

# >>Mental Illness in America

## How Do We Address a Growing Problem?

NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with those of thousands of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who took part in the forums, as well as officeholders, members of the news media, and others in your community.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?					
a. The policy of moving mentally ill people out of psychiatric hospitals and into communities has done more harm than good.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Doctors are too quick to prescribe mood-altering drugs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Public safety should be the top priority in dealing with serious mental illness.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. There is not nearly enough help available for people with mental illnesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Many of the mental and emotional problems that people complain of could be alleviated by better eating habits, more exercise, and a generally healthier lifestyle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The public stigma attached to mental illness prevents many people from seeking the help they need.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
a. We should build a nationwide reporting system for hospitals and police who see mentally ill persons, EVEN IF this may prevent some people from seeking help because they fear their privacy would be invaded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Doctors should focus less on prescribing drugs and more on counseling, EVEN IF people whose symptoms could be relieved by medications would not get the help they need.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. States and counties should build more psychiatric hospitals, EVEN IF that would mean longer stays for patients who might do better in their homes and communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Mental health practitioners should be required to serve residencies in under-served communities, EVEN IF this discourages health-care professionals from going into this field.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Question 2 continued on next page.)

# >> QUESTIONNAIRE

(Question 2 continued from previous page)

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
e. Individuals should tell health professionals if they note erratic behavior by friends, neighbors, or coworkers, EVEN IF this may create a culture of informants.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Employers should test for mental health problems when hiring for sensitive positions, EVEN IF this means people who pose no danger will be unemployed or under-employed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The media should mount a campaign to promote mental health screening, EVEN IF this causes people to act on inappropriate and ill-judged conclusions about their friends, neighbors, and fellow workers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Employers should pay for such mental health supports as gym memberships and meditation classes, EVEN IF these unfairly benefit relatively few employees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Drug companies should be prohibited from advertising prescription drugs on TV, EVEN IF this interferes with their right to sell their products.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum?  Yes  No

If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?

0       1-3       4-6       7 or more       Not sure

7. Are you male or female?     Male       Female

8. How old are you?

17 or younger     18-30       31-45       46-64       65 or older

9. Are you:     African American       Asian American       Hispanic or Latino       Native American  
 White/Caucasian       Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Where do you live?     Rural       Small Town       Large City       Suburban

11. What is your ZIP code? \_\_\_\_\_ What state do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please give this form to the moderator, or mail it to National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459.**