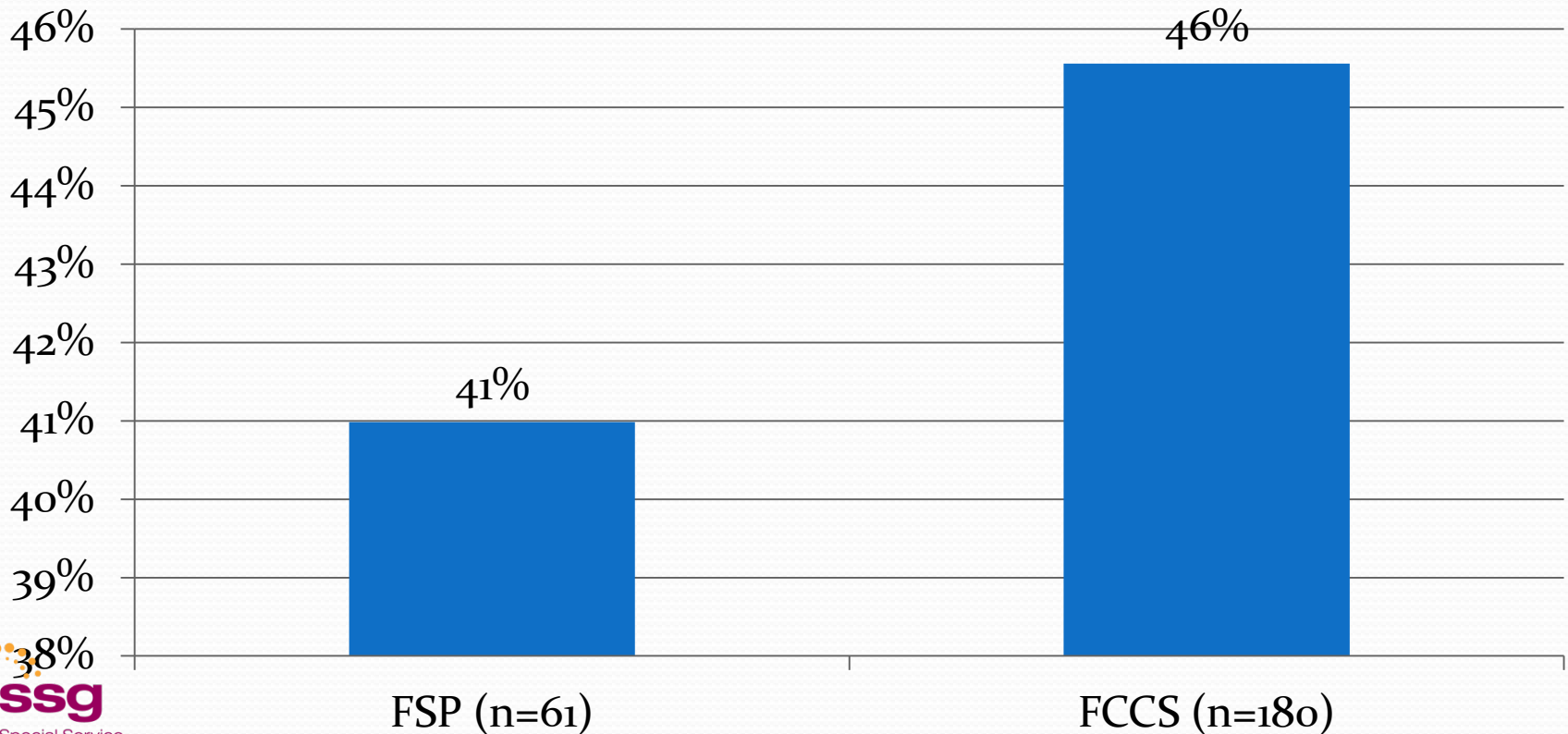
- Cannot Always be All Inclusive
- Agency Culture may not always share the same values or interest in all situations
- Proposal Writing and Page Limitations
- Funding Agencies Value Collaboration However Do Not Always Understand the Culture of Collaboration
 - Example: A proposal is submitted with the inclusion collaborative partners, upon winning the bid, the contractor requires that all subcontracts carry forth a bidding process.
- Takes more time to get Reports, Billing, and documentation completed
- Ongoing Monitoring and Technical Assistance

