



FAST FACTS – VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Mental Illness and Children

- The U.S. Surgeon General reports that 10 percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. suffer from serious emotional and mental disorders, which cause significant functional impairment in their day-to-day lives at home, in school and with peers.
- *National Alliance on Mental Illness, "What is Mental Health Illness? Mental Illness Facts"*
- Fifty percent of children and youth in the child welfare system have mental health problems.
- *National Center for Children in Poverty, "Children's Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers," 2006*
- Seventy-five to 80 percent of children and youth who are in need of mental health services do not receive them.
- *National Center for Children in Poverty, "Children's Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers," 2006*
- Seventy-nine percent of children with private health insurance and 73 percent with public health insurance have unmet mental health needs.
- *National Center for Children in Poverty, "Children's Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers," 2006*

Mental Illness and Homelessness

- An estimated 5.2 million adults have co-occurring mental health and addiction disorders. Of adults using homeless services, 31 percent reported having a combination of these conditions.
- *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "National Outcome Measures for Co-occurring Disorders," 2005*
- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 20-25 percent of the homeless population in the United States suffers from some form of mental illness. However, only six percent of Americans are severely mentally ill.
- *National Coalition for the Homeless, "Mental Illness and Homelessness," July 2009*
- A study by California's public mental health system found that 15 percent of people with serious mental illnesses were homeless at least once in a one-year period.
- *National Coalition for the Homeless, "Mental Illness and Homelessness," July 2009*

Mental Illness and Minorities

- Only 13 percent of children from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds receive mental health services, compared to 31 percent of Caucasian children who receive mental health services.
- *National Center for Children in Poverty, "Children's Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers," 2006*
- Eighty-eight percent of Latino children have unmet mental health needs.
- *National Center for Children in Poverty, "Children's Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers," 2006*

Mental Illness and Prisoners

- Twenty-four percent of state prisoners and 21 percent of local jail prisoners have a recent history of mental health disorder.
- *National Alliance on Mental Illness, "Mental Illness: Facts and Numbers"*
- Seventy percent of youth in juvenile justice systems have at least one mental disorder, with at least 20 percent experiencing significant functional impairment from a serious mental illness.
- *National Alliance on Mental Illness, "Mental Illness: Facts and Numbers"*

Mental Illness and Low Income Families

- Twenty-one percent of low-income children and youths ages six through 17 have mental health problems.
- *National Center for Children in Poverty, "Children's Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers," 2006*
- Fifty-seven percent of these low-income children and youth come from households with incomes at or below the federal poverty line.
- *National Center for Children in Poverty, "Children's Mental Health: Facts for Policymakers," 2006*