



# Serious Mental Illness

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ESTABLISHING A BASELINE MEASURE IN THE JAIL

9/16/22

# Defining Serious Mental Illness

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- SAMHSA definition used in

## Familiar Faces Report

Refers to individuals 18 or older, who currently or at any time during the past year have had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified in the current diagnostic manual of the APA and that has resulted in functional impairment, that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. Serious mental illnesses include mood disorders such as major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder, and major psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, and other mental disorders that cause serious impairment. *Note:* Impairment resulting from a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder does not qualify a person as having a serious mental illness. Major life activities include basic living skills (e.g. eating, bathing, dressing); instrumental living skills (e.g. maintaining a household, managing money, getting around the community, taking prescribed medication); and functioning in social, family and vocational/educational contexts.

- State statute definition

“Serious and persistent mental illness” means a mental illness that is severe in degree and persistent in duration, that causes a substantially diminished level of functioning in the primary aspects of daily living and an inability to cope with the ordinary demands of life, that may lead to an inability to maintain stable adjustment and independent functioning without long-term treatment and support, and that may be of lifelong duration. “Serious and persistent mental illness” includes schizophrenia as well as a wide spectrum of psychotic and other severely disabling psychiatric diagnostic categories, but does not include degenerative brain disorder or a primary diagnosis of a developmental disability or of alcohol or drug dependence.”

# Common themes in SMI definitions

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## WHAT IT IS

- Problem that interferes with daily life
- Schizophrenia
- Major depression
- Bipolar disorder

## WHAT IT ISN'T

- AODA addiction or withdrawal
- Anxiety
- PTSD

# Data available

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- Initially considered the Brief Jail Mental Health Screener (Piloted by DCSO at the request of CJC-Behavioral Health)
- Jail health care provider has a fuller picture and more comprehensive data

# Initial results, 2019

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- **5-10% of the jail has SMI**
- **3 of 20 most Familiar Faces had SMI**
- No racial differences
- SMI group was a little more likely to be female, and non-Hispanic than non-SMI group

# Next steps

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- Get additional years of data—we are at step 1.
- Engage national expert on goal-setting
- Report back to CJC –Behavioral Health subcommittee
- Report to the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) in early 2023.