



# Psychiatric Care: What America Can Learn from Jamaican Practices

Gabrielle Ranger-Murdock, MSN, RN, Andrea McDade, MSN, RN

Columbia University School of Nursing



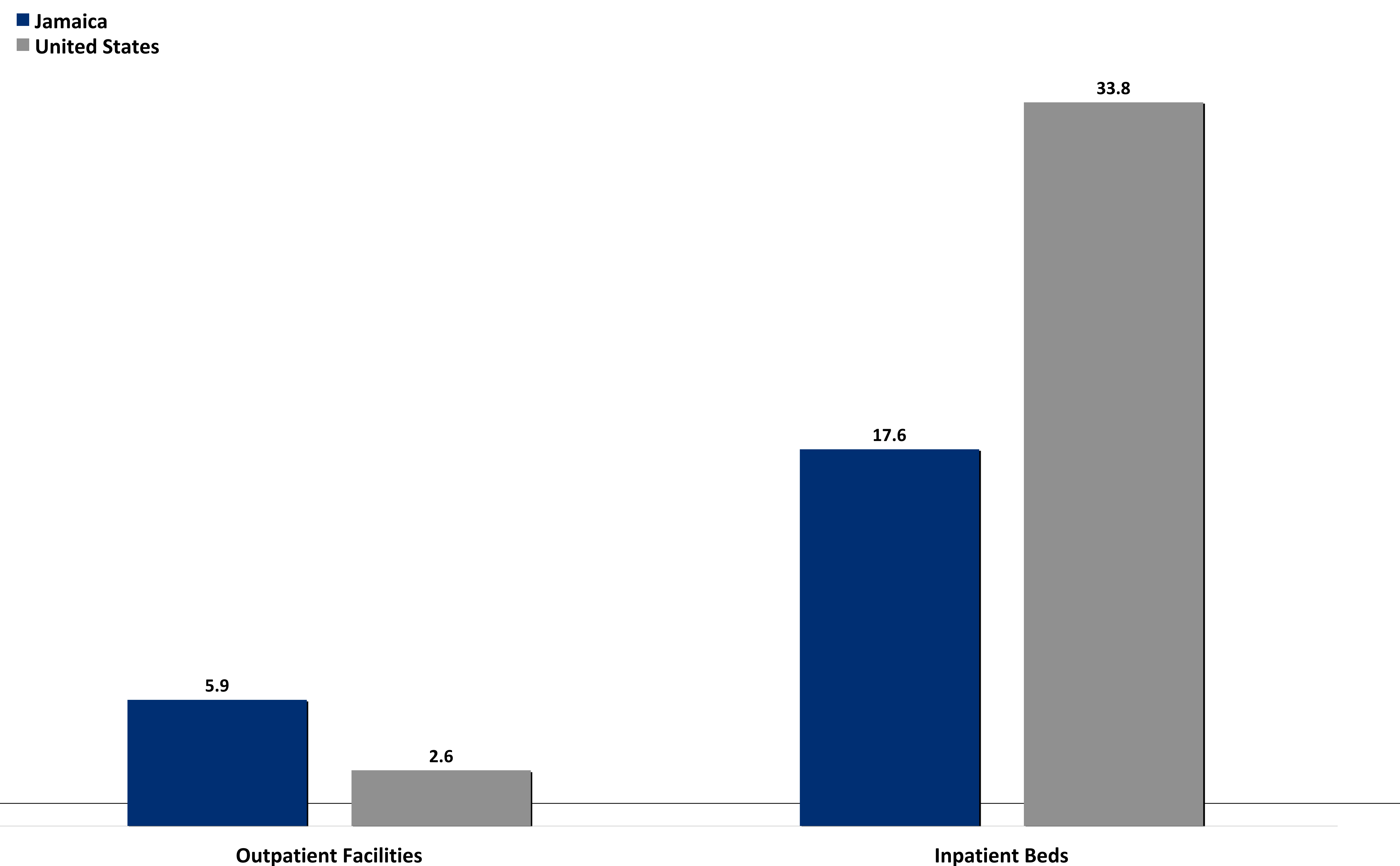
## Introduction & Purpose

Mental health disorders continue to be a leading cause of disability in the United States. Thus, the improvement of psychiatric care is imperative. An immersive experience in the Jamaican psychiatric system incited research to compare and contrast mental health care in both countries.