Summary of Client Data

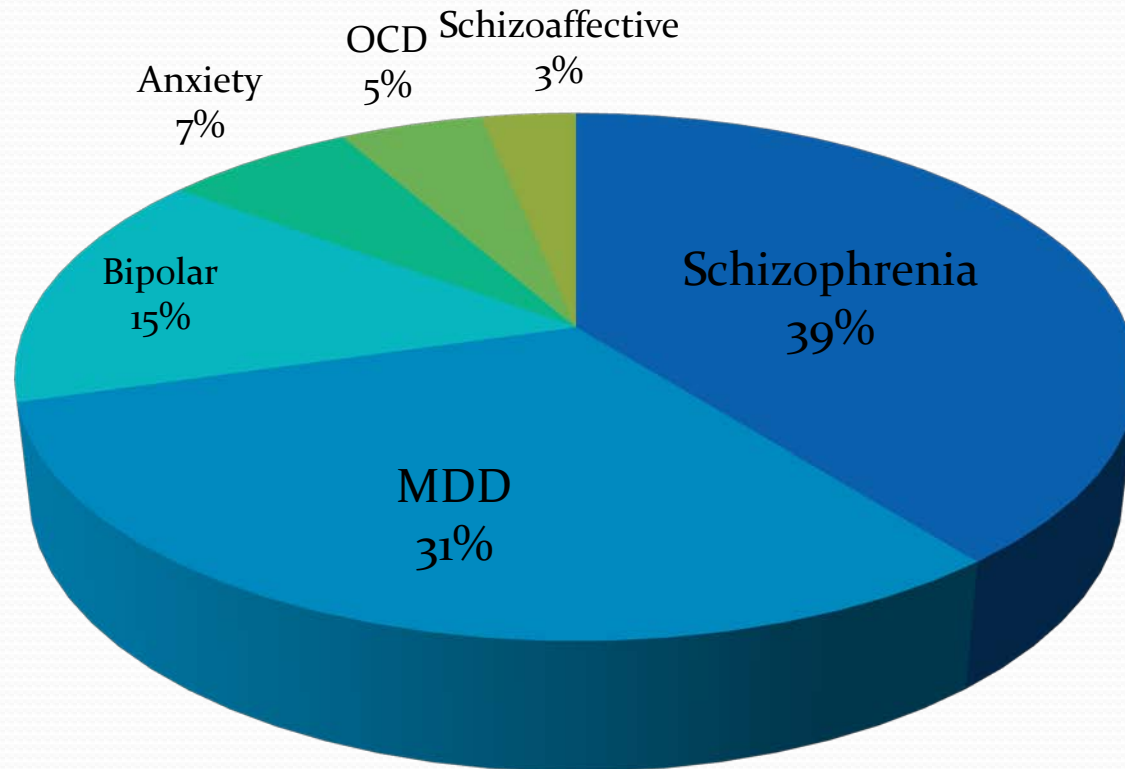
Characteristics of API Older Adult clients served under FSP and FCCS through SSG Older Adults Program and Collaborative Partners since 2007

