

Developing Documentation Standards and Guidelines for Academic Accommodations for Students with Mental Health Disabilities Attending Post-Secondary Institutions in Ontario



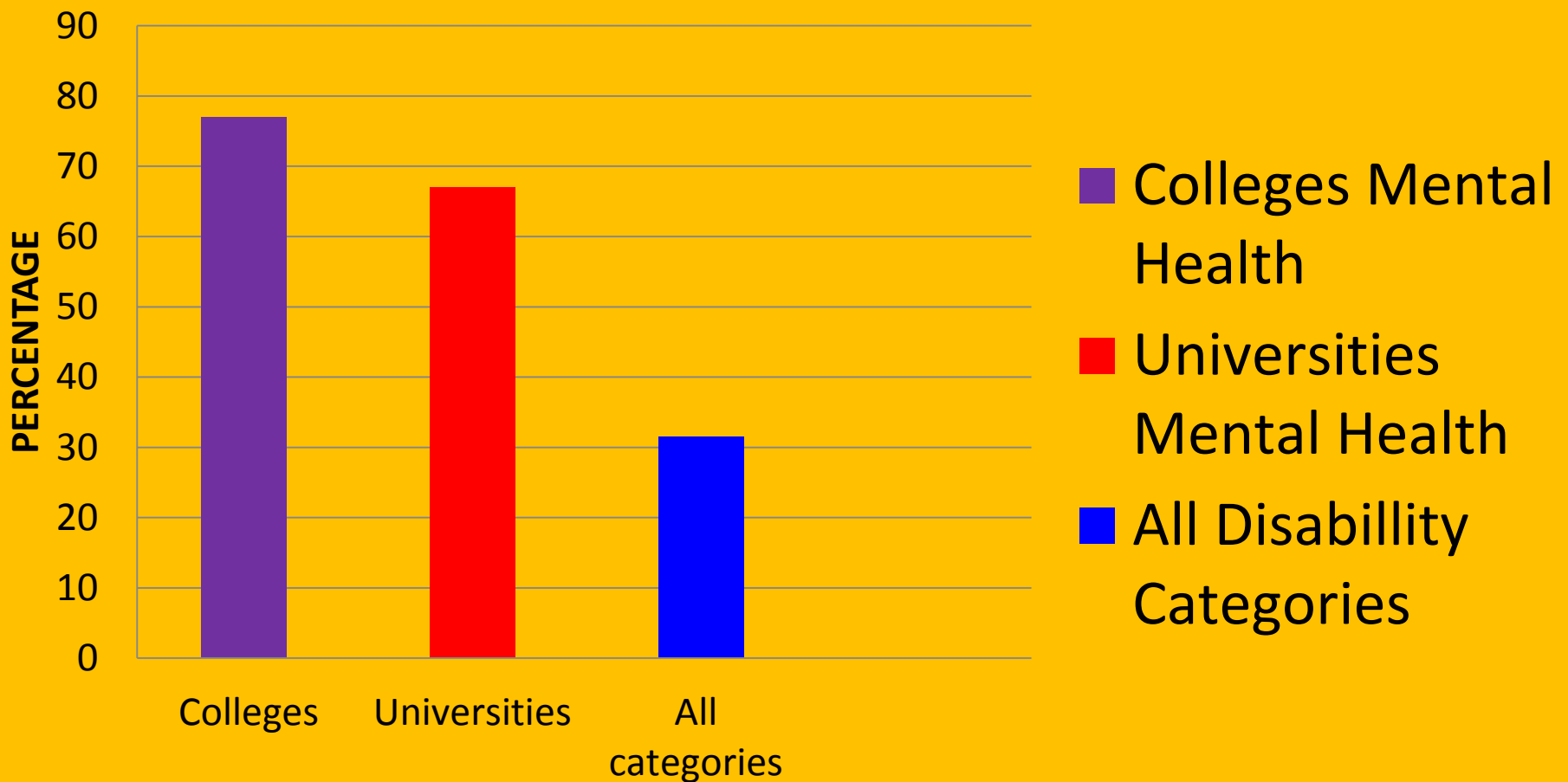
Funded by the Mental Health Innovation Fund
Ministry of Training , Colleges and Universities

Project Overview – 3 Year Funding

- Literature Review
- Visit best practice sites
- Environmental Scan
 - ❖ Focus Groups
 - ❖ On-line Survey
- Consultation
 - ❖ CCDI/IDIA
 - ❖ Ontario Human Rights Commission
 - ❖ Hicks Morley

Students with Mental Health Disabilities registered in Disability/Access Offices

PERCENTAGE INCREASE 2005-06 to 2010-11



Challenges: The Rationale for Project



- Increase in number of students
- Lack of consistency in postsecondary system
- Determination of “functional impact”
- Most equitable accommodations not always clear
- Best practices yet to be determined

Complexities

- Mental Health Problem vs. Disability
- Episodic symptoms
- Short-term fluctuations
 - » Medication changes
 - » Situational crises



Complexities

- First episode
- Time to diagnosis
- Documentation standards
- Permanent Disability” requirement?
- Behaviour versus Disorder



Project Outcomes

- Documentation standards and guidelines
- Training program on accommodating students with mental health problems/disabilities
- Website
- Resource handbook for students

Progress to Date

- Staffing
- Literature Review (living document)
- Instruments for environmental scan
 - Online survey
 - Focus group questions
- Ethics approval (underway)
- Site Visit
- Website www.supportcampusmentalhealth.ca

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