

# Response to **Mass Violence for Judicial, Correctional and Law Enforcement Institutions**

## DISCUSSION



Training law enforcement officers to respond to calls that involve people with mental illnesses gives them the necessary tools to diffuse potentially volatile situations by working collaboratively with their mental health colleagues and the individuals' natural supports to link them to services.

Problem-solving courts can help fill gaps in psychosocial services, provide early identification and intervention with individuals who may be at risk for violence and extend the reach of an often under-resourced and overworked behavioral health treatment system. From family and juvenile courts to domestic violence, truancy, veterans, drug, mental health and DWI courts, the legal system can be viewed as early interveners in identifying potential dangers.

## RECOMMENDATIONS



- Develop a toolkit for judges on risk assessment, the role of trauma and the need for additional supports for individuals who may pose risks for violence.
- Involve mental health professionals in threat assessments conducted by law enforcement and implementation of red flag laws.
- Expand the number of problem-solving courts operating throughout the United States.
- Train law enforcement, corrections and public safety officials in Mental Health First Aid to recognize and work with individuals who have mental illnesses.

## EXPERT PANEL



An expert panel appointed by the National Council for Behavioral Health Medical Director Institute examined the issue from multiple perspectives and found the solutions are as complex as the problem.

The insightful and evidence-based response, "Mass Violence in America: Causes, Impacts and Solutions," provides a call to action to respond to this complex issue.

### Membership of Expert Panel

- Medical Directors of mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations
- CEOs of mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations
- Members from the American Psychiatric Association
- Members from the American Psychological Association
- Member from the American Association of Emergency Psychiatrists
- Members representing law enforcement/courts
- Members from National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
- Content experts on mass violence and trauma
- Mental health consumer/patient representatives/parents of a mass shooter