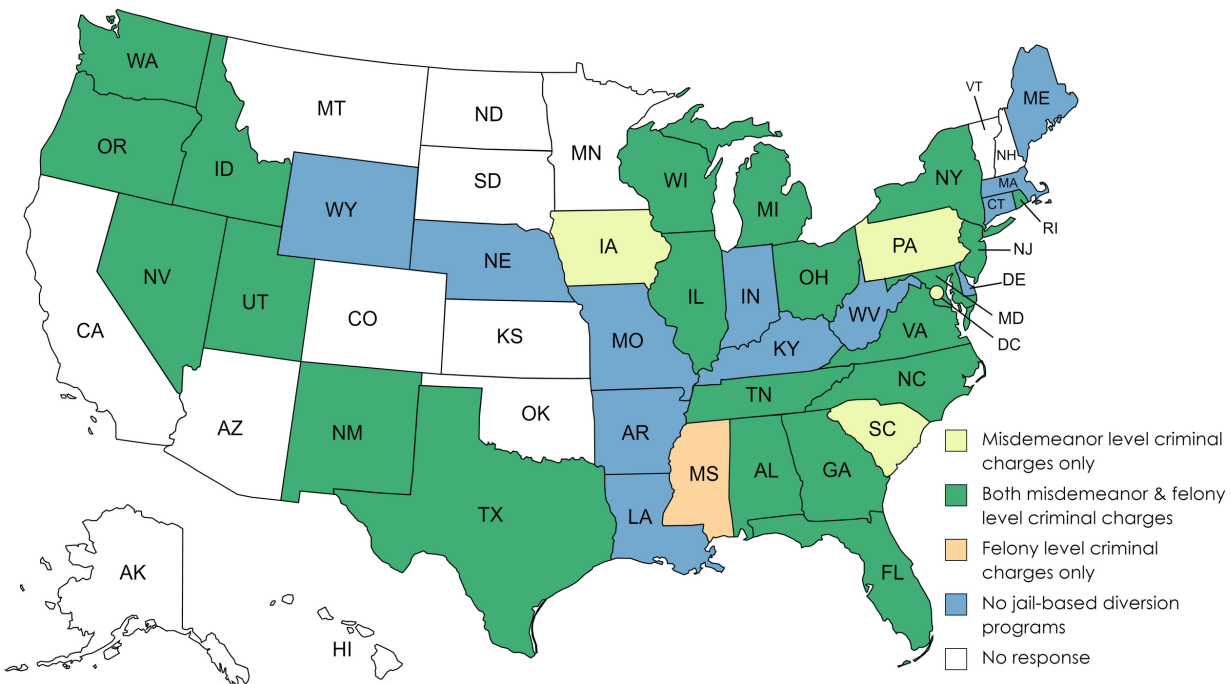


SMHA Criminal Justice Diversion Programs for Justice-Involved Adults with Mental Illnesses

Jail-Based Diversion Programs, by Type of Criminal Charges



Mental Health Courts

In 36 states, SMHAs work with mental health courts to divert individuals charged with crimes from the criminal justice system into mental health treatment. In 27 states, the mental health courts have jurisdiction over individuals with mental illnesses who are charged with either misdemeanor or felony offense. In eight states, mental health courts are available for individuals charged with misdemeanors only. One state has mental health courts that focus on felony cases. States vary with respect to the number of their counties or cities that have a mental health court. SMHAs in 15 states have dedicated funding devoted to services for individuals with mental illnesses involved at a mental health court.

Reentry Programs

Thirty (31) SMHAs reported reentry programs for individuals returning to the community from jail or prison. For example:

- In Connecticut, the SMHA provides pre-release engagement and independent living skills in prison, as well as supportive and transitional housing after release for mental health and substance use.
- In Kentucky, the SMHA, the Department of Corrections (DOC), and Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) have partnered to support the provision of in-reach and community reentry services for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and/or co-occurring SMI and opioid use disorder who are released from prison. Services include direct access to mental health and substance use services at CMHCs, warm handoffs to housing and recovery supports, and reinstatement/initiation of benefits (Medicaid or other public assistance). DOC's Division of Reentry Services can also connect these individuals with employment supports and free identification cards upon release.
- In North Carolina, the SMHA has a partnership with the State Reentry Council Collaboration, which works to improve reentry through the coordination of local efforts; the state-level coordination includes a plan for behavioral health services across the justice system through local sequential intercept mapping plans and projects.

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- In Oklahoma, the SMHA and DOC have implemented Reentry Intensive Care Coordination Teams (RICCT). RICCT teams are designed to transition individuals with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders from prisons to mental health and substance use disorder services, as well as to link these individuals to community related housing, medical care, vocational opportunities, and various community resources.
- In Washington, the Health Care Authority (HCA), in partnership with the DOC, administers the Offender Reentry Community Safety Program that provides reentry services to individuals with mental health conditions exiting DOC. HCA funds contracts with community behavioral health agencies to provide intensive case management, housing support, and other client services to these qualifying participants.

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