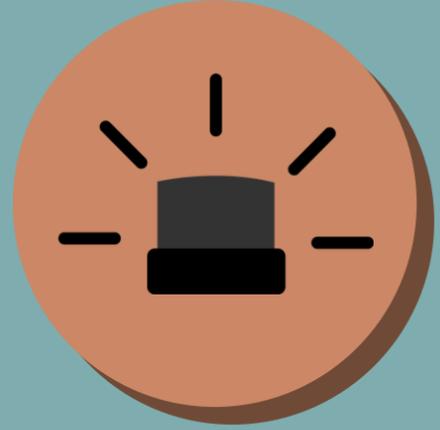


# FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Individuals experiencing **first episode psychosis** may come into contact with the criminal justice system, particularly law enforcement and local jails, as a result of behavior associated with psychotic symptoms. Law enforcement agencies and jails can assist individuals experiencing first episode psychosis by connecting them with community-based behavioral health services.

## CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Often, individuals entering the criminal justice system experiencing first episode psychosis have received no prior treatment. This provides a unique opportunity for law enforcement and jails to connect people with symptoms of a mental disorder to behavioral health care.

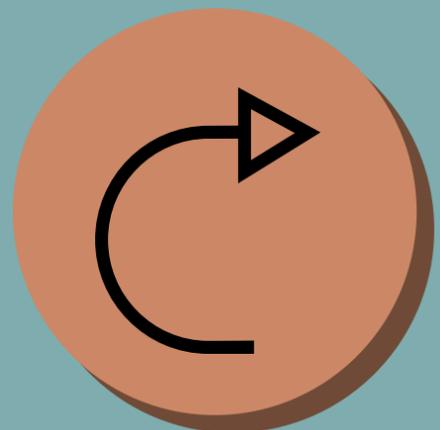


## IDENTIFICATION

For individuals with first episode psychosis who come into contact with the criminal justice system, identification of behavioral health needs is key. Through training, law enforcement can learn to identify the signs of psychosis, and, if in a jail setting, individuals should undergo a thorough screening process to identify behavioral health needs.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT HAND-OFF TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

Law enforcement officers who are trained to respond to people displaying symptoms of mental disorders should work with mobile crisis outreach teams and co-responders to resolve an encounter. Relationships with behavioral health providers are key to connecting individuals with community-based behavioral health services.



## TRANSITION PLANNING

Transition planning and preparing for a warm hand-off from the jail to a behavioral health provider is of paramount importance. Behavioral health providers that reach into the jail to prepare inmates for reentry can improve engagement with treatment following incarceration, including for pretrial inmates who may be released from jail after a few days.

## TREATMENT OPTIONS

Early treatment of first episode psychosis increases the likelihood of successful recovery. Effective treatment models include:

- Individual therapy
- Family therapy
- Medication management
- Case management
- Supported education or employment
- Peer support

