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COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2018

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Support Services Needed to keep people with Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders out of Jail

This is one of the findings in a new report, By the Numbers 4

CLEVELAND, OH – People with mental illness and substance use disorders need access to a continuum of care including prevention, treatment and support services, but too often these crucial services aren't accessible.

"Everyone has the same basic needs, like health care, housing, food and employment, but people with mental illness or a substance use disorder need additional supports to get and keep these things," said Tara Britton, the Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for Community Solutions.

Ideally treatment and support services would be available early enough to prevent the need for those with mental illness and substance use disorders to use more expensive options like emergency departments or, eventually, the criminal justice system.

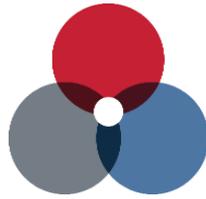
"The second installment of By the Numbers tries to provide some understanding of just how important health and social services are in preventing those with mental illness or substance use disorders from ending up behind bars," said Joan Englund, Executive Director of the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition. "Right now access to many of those services is dependent on where a person lives and if they have health insurance or not."

The first installment of By the Numbers showed that Ohio's prison population has more than tripled in less than 40 years. And, due to gaps in care, and the criminalization of mental illness and substance use disorders, Ohioans living with these conditions make up a large proportion of that population. That's why this second installment also took a look at what supports those with mental health or substance use disorders need while they are behind bars, and also after they're released from jail or prison.

Through a series of five installments of By the Numbers, released over the next several weeks, Community Solutions and the MHAC will examine the current state of behavioral health services for adults involved with the criminal justice system.

To read the full report please click [here](#).

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