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## **NEW STUDY RELEASED ON PREVALENCE OF SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS AMONG JAIL INMATES**

The lead article in the June issue of *Psychiatric Services* by Henry J. Steadman, PhD and colleagues found that **14.5% of male and 31.0% of female inmates recently admitted to jail have a serious mental illness.**

The study was conducted by Dr. Steadman, Dr. Fred Osher, Pamela Clark Robbins, Brian Case, and Dr. Steven Samuels. All authors are affiliated with Policy Research Associates, Inc., except for Dr. Osher of the Council of State Governments Justice Center. The study was partially funded by the Justice Center.

The authors analyzed data collected from two time periods at multiple jails to calculate the prevalence of mental illness. Selection of inmates for clinical interviews was based on systematic sampling of data from a brief screen for symptoms of mental illness that was administered at admission for all inmates as part of earlier research by the authors. The screen was administered to 11,168 inmates during the first phase of data collection and 10,240 inmates during the second phase. A diagnostic interview protocol was administered to a total sample of 822 inmates and weighting procedures were applied to generate the prevalence estimates.

These findings confirm what jail administrators already know – a substantial proportion of inmates entering jails have a serious mental illness and women have rates two times those of men.

- The article is available from *Psychiatric Services*:  
<http://ps.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/abstract/60/6/761>
- View resources developed by the CMHS National GAINS Center on mental health/criminal justice interventions such as *Practical Advice on Jail Diversion*, *Screening and Assessment of Co-Occurring Disorders in the Justice System*, and *Working with People in the Criminal Justice System: What Mental Health Service Providers Needs to Know*: <http://www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov/html/resources/publications.asp>
- View the services available through Policy Research Associates to improve your community's response to justice-involved people with serious mental illness:  
<http://www.prainc.com>
- View the brief prepared by the Council of State Governments Justice Center:  
<http://consensusproject.org/updates/features/prevannouncement>