



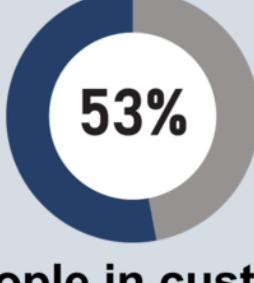
[An introduction to Behavioral Health, the Bench, and Beyond](#)

One need not search very hard to find an extensive amount of research supporting the overrepresentation of persons with serious mental illnesses (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUD) involved with the criminal justice system. Commonly cited statistics evidence approximately 20% of inmates in jails and 15% of inmates in state prisons are estimated to have a serious mental illness and nearly 68% of people in jail overall have a diagnosable substance use disorder.

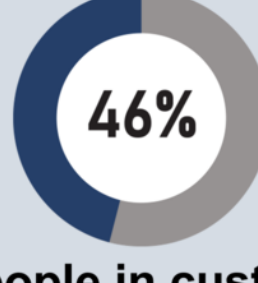
Substance Use Disorders are Overrepresented in Jails and Prisons



of people in custody in jails

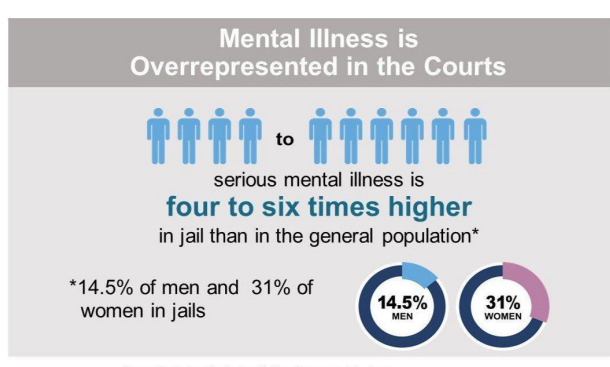


of people in custody in state prisons



of people in custody in federal prisons

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[Leading change through the Illinois Supreme Court Task Force](#)

In 2019, the State Justice Institute (SJI) funded a three-year project called the National Initiative to Improve the Justice System Response to Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Disorders. Based on the recognition and importance of the “initiative”, the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA) established the [National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts’ Response to Mental Illness](#) with a charge to “assist state courts in their efforts to more effectively respond to the needs of court-involved individuals with serious mental illness.”

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[Behavioral health news from the State and General Assembly.](#)

The State of Illinois and the General Assembly have been busy in the last few months, working to enhance the mental health and substance use treatment sectors in response to our society’s continued crisis.

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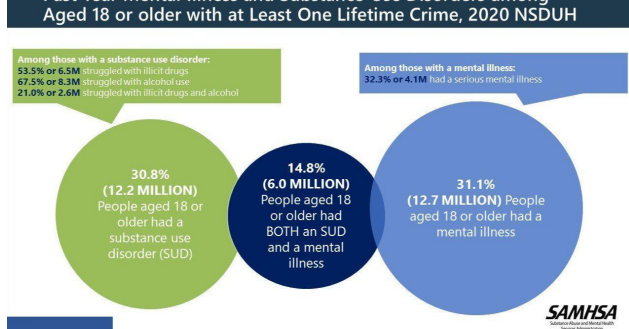
[The complicated path to expand Illinois’ behavioral health system of crisis care](#)

In 2020, Congress passed the [National Suicide Hotline Designation Act](#) designating 9-8-8 as the new dialing code for behavioral health emergencies, to be operated through the existing [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) (NSPL) network of local centers, to be effective July 2022. 988 calls in Illinois will be answered by Lifeline Call Centers (LCC) that must be staffed, trained, and monitored to assure compliance with federal standards and state contractual requirements.

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[Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning](#)

The Courts have long recognized their unique position at the vanguard of responding to societal issues, including the intersection of mental health and justice. In 2010, the Supreme Court created the 24-member Committee to advise on issues relating to mental health in the areas of (1) efficient use of available resources, (2) judicial education and training, (3) strategic planning, and (4) consideration of rule amendments.



