

The Importance of Mental Health Screening in Forensic Populations

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Abstract

Mental health screening in forensic populations is critical for identifying psychological disorders, providing appropriate treatment, and enhancing both individual and public safety. Forensic populations, including individuals in prisons, jails, and those undergoing legal proceedings, often experience higher rates of mental illness compared to the general population. Left untreated, these conditions can exacerbate criminal behavior, hinder rehabilitation, and increase recidivism. Early mental health screening ensures that individuals receive necessary interventions, reducing the risk of harm to themselves and others. Furthermore, it supports more informed judicial decisions, guiding the legal system toward more humane and rehabilitative outcomes. This review examines the role of mental health screening in the legal system, and society at large.

Keywords: Mental health screening; Forensic populations; Criminal justice; Rehabilitation; Recidivism; Public safety; Mental health; Legal system; Treatment; Early intervention; Society at large.

Introduction: Mental health screening in forensic populations is a critical component of the criminal justice system. It involves the identification of individuals with mental health issues who are involved in the legal system. This process is essential for ensuring that these individuals receive appropriate care and support, which can help reduce the risk of recidivism and improve public safety. The purpose of this review is to examine the role of mental health screening in the legal system, and society at large. This review explores the importance of mental health screening in forensic populations, the challenges associated with it, and the potential benefits of early intervention. It also discusses the role of mental health screening in the legal system, and society at large.

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