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Data Download



Mentally Ill Offenders in Community-Based Corrections

In last month's *Data Download*, we reported that a "first-ever survey of mental illness among CBC offenders has been conducted, and prevalence estimates will be available soon." Those estimates have been finalized and are as follows:

1. **Probation & Parole Population** - 26.9% of offenders under field supervision are in need of mental health treatment. This is further broken down as follows:
 - 8.6% co-occurring disorders. Of those, 64.4% are receiving mental health care or treatment.
 - 18.3% other mentally ill. Of those, 63.2% are receiving mental health care or treatment.
2. **Residential Population** - 42.6% of offenders in residential facilities are in need of mental health treatment. This is further broken down as follows:
 - 14.3% co-occurring disorders. Of those, 56.5% are receiving mental health care or treatment.
 - 28.4% other mentally ill. Of those, 60.9% are receiving mental health care or treatment.

In comparison, about 40% of Iowa's prison population is assessed as being mentally ill. This is further broken down as follows:

- 15% co-occurring disorders.
- 25% other mentally ill.

Of those CBC offenders diagnosed with a mental illness, depression (43.4%) is the most prevalent diagnosis, followed by anxiety/panic disorders (21.7%), bi-polar disorder (10.9%), and post-traumatic stress disorder (7.2%).

As you can see, mental illness significantly affects not only the prison population, but offenders under CBC supervision as well. In addition, a sizeable proportion of offenders with a mental illness diagnosis are not receiving treatment or care. A DOC focus group was formed last year to develop effective intervention strategies for CBC offenders. Their first step was to identify those in need of mental health care or treatment. That has been done. The next step is to determine available publicly-funded mental health services by county and CBC district in order to identify gaps in services. Another survey to do just that is near completion. When finalized, we will share with you those results.