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Coming soon

Did you know the Conference of Chief Justices and State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA) will be hosted by the Illinois Supreme Court this July? The Conference theme is Improving the State Court Response to Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Disorders and the Illinois’ experience will be highlighted during a session titled: “*The Illinois Experience: Bringing Compassion, Hope and Dollars to Its Communities and Courts*”

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Grant Opportunity for Circuit Courts

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) has secured Bureau of Justice Assistance, [Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program](#) (JMHCPC) funds to enhance cross-system collaborations that improve public health and safety responses and outcomes through partnerships with justice systems and behavioral health services.

The AOIC anticipates supporting a single circuit court applicant in each of the five [Regional Council and Resource Mapping Regions](#), in implementing a project that will improve outcomes for justice involved individuals by providing opportunities for intervention that result in linkage to mental health and co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health services.

Stay Tuned!

Coming this Fall in partnership with the Judicial College and Judicial Education Division:

Civil Mental Health Proceedings Training Series

This series will cover the Mental Health Code, Orders for Detention and Examination, Petitions/Certification, Involuntary Inpatient/Outpatient Admission, and Advance Directives through a multidisciplinary lens.

Content contributors and facilitators include members of the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning, Illinois Mental Health Task Force, and Various Justice Partners such as the Illinois State Bar Association’s Mental Health Law Section, Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, Chicago Bar Foundation, Health and Hospital Professionals, and individuals with lived experience.

For Judges currently interested in learning more about Involuntary Commitment Proceedings, please visit the [Illinois Supreme Court Judicial College’s Online Learning Management System](#) and search: Involuntary Commitment Hearings to access a previously recorded training facilitated by Fifth Appellate District Justice, Mark M. Boie and Cook County Circuit Judge, Maureen Ward Kirby.

Uniform Mental Health Orders adopted by the Supreme Court can also be found on the Supreme Court’s website by following this link: [Uniform Mental Health Orders | Office of the Illinois Courts](#)

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Criminal Justice Involvement

Criminal justice system (CJS) involvement has long been identified as a significant adverse outcome for many individuals living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Individuals with FASD are believed to be overrepresented within the CJS, and thus, there is growing interest in how to shape judicial responses, treatment, and policy to better address the needs of this population.

Content contributors and facilitators include Second Appellate District Justice, Joseph E. Birkett, and Illinois Mental Health Task Force Members.

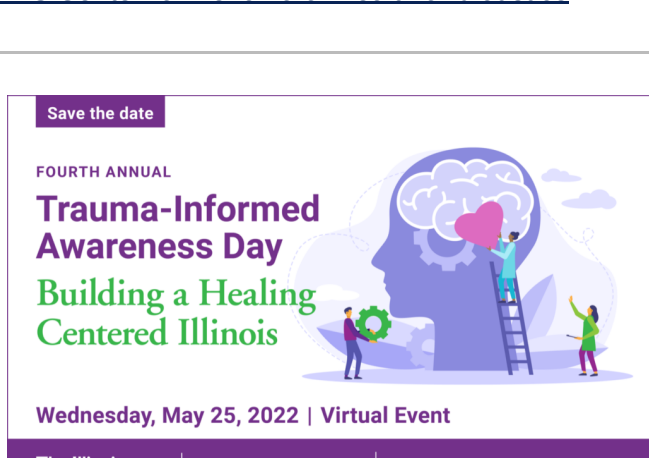
For more information on FASD visit: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohol-health/fetal-alcohol-exposure>

Coming Soon in partnership with the AOIC’s Probation Services Division:

How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses

Trauma-informed care is an approach used to engage people with histories of trauma. [Trauma-informed criminal justice responses](#) can help to avoid retraumatizing individuals and thereby increase safety for all, decrease recidivism, and promote and support recovery of justice-involved women and men. Partnerships across systems can also help to link individuals to trauma-informed services and treatment for trauma

Content Developed by [SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice](#)



Trauma-Informed Awareness Day

On Wednesday, May 25, 2022, the [Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative](#) at Health & Medicine Policy Research Group will host Illinois’ fourth annual Trauma-Informed Awareness Day.

First established by Illinois House and Senate resolutions in 2019, Trauma-Informed Awareness Day highlights the impact of trauma and the importance of prevention and resilience through trauma-informed, healing-centered care.

For more information or comments, please contact Scott Block,
Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator to the Illinois Courts, at sblock@illinoiscourts.gov

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