

# Week 7 Overview: In Custody with a Mental Disorder

Welcome to week seven. We discuss how politics are intertwined with the way we treat people with mental illness in jail and prison. People with mental illness deserve help and are currently overrepresented in our nation's jails and prisons (NAMI, 2022). About two in five people who are incarcerated have a history of mental illness (37% in state and federal prisons and 44% held in local jails) (NAMI, 2022). This is twice the prevalence of mental illness within the overall adult population.

Courts mandate access to treatment, but this is certainly an area we are lacking in. About three in five people (63%) with a history of mental illness do not receive mental health treatment while incarcerated in state and federal prisons (NAMI, 2022). This week you will read chapter seven in your OER and we will explore fascinating programs occurring to help with mental health and prisoner re-entry. I think this is a great time for you to think about possible programs you are interested in studying!

This week our learning objectives will be the following:

- Describe the purpose of jail and its multiple systems, including evaluations and screenings, housing, victimization, population management, and suicide prevention
- Describe the purpose of prison programs and analyze current prison curriculums for effectiveness
- Explain the role of therapeutic communities within in-custody programs