- Where is America lacking in psychiatric care?
  - Continuing difficulty with patient autonomy and community based treatment following discharge
  - Deinstitutionalization has failed to provide adequate access to patient-centered mental healthcare<sup>8</sup>
  - High mental health care expenditures that include correctional services funding<sup>5</sup>
- What has Jamaica done differently?
  - Collectivist values to promote patient centered care
  - Community mental healthcare has expanded access, expenditures have been reduced, and inpatient hospital stays are shorter<sup>5</sup>

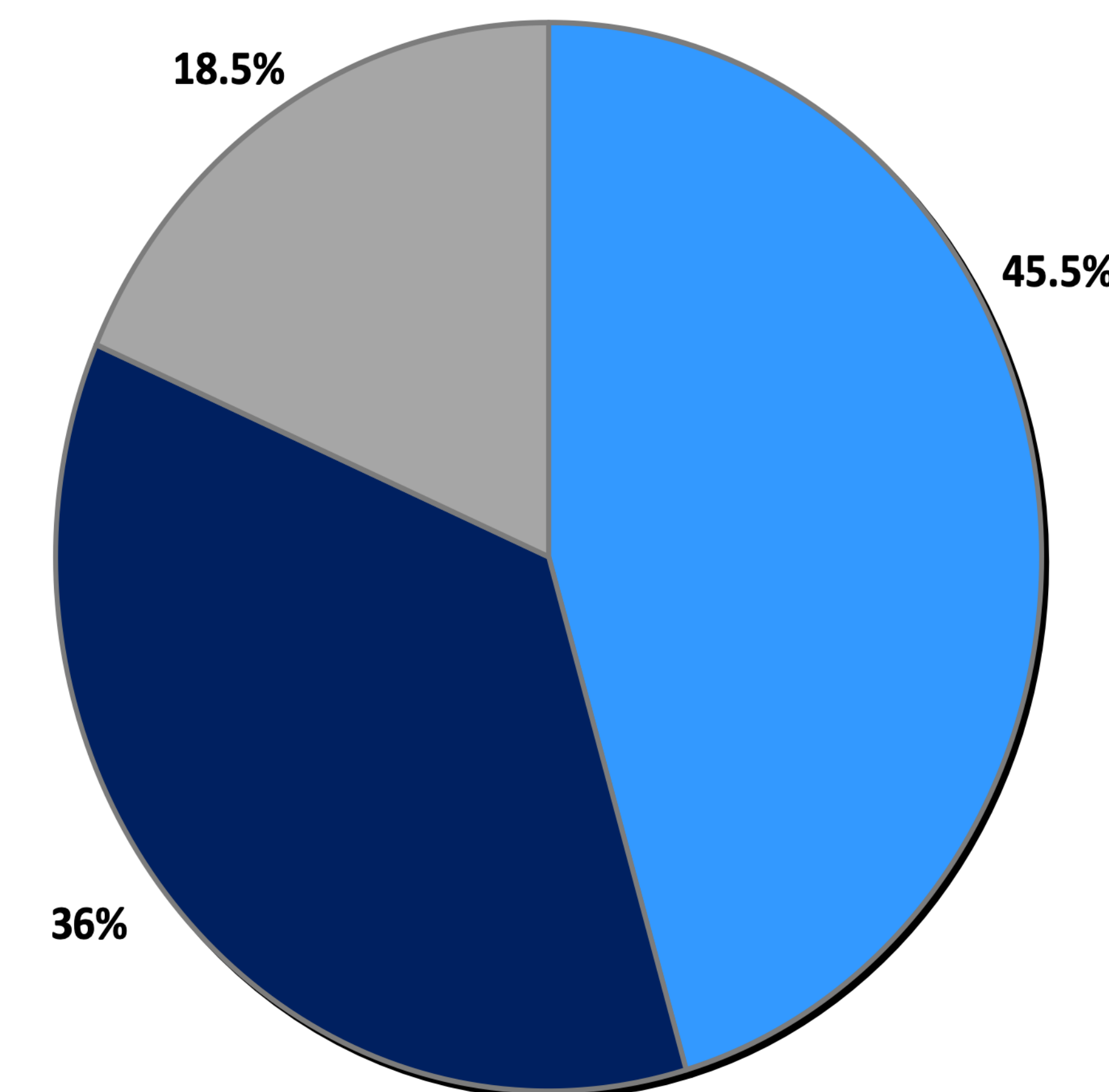
How can we use global perspectives to guide improvement to patient centered care in the US mental health system?

