



# *Mental Health* **FACTS IN BRIEF**

## **NATIONAL JUDICIAL TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE STATE COURTS' RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS**

*Mental Health Facts in Brief* are designed to orient judges and court professionals to mental health topics. The briefs are presented from a clinical and research perspective with a focus on significant psychiatric issues and how they relate to the courts.

### **Violence and Mental Illness Myths and Reality**

An overview of the over-emphasized relationship between mental illness and violence that can result in liberty restrictions and further stigmatize a population of people who may be better served in a treatment setting.

### **Trauma and Its Implication for Justice Systems**

An overview of how a trauma history may relate to individual justice involvement and implications of trauma awareness for the justice system.

### **The Psychiatric Care Continuum**

The range of psychiatric services that may be relevant when serving justice-involved individuals.

### **Treatment Considerations in Correctional Settings**

Distinctions between true therapeutic settings and the realities of jail mental health care and their related clinical outcomes, and alternatives to correctional settings for individuals who enter the criminal justice system as a result of unaddressed mental health conditions.

### **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Community-Based Civil Commitment**

Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) is a form of civil commitment that authorizes the judicial system to commit eligible individuals with severe psychiatric disorders to mental health intervention in the community.

### **Connecting Care for Better Outcomes**

The significance of continuity of care for individuals moving among health, homelessness, criminal justice, and other systems, and considerations for improving handoffs that may produce beneficial individual and public outcomes.

### **Social Determinants of Health and Mental Health**

An overview of the role of social determinants in propelling people toward poorer outcomes, including criminal justice system involvement. Strategies are presented for recognizing and considering determinants to mitigate risks and improve life trajectories.

### **Co-Occurring Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders (CODs)**

The history and issues presented by co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders and the strategies courts can use to address them.