



# U.S. research points to potential of mental health courts

Estimated one-fourth of Americans with mental illness can expect to be jailed

Tim Carpenter | October 25, 2016

*Editor's note: Reporters from the [Topeka Capital-Journal](#) and KHI News Service collaborated for a six-month exploration of how the state's legal system deals with people with mental illness. This is one of the stories in a four-day series.*

Health advocate Mar Giliberti stands convinced lack of awareness about consequences of throwing mentally ill Americans into jail ranks as a disgrace  
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Research by the U.S. Department of Justice indicated prison and jail inmates with mental health problems were more likely to have co-occurring drug or alcohol addictions, to have a background of physical abuse and homelessness, and to be involved in fights or be disciplined for rule violations while incarcerated.

“Someone who already

Kelli Canada, assistant professor of social work at the University of Missouri, conducted a study of mental health court engagement based on treatment adherence, substance use, days spent in jail, probation violations and retention during a six month follow up period.

She concluded every professional engaged in the process should be a5 0 TD-00..KHI.org when a story is reposted online.

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