

Mental Health in Tennessee



1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year.



937,000 adults in Tennessee have a mental health condition.



That's more than **5X** the population of Knoxville.

It is more important than ever to build a stronger mental health system that provides the care, support and services needed to help people build better lives.



More than half of Americans report that **COVID-19** has had a **negative impact** on their mental health.

In February 2021, **43.5% of adults in Tennessee** reported symptoms of **anxiety or depression**.

25.6% were unable to get needed counseling or therapy.



1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year.

In Tennessee, **252,000 adults** have a **serious mental illness**.



1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6–17 experience a **mental health disorder** each year.

58,000 Tennesseans age 12–17 have depression.

Tennesseans struggle to get the help they need.



More than half of people with a mental health condition in the U.S. **did not receive any treatment** in the last year.

Of the **231,000 adults in Tennessee who did not receive needed mental health care**, **38.5%** did not because of cost.

10.2% of people in the state are uninsured.



Tennesseans are over **6x more likely to be forced out-of-network** for mental health care than for primary health care — making it more difficult to find care and less affordable due to higher out-of-pocket costs.

3,224,296 people in Tennessee live in a community that **does not have enough mental health professionals**.

An inadequate mental health system affects individuals, families and communities.



High school students with depression are more than **2x more likely to drop out** than their peers.

59.4% of Tennesseans age 12–17 who have depression **did not receive any care** in the last year.



7,256 people in Tennessee are homeless and **1 in 6 live with a serious mental illness.**



On average, 1 person in the U.S. **dies by suicide every 11 minutes.**

In Tennessee, **1,161 lives were lost to suicide** and 230,000 adults had thoughts of suicide in the last year.

1 in 4 people with a serious mental illness has been arrested

by the police at some point in their lifetime –



leading to over **2 million jail bookings** of people with serious mental illness each year.

About **2 in 5 adults** in jail or prison have a history of mental illness.



7 in 10 youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health condition.



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Tennessee is part of NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

This fact sheet was compiled based on data available in February 2021. For full citations, visit: nami.org/mhpolicystats.