

STEPPINGUP

A National Initiative Reducing
Overincarceration of People with Mental
Illnesses

How Technical Assistance Improves Responses to People with Behavioral Health Needs in the Justice and Crisis Systems

Risë Haneberg

Orleny Rojas

Megan Siwek

Jeri Thuku

Allison Badger

Lauren Dedon

Monica Smith

Will Engelhardt | December 11, 2023



Speakers

- *Risë Haneberg, Deputy Division Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center*
- *Orleny Rojas, Senior Manager, Center for Effective Public Policy*
- *Megan Siwek, Program Manager, Justice, NACo*
- *Jeri Thuku, Program Manager, School and Justice Initiatives, APAF*
- *Allison Badger, Director, Center for Justice Planning, NCJA*
- *Lauren Dedon, Senior Legal Policy Advisor, Public Safety Program, NGA*
- *Monica Smith, Associate Director, Beyond Jails, Vera*
- *Will Engelhardt, Senior Manager, Urban Institute*



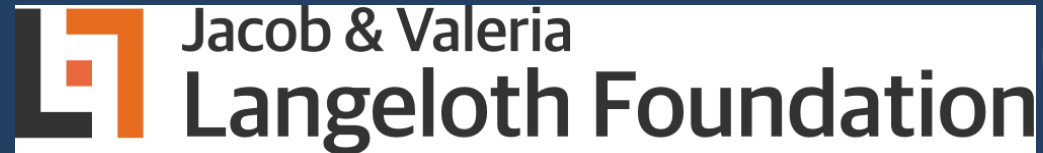
STEPPINGUP Initiative

Stepping Up is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

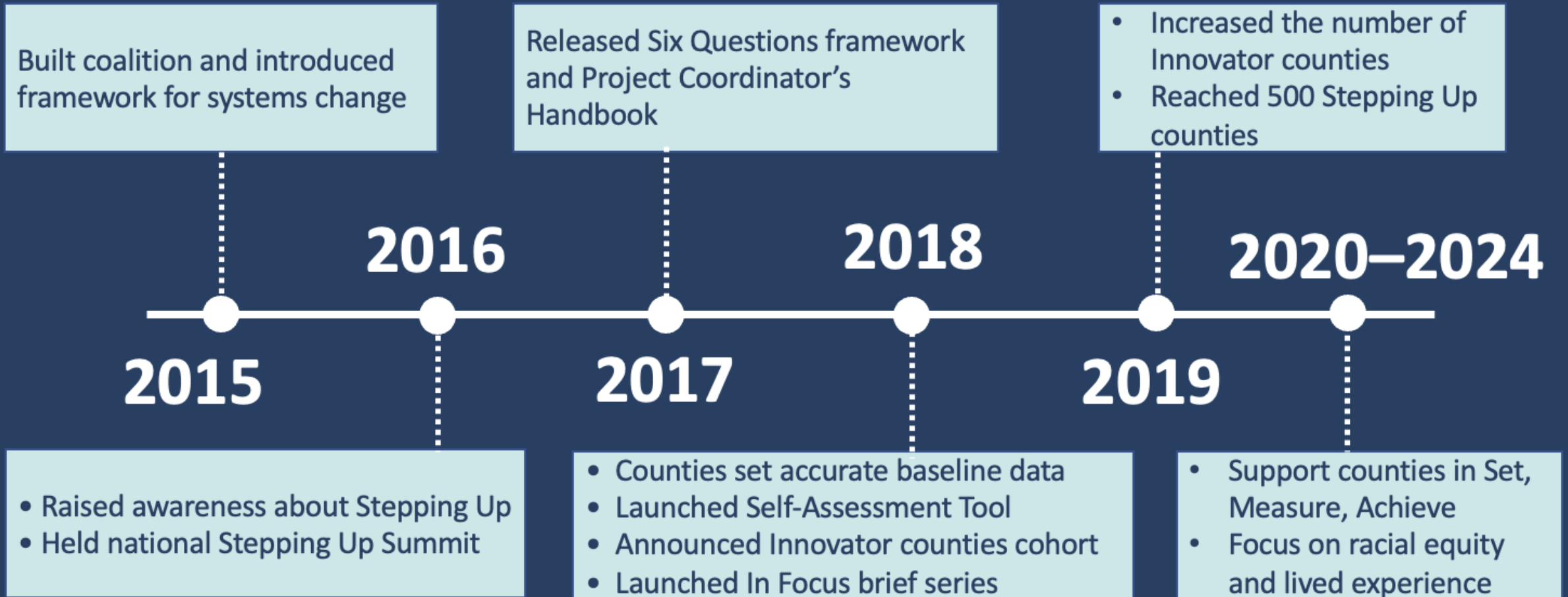


Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

#StepUp4MentalHealth
www.StepUpTogether.org



