

Law Enforcement and Mental Health

Programs & Initiatives at the Interface: a review of literature



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LEPH Conference 2016
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Background

- Western countries - deinstitutionalisation of mental health services
- Marked increase in involvement with people with mental illness
- No policy or guidelines
- Little collaboration
- Perpetuated cycle of arrest, incarceration, inadequate treatment for people with mental illness



My Research Question

What are the existing best practice programs and initiatives at the interface of law enforcement and mental health?

Objectives:

- Identify existing police programs and interventions at the interface
- Identified evidence for best practice

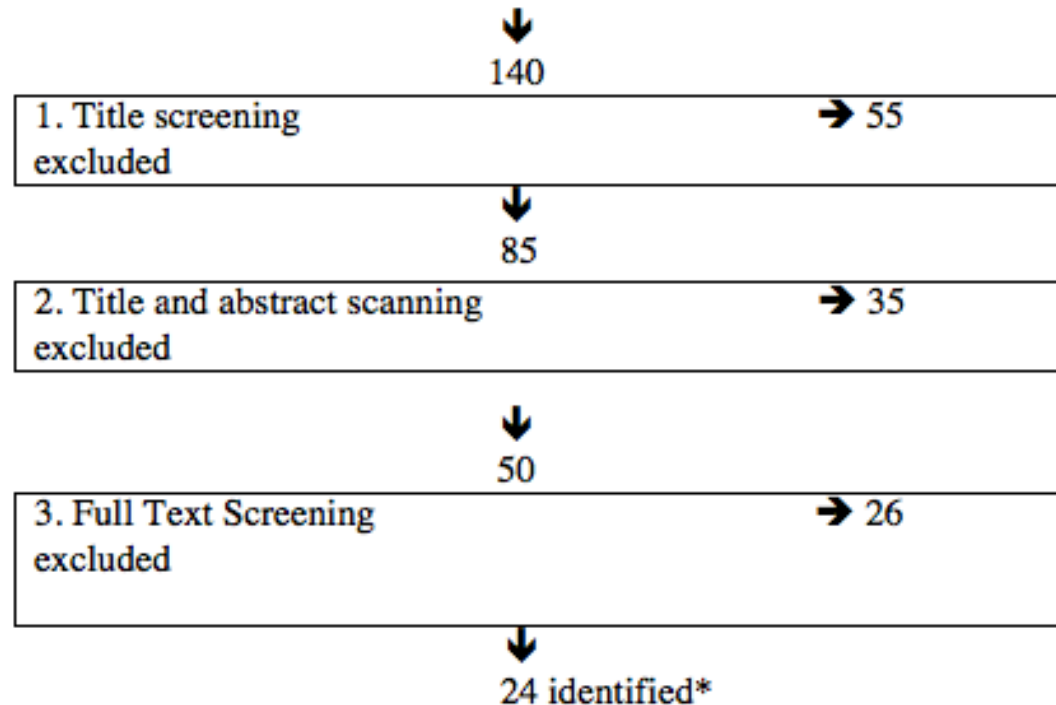
Methodology

Criteria for systematic review:

- Scholarly peer-reviewed literature
- Original articles in English
- Published in 2005 to 2015
- Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States

Existing Research

Figure 1: Databases: Pubmed, Web of Science, Medline, Cochrane, and Scopus



Exclusion

- i. Data collected prior to 2005*
- ii. Based in non-specified country*
- iii. Program or intervention did not include police or law enforcement in their implementation or research data*

**2 articles included in this number discussed the same study*

Current Research

Country focus:

No. of studies	Country
12	USA
8	Australia
4	Canada
0	The United Kingdom

- Observational studies, mixed methods and qualitative
- No randomised control trials (RCT)
- No comparative studies between countries

Key Areas of Focus

No. of studies	Areas of Focus
12	Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model
3	Police Ambulance Crisis Emergency Response (PACER) model
2	Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT)
1	Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT)
3	Mental Health Educations and Training Sessions
2	Service interface

Key Findings

Police Training

- center point of research
- critical to improve interactions
 - Variable

Crisis Intervention Team model

- most widely implemented and researched
- increase knowledge, attitudes and perceptions
- Limitations: knowledge retention post training

Key Findings

Integration and Partnership Programs:

- *Integrated Mobile Crisis Team (IMCT): Nova Scotia*
- *Police Ambulance Crisis Emergency Response Model (PACER): Victoria*
- *Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT): NSW*

Service Interface:

- Ineffective communication
- Difficulty accessing support
- Lack of respect between interfacing services
- Not meeting standards

Overall Findings

- Police: first-line responders
- No clear empirical evidence for best practice
- Police training: critical but narrow focus
- Budget and resource constraints
- Integration, partnerships and system changes

Summary

- Law enforcement and mental health are intertwined
- Police role yet to be clearly defined
- Gaps in evidence
- Clear need for further research
- Integration and partnerships
- Future research to provide best practice evidence and better outcomes!

Thank You

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