

Steve Lurie's letter to the Globe & Mail, July 27, 2011, in response to "Mental health courts guide offenders to treatment, not a jail cell"

Since amendments to the criminal code were passed in 1991, more people with mental illness who have been accused of minor crimes have entered the forensic mental health system. Too often the forensic system becomes the default treatment system in the absence of a full range of accessible mental health services. Currently two thirds of people needing mental health treatment can't get it. If we want to reduce criminalization of the mentally ill, we need to improve access to mental health services.