



# SCDMH Deaf Services



past experience,  
present performance,  
future vision

**DMH** South Carolina  
Department of  
Mental Health

# Mission



- The mission of the Deaf Services Program of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health is to assure that consumers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have appropriate access to the continuum of services offered by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health in the most cost-effective manner possible

# Past Experience



- 1989 - Settlement agreement:
  - SCDMH agreed to provide comprehensive accessible services statewide to Deaf consumers
- Pre-settlement costs:
  - Approximately \$1.3 million to serve 12 consumers in inpatient settings
  - Limited outpatient services provided by each mental health center individually
  - Average inpatient LOS for Deaf inpatients almost twice Hearing patients (160 days compared to 90 days)

# Present Performance

- 32 total positions across the state, with 20 positions filled, serving 301 consumers
- Statewide Coordination
  - Clinical Services
  - ASL Interpreter Services
- National model of excellence
  - CMHS and NASMHPD
- Inpatient LOS now less than hearing patients
  - 25 days compared to 28 days



# A Continuum of Services



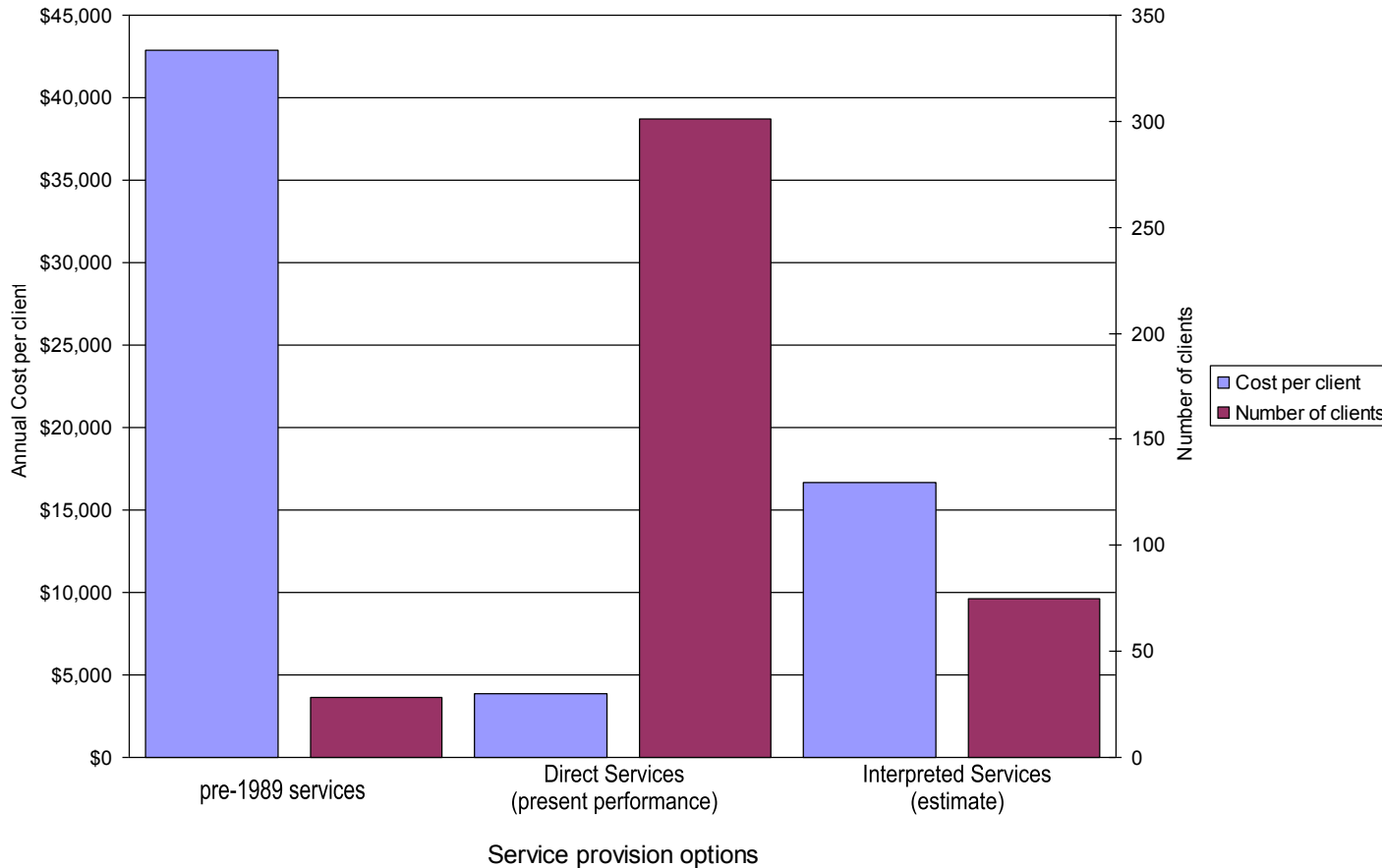
- Services available to consumers in their home community
  - Regional delivery of services allow for parity between rural and urban regions
  - Qualified supervision
  - Effective use of scarce resources
- Providing a full spectrum of services to adults
  - Individual, family and group counseling
  - Case management
  - Psychiatric coverage
  - Residential & Day programming
  - Inpatient services
- Providing outpatient and inpatient services to children

