



Mental Health and Corrections A Canadian Lens

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The Context

Prevalence of Mental Health in Corrections

- 36% of federal offenders were identified at admission as requiring psychiatric or psychological follow-up, and 45% of male inmates and 69% of female inmates received institutional mental health care services (Sapers & Zinger, 2012).
- Between 1997 and 2010, symptoms of serious mental illness reported by federal offenders at admission increased by 61% for males and 71% for females (Sorenson, 2010).

• **WHAT MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO HANDLE THIS MASSIVE INCREASE?**

The Criminalization of People with Mental Illness

- Without access to supports and services, some people with mental illness may commit crimes or behave in ways that draw police attention
- Not Criminally Responsible offenders
- Offenders with mental illness are extremely vulnerable in the federal and provincial corrections systems. These individuals report feeling unsafe and frequently being the victims of intimidation and violence by other offenders (Sorenson, 2010) and correctional staff (SSO, 2012)

Working in Silos



- Who is funding Mental Health in our institutions and in our community at release?

Change in Government

Provincial Government

Federal Government



Bill C10- 2011- Mandatory Minimum
Bill S208- 2013 - MHCC - Justice

Case Examples

Provincial Jail

Federal Facility for MH



Institution vs Community Mental Health Care

Challenges and Opportunities



- 2016 – Patients First(MOHLTC)
- 2015 – Moving Forward (Leadership Council for MOHLTC)
- 2011- Open Minds, Healthy Minds (MOHLTC)
- 2009- Toward Recovery and Wellbeing (MHCC)
- 2009 – MH Strategy for Corrections in Canada

Justice VS Health



Where do we go from Here

- Recommendations from Independent Consultant or Correctional Investigator for Canada
- Align resources to have a more powerful impact on Health Policy makers
- Strategically build a diversified association to meet with provincial and federal policy makers to influence decisions
- Federal, Provincial and Municipal discussions to ensure that the population we serve has equal access to healthcare
