

### Access to mental health services

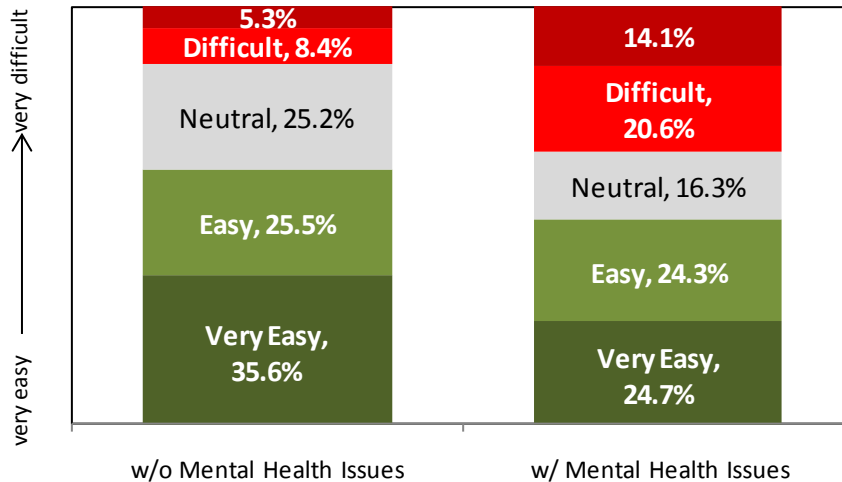
Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise Counties, Texas

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Our leaders and health care providers often express concern about the lack of mental health services. When CCHAPS asked parents, 61% said that mental health services are easy or very easy to access in our community and 13% said it was difficult or very difficult.

90% of parents report their child does not have mental health issues. The remaining 10%, or 61,000 children aged 0 – 14 years are the ones trying to use mental health services. 25% of that group describes their access to mental health services as difficult or very difficult.



#### CONCLUSIONS:

Mental health access ties directly to need. Those who need the services the most have the greatest problem getting those services. Almost 12% of the children with mental health issues – 7,000 children – are unable to access mental health services in our community.

Leaders and health care providers understand the challenge; but parents not directly affected by children's mental health issues need to be drawn into this discussion.

Source: CCHAPS 2008 at [www.cchaps.org](http://www.cchaps.org) accessed October 2009.

CCHAPS is a random household survey reporting responses from 7,439 families with a child aged 0 – 14

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