# Direct Services

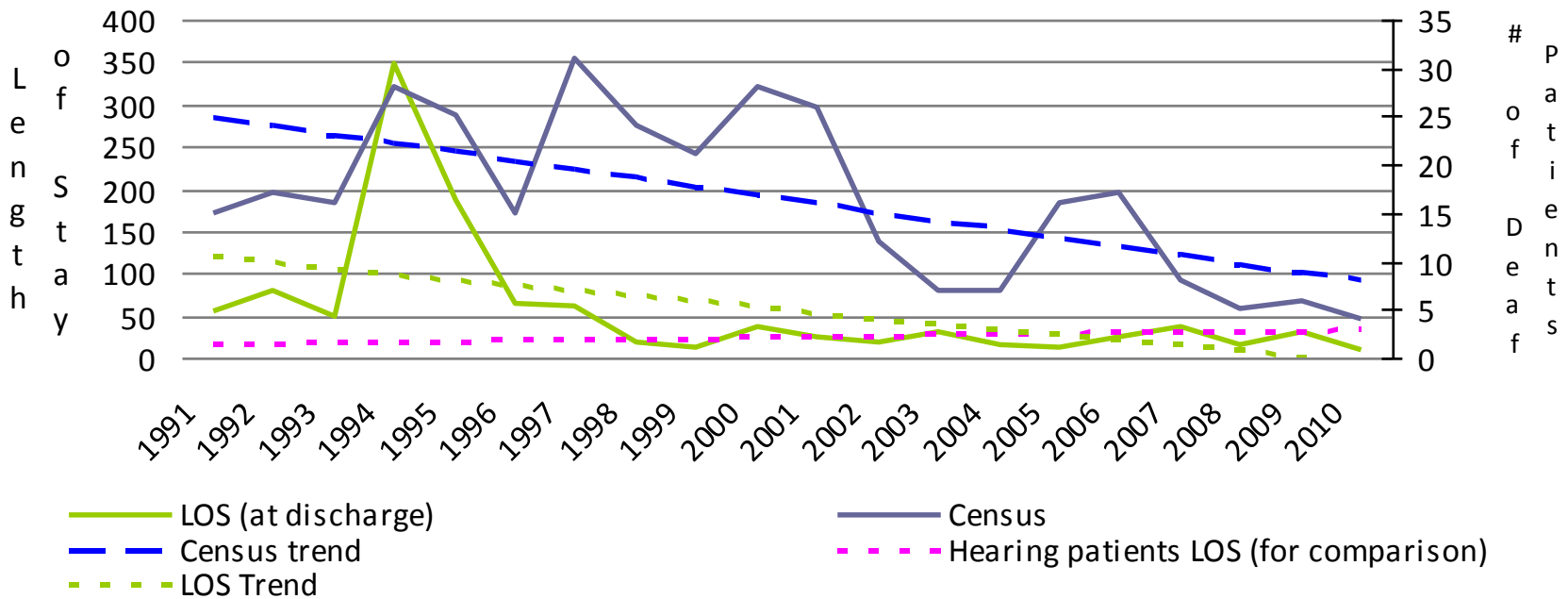


- Services provided directly to consumers in their own language
  - Identified as a strong consumer preference
  - As required by law and court decisions
- Effective use of technology
  - Videophone capacity between clients and staff
  - E-mail availability/24 hours crisis service
  - Electronic Medical Record