## Mental Healthcare Facilities

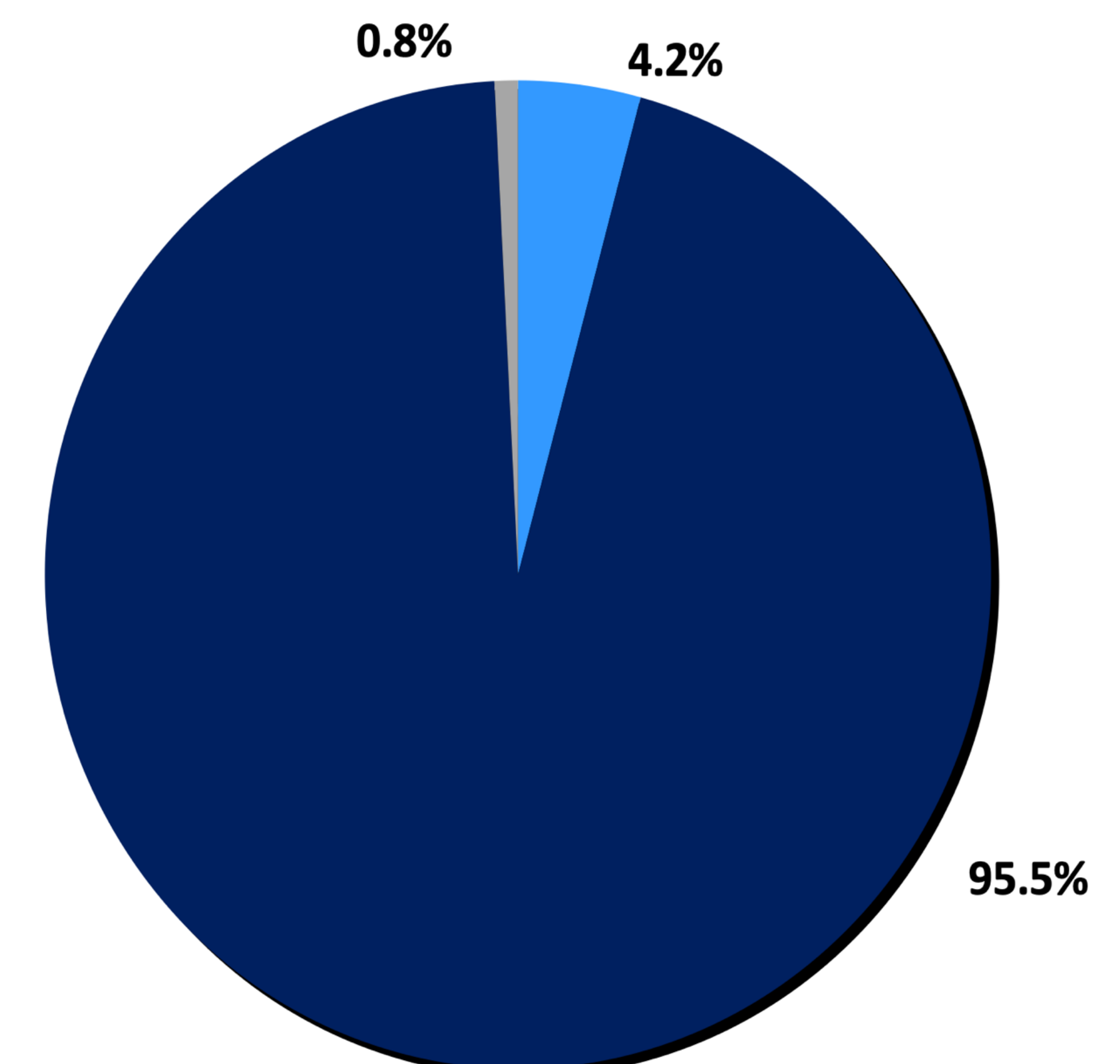


## Where are Psychiatric Patients Being Treated?

### United States



### Jamaica



## Conclusions & Future Directions

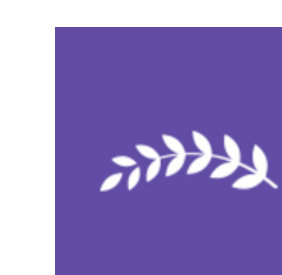
Collectivist values promote holistic support of psychiatric patients, as well as community reintegration. Investing in this integration, educating communities on severe mental illness, and promoting family-centered care contributes to improved patient outcomes and reduces need for hospitalization.

Recommendations from the Jamaican mental healthcare system:

- Fully incorporate patient and family into psychiatric treatment
- Alter the narrative about patient recovery and promote independence and productivity in psychiatric patients
- Combat stigma through community integration and invest in resources to create accessible care
- Invest in community mental health centers, not correctional facilities

## References & Acknowledgements

Thank You!



Sigma Theta Tau: Alpha  
Zeta Chapter

Royston Lewars, BA, MSN, RN  
&  
Donnaehae Rhoden-Salmon, RGN,  
RNM, MPH, DipEd

Columbia University  
School of Nursing Office  
of Global Initiatives

1. Hickling, F., Robertson-Hickling, H., & Paisley, V. (2011). Deinstitutionalization and attitudes toward mental illness in Jamaica: A qualitative study. *Revista Panamericana De Salud Publica*, 29(3), 169-176. Retrieved from [https://scielosp.org/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&pid=S1020-49892011000300004&lng=en&nrm=iso&tlng=en](https://scielosp.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1020-49892011000300004&lng=en&nrm=iso&tlng=en).  
