

“Helping Texas Families and Saving Taxpayer Dollars”

– National Alliance on Mental Illness of Texas (NAMI Texas)

Helping Texas families through community mental health services saves taxpayer dollars. Untreated Texans with serious mental illness get caught in an expensive revolving door of hospitalization, homelessness and the criminal justice system.¹

Economist Ray Perryman says “the state’s investment in funding for treatment of mental health and substance abuse disorders more than pays for itself in reduced costs and increased revenues and produces excellent returns on the commitment of public resources.”

He reports that 26% of adult Americans, or over 4 million Texans, have a diagnosable mental illness, and that Texas spent \$36 per capita in ‘05 on mental health, compared to a \$100 national average. His analysis shows that funding mental health services at the national average would stimulate Texas economic activity – for every \$1 spent, Texas would see a return of \$23.²

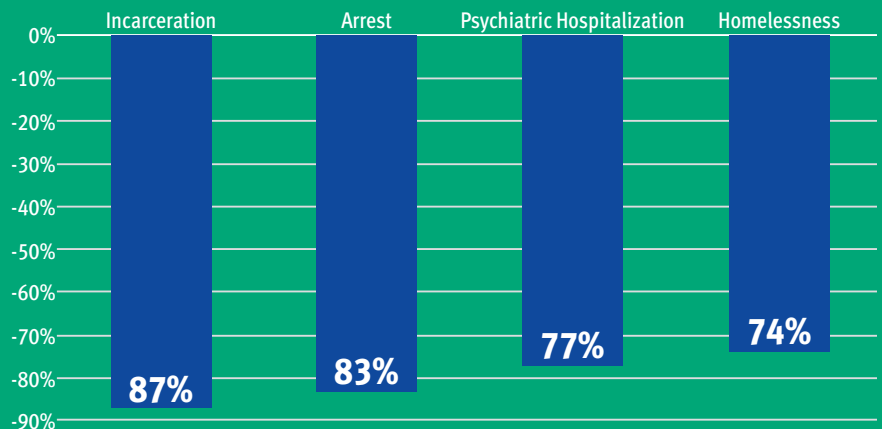
More Texans with mental illness are in jails and prisons than hospitals, and it costs more³

- Nearly 8 times more Texans with serious mental illness are in jails and prisons than in hospitals. Nationally those odds are 3 to 1.
- Texans in prison with mental illness cost \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year compared to \$22,000 for those without mental illness.
- Bexar County spends 5 times more per day for inmates with mental illness – \$250 versus \$50 for those without mental illness.⁴
- Harris County Jail’s cost for inmates with mental illness reached \$87 million in 2008.⁵
- El Paso County jails treat more than 40% of inmates with psychotropic medications.⁶
- People with mental illness stay in jail and prison 2 to 5 times longer.⁷
- Texans in prison are 4 times more likely to have a serious mental illness than Texans in the general public. More than half have a co-occurring substance use disorder.⁸
- 1 in 3 Texans with serious mental illness will be re-incarcerated within 3 years.⁹

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) a dramatic success in New York state:¹⁰

- Incarcerations dropped **87%**
- Arrests dropped **83%**
- Hospitalizations dropped **77%**
- Homelessness dropped **74%**

Treatment Stops Costly Cycle



Texas solutions have proven results, too, saving lives and taxpayers’ dollars

- Bexar County’s diversion programs for people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders are a national model, saving \$6.6 million annually.¹¹
- The Houston Police Department has received international acclaim for a community mental health initiative estimated to save \$2 million over 3 years.¹²

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- 1 Baillargeon, Jacques, Ingrid A. Binswanger, Owen J. Murray, Joseph V. Penn, and Brie A. Williams. (2008). “Psychiatric Disorders and Repeat Incarcerations: The Revolving Prison Door,” American Journal of Psychiatry, December 2008.
- 2 Perryman, Ray. (2009). “Costs, Consequences, and Cures!!! An Assessment of the Impact of Severe Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders on Business Activity in Texas and the Anticipated Economic and Fiscal Return on Investment in Expanded Mental Health Services,” The Perryman Group, May 2009.
- 3 Treatment Advocacy Center and National Sheriffs’ Association. (2010). “More Mentally Ill Persons Are in Jails and Prisons Than Hospitals: A Survey of the States,” May 2010.
- 4 Evans, Leon. (2010). President/Chief Executive Officer, The Center for Health Care Services (A Behavioral Mental Health Authority), San Antonio, September 2010.
- 5 Treatment Advocacy Center and National Sheriffs’ Association. (2010). “More Mentally Ill Persons Are in Jails and Prisons Than Hospitals: A Survey of the States,” May 2010.
- 6 El Paso County Sheriff’s Office. (2010). Averages from January through June 2010.
- 7 Treatment Advocacy Center and National Sheriffs’ Association. (2010). “More Mentally Ill Persons Are in Jails and Prisons Than Hospitals: A Survey of the States,” May 2010.
- 8 Baillargeon, Jacques, Ingrid A. Binswanger, Owen J. Murray, Joseph V. Penn, and Brie A. Williams. (2008). “Psychiatric Disorders and Repeat Incarcerations: The Revolving Prison Door,” American Journal of Psychiatry, December 2008.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 New York State Office of Mental Health. (2005). “Final Kendra’s Law: Final Report on the Status of Assisted Outpatient Treatment,” findings based on five years of data and published in March 2005.
www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/kendra_web/finalreport/lt_findings.htm
- 11 National Association of Counties. (2010). “Crisis Care Services for Counties: Preventing Individuals with Mental Illnesses from Entering Local Corrections Systems,” June 2010.
- 12 Houston Police Department selected for Community Policing Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). (2010). For its Chronic Stabilization Initiative, Support Services Command, Mental Health Unit, Pilot Project Final Report, February 2010; and Addendum.