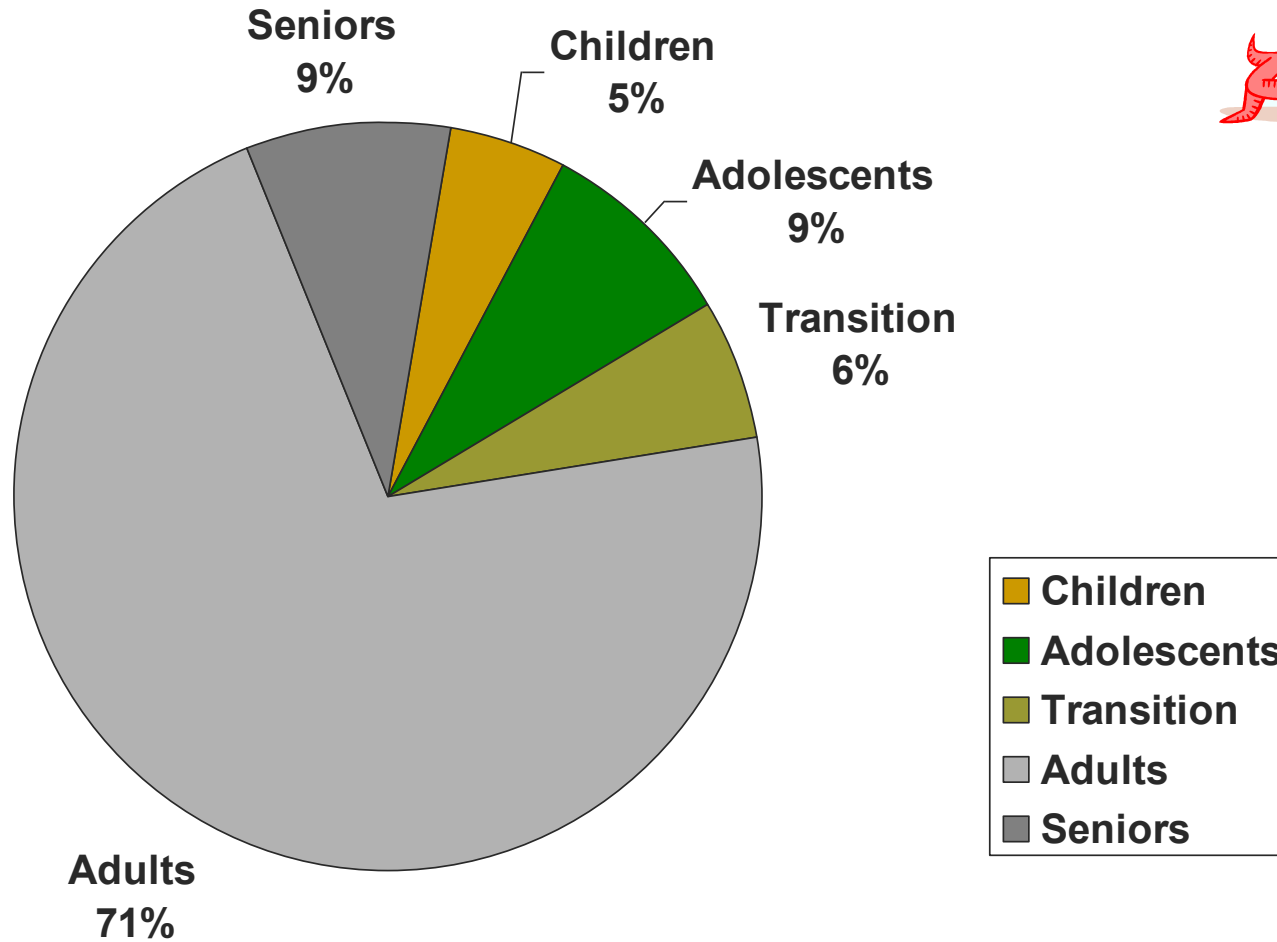
# Cost Effective Services



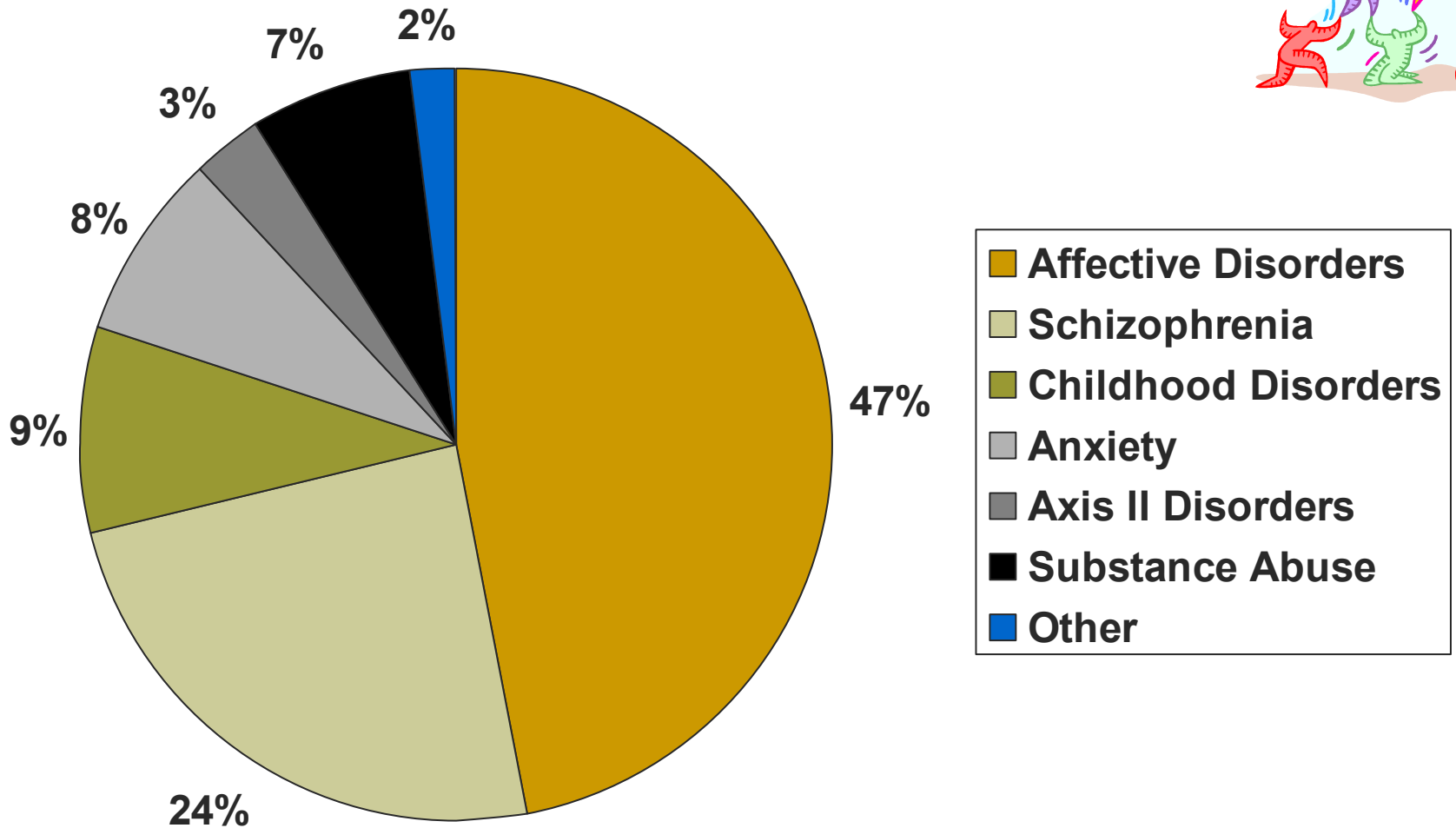
# Inpatient Census & LOS



# Ages We Serve



# Caseload by Diagnosis



# Current Deficits



- Staff vacancies in critical positions
  - Salaries are not competitive
- Limited treatment alternatives for deaf children
  - No accessible residential program
  - Few options in a continuum of care

# Future Vision



- Working relationship with VR and DAODAS
  - Exploring ways to enhance services to individuals with co-occurring disorders
  - Developing job coach services
- Exploring funding for non-SMI services
- Children's services
  - Continuum of services for children
    - Therapeutic residential alternatives
    - WRAP/Home based services
  - Closer relationships with parent groups