2. Jamaica World Prison Brief. (2015, January 01). Retrieved from <http://www.prisonstudies.org/country/jamaica>  
3. Kilbourne, A., Beck, K., Spaeth-Rublee, B., Ramanuj, P., O'Brien, R., Tomoyasu, N., &  
4. Pincus, H. (2018). Measuring and improving the quality of mental health care: A global perspective. *World Psychiatry*, 17(1), 30-38. doi:10.1002/wps.20482  
5. *Mental Health Atlas- Jamaica* (Rep.). (2011). World Health Organization Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.  
6. NAMI. (2006). Retrieved from <https://www.nami.org/Press-Media/Press-Releases/2006/Department-of-Justice-Study-Mental-Illness-of-Pris>  
7. Okely, J. A., Weiss, A., & Gale, C. R. (2017). The interaction between individualism and wellbeing in predicting mortality: Survey of Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 41(1), 1-11. doi:10.1007/s10865-017-9871-x  
8. Primeau, A., Bowers, T. G., Harrison, M. A., & Xusu. (2013). Deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill: Evidence for transinstitutionalization from psychiatric hospitals to penal institutions. *Comprehensive Psychology*, 2(1). doi:10.2466/16.02.13.cp.2.2  
9. Tse, S., & Ng, R. M. (2014). Applying a mental health recovery approach for people from diverse backgrounds: The case of collectivism and individualism paradigms. *Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Mental Health*, 1(1), 7-13. doi:10.1007/s40737-014-0010-5