

# Grading the States

## NAMI's Report to the Nation on State Public Mental Health Service Systems

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# What is NAMI?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness

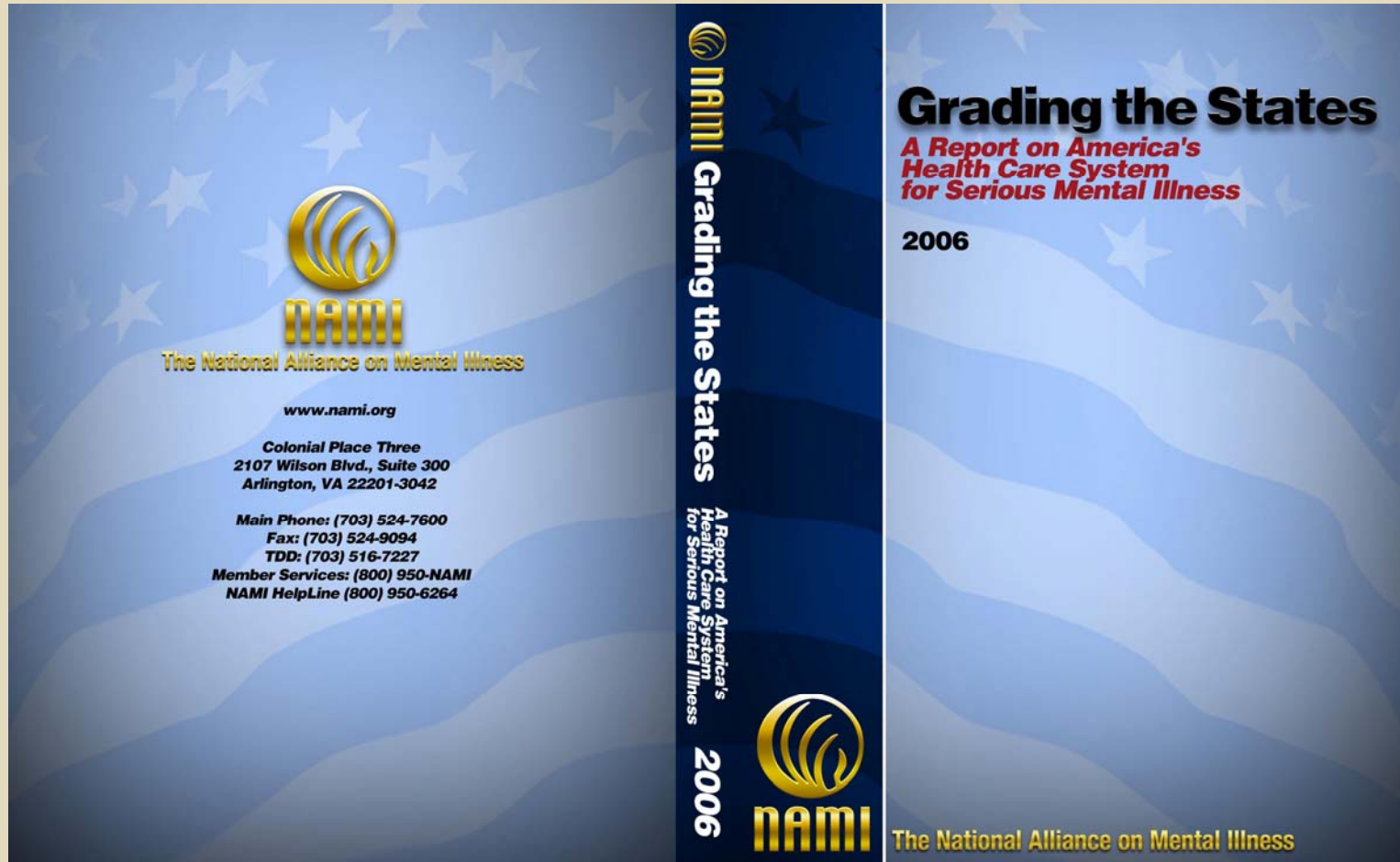
# Who is NAMI?

