

FACT SHEET – PRISONS AND MENTAL HEALTH

<p><u>What is MENTAL HEALTH?</u></p> <p>Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community. Mental health is the foundation for individual well-being and the effective functioning of a community. (WHO - http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs20/en/)</p> <p><u>Who covers mental health services in prisons?</u></p> <p>Federal and provincial offenders are NOT covered through the Canada Health Act, Health Canada or any provincial/territorial health agencies.</p> <p>Corrections Services Canada (CSC) has the sole responsibility to provide health services of all kinds to federal inmates.</p> <p><u>How does CSC assist offenders with mental disorders (OMD's)</u></p> <p>In 2004, the CSC launched its “Mental Health Strategy”, albeit without an official and formal document, this would seem to be a strategy in progress.</p> <p><i>CSC identifies 5 key components:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mental Health Screening at intake (Computerized Mental Health Screening System (CoMHISS)) 2) Primary Mental Health care 3) Intermediate Mental Health care (unfunded) 4) Intensive care at Regional Treatment Centres (5 across Canada) 5) Transitional care for release into community 	<p><u>Mental Health and Prisons</u></p> <p>11% of federal offenders had a mental health diagnosis; 21.3% had prescribed psychiatric medication; 14.5% of male offenders had a past psychiatric hospitalization (<i>all 2009</i>) http://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/rpt/oth-aut/oth-aut20100923-eng.aspx</p> <p>CoMHISS results showed between 24-38% of a sample of 1,370 male offenders admitted over 16 months required further assessment http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rsrch/smmrs/rg/rg-r218/docs/rg-r218-eng.pdf</p> <p>There is a clear and strong link between mental health disorders and substance abuse although definitive research is lacking to date.</p> <p><u>Mental Health and the Provincial Justice Systems</u> Some provinces (but not Alberta) have introduced Mental Health Courts to offer alternative approaches for offenders http://www.mentalhealthcourt.ca/pages/2/Overview.htm</p> <p><u>What does the JHS offer clients?</u></p> <p>Anger Management Course (Edmonton) Satellite House (Edmonton) Horizon House (Red Deer)</p>
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