

# CARE NOT CORRECTIONS



**1.2 MILLION<sup>1</sup>**  
individuals living with mental illness sit in jail and prison each year.

Often their involvement with the criminal justice system begins with low-level offenses like jaywalking, disorderly conduct, or trespassing.



That means **more than half** of all Americans in prison or jail have a mental illness.<sup>2</sup>

## LESS ACCESS TO CARE = MORE INCARCERATION

Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama



had the **least** access to care and the **highest** rates of imprisonment.



There are over **57,000 people** with mental health conditions in prison and jail in those states alone—**that's enough to fill Madison Square Garden**



**3 times<sup>3</sup>**



## SOLUTION = SUPPORT PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



### Stop arresting people

True diversion (pre-arrest diversion) helps people find support, like peer-run crisis respite, so they never have to enter the criminal justice system.



### Invest in services

Access to supports and services should be offered in the community and keep people connected with friends, family, and work.



### Ensure Continuity of Care

Services shouldn't stop when we move systems. People should be able to maintain services through life transitions, including during and post-incarceration.



### Start early

Provide kids with supports and services that keep them in schools and out of the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

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**SOURCES**

- (1) U.S. Bureau of Justice, *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates*, September 2006.
- (2) U.S. Bureau of Justice, *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates*, September 2006.
- (3) The Sentencing Project, *State Rankings*, <http://www.sentencingproject.org/the-facts/rankings>