



THE OHIO PROJECT

ACKNOWLEDGING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

It is pervasive. It is persistent. It is in every Ohio county jail. It is in counties all across the nation. "It" is a fact of our criminal justice system and it is a public health crisis: More people with mental illnesses are sitting, untreated, in local jails than ever before.

Without the widescale involvement of county leaders, Ohioans with mental illnesses (including those with co-occurring substance use disorders) will continue to cycle in and out of our criminal justice system.

REDUCING JAIL INCARCERATION

Stepping Up is a national effort to break the cycle of jail being the de facto mental health hospital. Its goal is to affect positive change through strong community and statewide partnerships, so that people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders get connected with the help they need.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Across the nation and in Ohio, jails have become a revolving door for people with mental illnesses. There are a lot of factors that have played into it, one of which is the long-ago closure of state-run institutions for those with severe mental illnesses. Discharged into the community, these patients put a strain on the already underfunded and ill-equipped community services.

OHIO QUICK FACTS

30% of Ohio's inmates have mental illnesses

78 county jails (all of them) serve, in some capacity, as inpatient psych facilities

\$41.7+ MILLION spent on mental health care and medications for Ohio's mentally ill inmates

NATIONAL NUMBERS

2 MILLION people with serious mental illnesses are admitted to jails each year

75% have co-occurring substance use disorders

2X-3X more taxpayer money is spent on incarcerated adults with mental illnesses who require intervention

WANT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE?



OHIO IS ADDING TO THE INITIATIVE
WITH STEPPING UP OHIO