Stepping Up Timeline



National Estimates of This Crisis

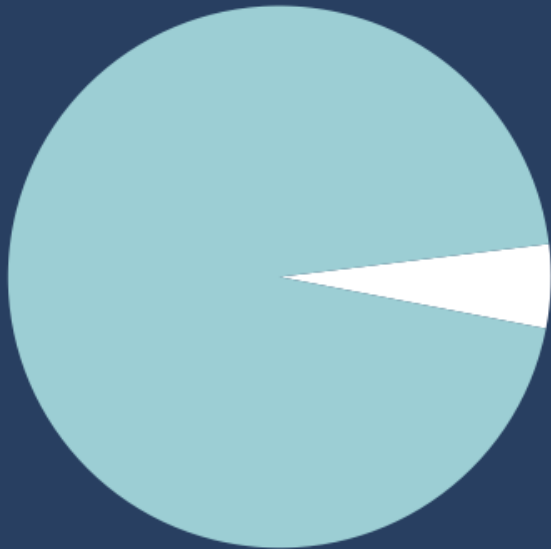
Of the **11 MILLION** bookings to jails annually, about **2 MILLION** involve people with serious mental illnesses (SMI).



Source: H. J. Steadman, F. Osher, P. C. Robbins, B. Case, and S. Samuels, "Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates," *Psychiatric Services* 6, no. 60 (2009): 761–765.

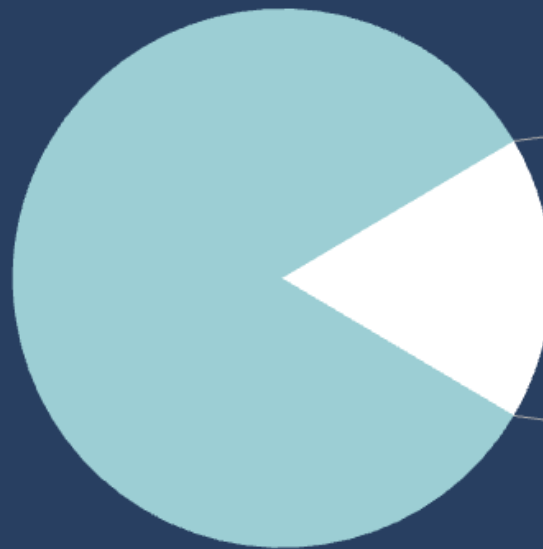
Overrepresentation of SMI in Jails

General Population



4% have an SMI

Jail Population



17% have an SMI

72% have a co-occurring substance use disorder

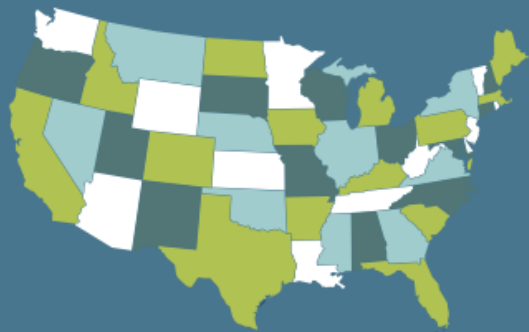
Source: H. J. Steadman et al., "Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates," *Psychiatric Services* 6, no. 60 (2009): 761–765; Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, *Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, (Washington, DC: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2016), <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/>; Karen M. Abram and Linda A. Teplin, "Co-occurring Disorders among Mentally Ill Jail Detainees," *American Psychologist* 46, no. 10 (1991): 1036–1045.