History of Client Utilization of Mental Health Services

Never Received Mental Health Services

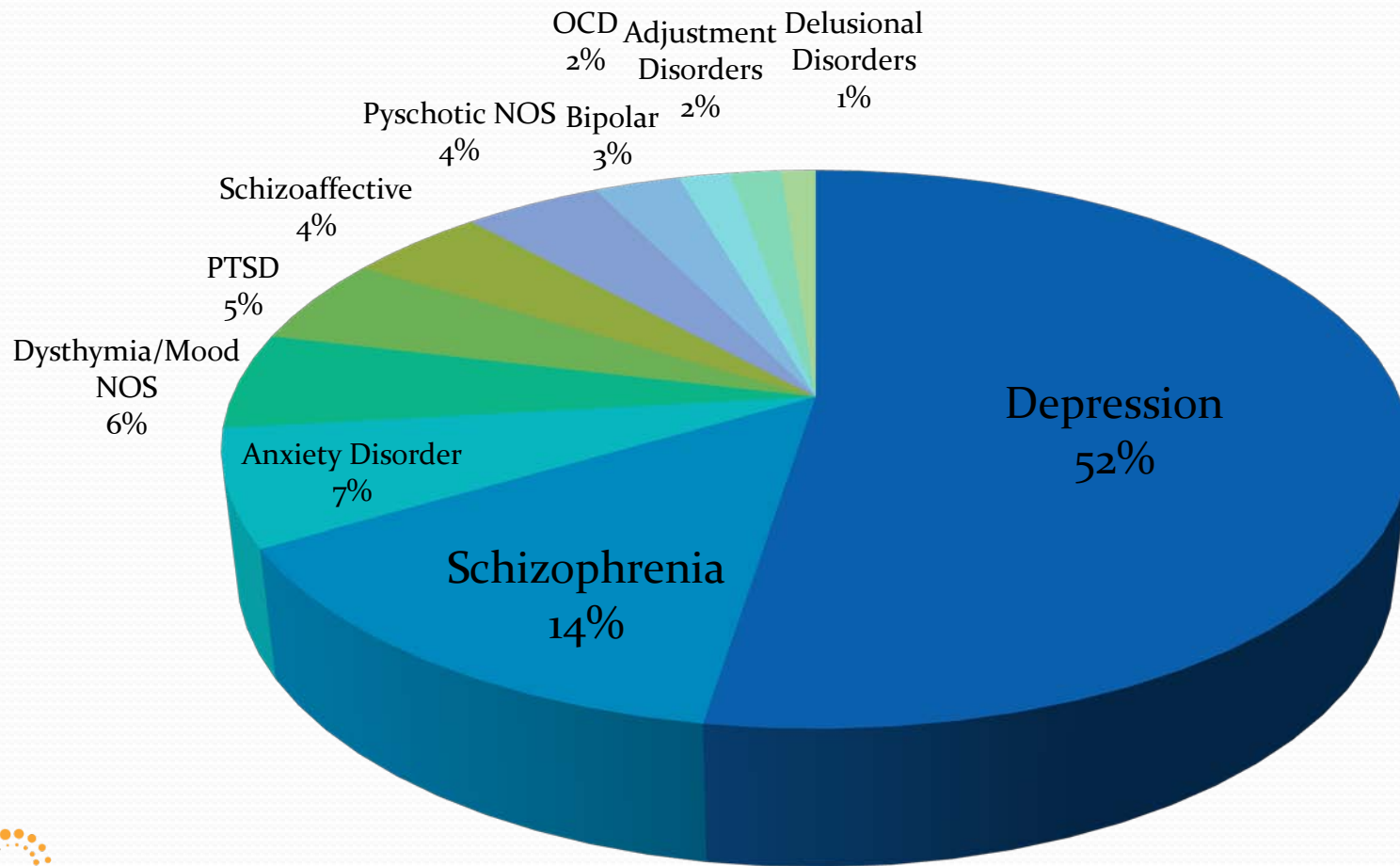


Most Common Primary Diagnosis (FSP)



N = 61

Most Common Primary Diagnosis (FCCCS)



N = 180

Common Medical Conditions FSP and FCCS Combined (n=241)

Hypertension/Heart Disease/CVD	10.4%
Type 2 Diabetes	7.9%
Cancer	2.9%
Dementia	2.9%
Other: ie. Arthritis, Osteoporosis, etc.	8.3%

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SSG/Older Adults Program

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