- Members of NAMI are families, friends, and people living with mental illness
- NAMI has over 1100 affiliates in local communities across the country and 52 state organizations (with DC & Puerto Rico)
- Along with the national office, NAMI engages in support, education, advocacy, and research

# Assessing State Systems NAMI's History

1986, 1988, 1990 editions of  
Care of the Seriously Mentally Ill:  
A Rating of State Programs

... and in 2006,  
Grading the States



# Grading the States 2006

## Overview

- Released March 1, 2006
- Scorecard explaining state's grade
- State narrative with history/context
- Chapters on state-level innovations, national trends, policy recommendations
- Full report at [www.nami.org/grades](http://www.nami.org/grades)

# Grading the States 2006

## Purpose

- Increase transparency/accountability
- Educate the public (and support learning across states)
- Move transformation agenda from rhetoric to reality
- Support state-specific action agendas
- Create baseline for future performance measures
- Put consumers/families at the heart of reform efforts

# Grading the States 2006

## Findings - The Grades

**National average is a D**

- B 5 states
- C 17 states
- D 19 states
- F 8 states
- U 2 states



# Grading the States 2006

## Findings - Positive Trends

- Greater focus on evidence-based and promising practices
- Consumers and families more involved in service design and delivery
- Strong linkages with (and even leadership from) partners such as law enforcement, ER docs, etc
- Pockets of innovation in virtually every state, even those receiving an "F"

# Grading the States 2006

## Findings - Negative Trends

- Budget cuts or flat funding
- Changes to Medicaid (e.g. restricted eligibility, cost-sharing)
- Inpatient bed shortages, esp. for acute-care
- Cost shifting to other systems (e.g. criminal justice, emergency systems, homeless services)
- Long waiting lists for housing and other vital community services

# Grading the States 2006

## Methodology

Scorecard based on 39 criteria (data points)  
from 4 sources:

- Survey of state mental health agencies
- Public information sources
- Interviews with consumers, families, etc.
- Consumer/Family Test Drive

# Grading the States 2006

## Methodology (cont.)

Criteria fall into four domains:

- Infrastructure (8 criteria) 18%
  - Information access (4 criteria) 16%
  - Services (18 criteria) 44%
  - Recovery supports (9 criteria) 22%
- [100%]

# Grading the States 2006

## Methodology (cont.)

### Consumer-Family Test Drive

- Test of information accessibility across ten basic items (e.g., help finding treatment providers, supported housing, applying for Medicaid)
- Consumers and families contacted SMHAs by phone and searched their websites to see how easily this information could be obtained

# Grading the States **2008**

## Additional Goals

- Assess nation's public mental health system (ongoing)
  - Has the national "D" grade improved?
- Compare states' performance in 2006 vs. 2008
- Provide NAMI members and others with up-to-date information, advocacy, and communications tools

# Grading the States 2008

## Challenges/Hopes

- Refine grading/scoring methodology
- Identify additional secondary data sources (administrative data, population survey data)
- Maintain some consistency with 2006 measures (for comparability etc.)
- Obtain methodological input from national experts and other stakeholders
- Pave the way for future rounds of GTS (streamline measures; consumer outcomes)

# Grading the States 2008

## Timetable

- Study design/data collection plan - early 2008
- Data collection/analysis - mid-2008
- Draft report - mid-late 2008
- Final report/dissemination materials - late 2008
- Release date - late 2008/early 2009

# Grading the States 2008

## Guidance from You

- Measures we should include in the grade
- Other information for education/context
- **Data Sources**
- Lessons learned from GTS-06
- Hopes for GTS-08
- Thoughts for future rounds of GTS

# NAMI

The Nation's Largest  
Consumer and Family Advocacy Organization

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