STEPPING UP

8 Years and Counting



More than **570** counties across **45** states have joined Stepping Up to reduce the prevalence of mental illnesses in jails.

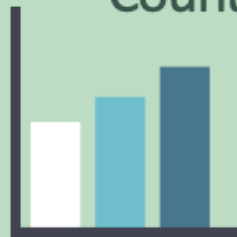


48% of Americans live in a Stepping Up county.



Communities are reducing their jail populations through cross-system alternative crisis responses, diversion, and more equitable access to services.

40+ Innovator Counties are blazing the trail in data collection.



5 states have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives.



The Stepping Up Six Questions Framework

1

Is our leadership committed?

2

Do we conduct timely screening and assessments?

3

Do we have baseline data?

4

Have we conducted a process analysis and inventory of services?

5

Have we prioritized policy, practice, and funding improvements?

6

Do we track progress?



Four Key Measures



1. Reduce the number of people with mental illnesses booked into jails



2. Reduce their average lengths of stay in jail



3. Increase connection to treatment for people who have mental illnesses



4. Reduce recidivism rates for people who have mental illnesses

Set, Measure, Achieve



Step 1: Set Your Targets

- Average daily jail population
 - Jail bookings
 - Average length of stay
 - Post-release connections to care
 - Recidivism
-



Step 2: Measure and Report Your Progress



Step 3: Achieve Results

www.stepuptogether.org/take-action/sign-on-to-a-call-to-action/

Stepping Up Six Questions: Racial Equity Lens

<p>Actualizing racial equity with committed, representative leaders and planning team members</p>	<p>Gathering accurate demographic information during the booking process</p>	<p>Analyzing data on the BIPOC jail population with SMI</p>
<p>Is your leadership committed?</p>	<p>Do you conduct timely screening and assessment?</p>	<p>Do you have baseline data?</p>



Stepping Up Six Questions: Racial Equity Lens

Pinpointing areas of opportunity to increase racial equity

Have you conducted a comprehensive process analysis and service inventory?



Moving forward with system improvements to advance racial equity: “One Step, One Policy” approach

Have you prioritized policy, practice, and funding changes?



Measuring advancements toward racial equity

Do you track progress?



Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center—Current Efforts

- Published the “Applying the Stepping Up Framework to Advance Racial Equity” brief with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Community of Practice: Stepping Up Set, Measure, Achieve (SMA): Leveraging Data to Support Programming, Equity, and Sustainability
- Stepping Up Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP)
- MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Stepping Up Racial Equity Cohort

CSG Justice Center Upcoming Work (2024)

- Applying a Racial Equity Lens to the Stepping Up Six Questions Framework
- Stepping Up Lived Experience Advisory Panel Policy Recommendations
- Stepping Up Lessons Learned on Advising Racial Equity
- MacArthur Foundation SJC Racial Equity Cohort Webinar

National Association of Counties (NACo)— Current Efforts

- County officials advancing Racial Equity (CORE) Justice Network
- Opioid Solutions Center

County Efforts

- Example: Mecklenburg County

NACo Upcoming Work (2024)

- CJCC Project (article and webinar series, convening, resource page)
- CORE Peer Exchanges
- County Officials DEI Workgroup
- County Juvenile Innovation Network

We know mental health care works—a vision for a mentally healthy nation for all.

Upcoming Work

- **Judges and Psychiatrists Leadership Initiative**
 - Aim to train over 10,000 judges and 2,500 psychiatrists by 2030
 - Two train-the-trainer events planned for 2024
 - Steering Committee development
- **Justice Fellows Work Group**
 - Deliverable related to physician mentorship in community and carceral settings, including impact on career longevity and burnout
- **Annual Meeting**
 - Planned for May 2024 in New York City
 - Will have at least 1 (possibly 2) dedicated sessions focused on the APAF's Justice Initiatives and work more broadly in this space



National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)—Current Efforts

- Equity in Grants Administration
 - Why?
 - Process?
- Equity in Criminal Justice Funding and Budgeting Committee
- Resources
 - An Introduction to Equity in Grants Administration
 - Grantmaking: A Statewide Strategy to Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Legal System (in partnership with NACo)
 - Equity Across a Continuum in Grants Administration Eight Promising and Emerging Practices



NCJA Upcoming Work (2024)

- Equity in Criminal Justice Funding and Budgeting Committee
 - Rules and Tips for Engagement: Community Recommendations for System Partners
 - Tips for Engagement: System Partner Recommendations for Community Partners
 - Language Do's and Don'ts
 - Partner Guidance
- Resources for Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (partnership with NACo)
 - Brief and Webinar: Racial Equity and Reducing Disparities



National Governors Association (NGA)—Current Efforts

- Implementing a Continuum of Care to Prevent Overdose Policy Academy
- Leveraging EMS in Overdose Response Learning Collaborative
- Implementing Trauma Informed Care to Address Addiction & Overdose Policy Academy
- State Strategies to Address Infectious Disease Related to Drug Use Learning Collaborative



NGA Upcoming Work (2024)

- NGA has identified states that will participate in the aforementioned policy academies and learning collaboratives.
- Participating states will receive technical assistance and support for their state goals.
- States will convene in person and virtually to share best practices.



Vera Institute of Justice—Current Efforts

- In New Orleans, Vera’s Redefining Public Safety team worked with the City of New Orleans Department of Health to develop an alternative dispatch model that would deploy a community-centered crisis response team to assist a person experiencing a mental health crisis or a drug overdose.
 - City of New Orleans launched the Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit (MCIU), which responds to 911 calls involving a mental health crisis
 - Establishment of a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to promote community education around the MCIU
- Tarrant County, Texas, is the largest county in the U.S. without a public defender’s office. Together with United Fort Worth, Vera’s Beyond Jails Initiative is working to change that.
 - 75 percent of clients have a mental health diagnosis or have their competency to stand trial raised



VERA TTA Opportunities or New Resources (2024)

- Coordinating Safety: Building and Sustaining Offices of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Safety (Nov. 2023)
 - <https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/2023-OVPNS-Report.pdf>
- In 2024, we will work in multiple jurisdictions to build equitable, sustainable diversion programs over the next year including to expand restorative justice, divert felon-in-possession gun charges, and build alternatives so that people experiencing mental health crises are not jailed as a result.



Update on the Prison Research and Innovation Initiative

- Since 2019, the Urban Institute has been leading the **Prison Research and Innovation Initiative**, funded by Arnold Ventures.
- This comprehensive, six-year effort seeks **to understand prison conditions and pilot innovative strategies** to make prison conditions more humane, safe, and rehabilitative both for people who are incarcerated and those who work in them.
- Some states have examined **how the mental health and well-being of corrections staff compare to the mental health and well-being of incarcerated individuals**.



Update on Findings from the Evaluation of Durham's Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP)

1. The majority of people eligible for the MDP were not referred to the program while it was operational from March 2014 to November 2019.

2. Of those who did participate in the program, there was a very high completion rate of 95 percent.

3. MDP participants had significantly lower rates of rearrests, convictions, or jail admissions than comparison groups after six months, one year, and two years.

4. Participation in the MDP significantly reduced disparity levels of new arrests within two years—and new convictions and jail admissions within six months—for Black people compared to people of other races.

5. The MDP did not have a larger impact on overall arrest, conviction, or jail admission levels for the two age groups in the county.

Upcoming Project: Prevalence Estimation of Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in Residential Juvenile Justice Facilities

With funding from NIJ, we will be partnering with multiple state and local juvenile justice agencies to accurately estimate the **prevalence of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (COD) for youth in residential juvenile justice facilities and examine disparities in diagnoses by race and ethnicity**. To determine the prevalence of CODs, Urban will gather comprehensive data on the entire residential youth population in each agency, prioritizing similar assessment processes and the same diagnostic codes across sites.

Upcoming Project: Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program TTA on Pretrial, Prosecution, Defense Counsel, and Courts

With BJA funding, and in support of RTI, we will provide TTA to develop comprehensive strategies to respond to the overdose crisis and the impacts of opioid, stimulant, and other substance use and misuse on individuals and families as a TTA provider to COSSUP (Category 2) grantees.

Questions and Discussion



Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information, please contact Andrea Chambers at achambers@csg.org

This project was supported by the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation.

© 2023 The Council of State Governments Justice Center

