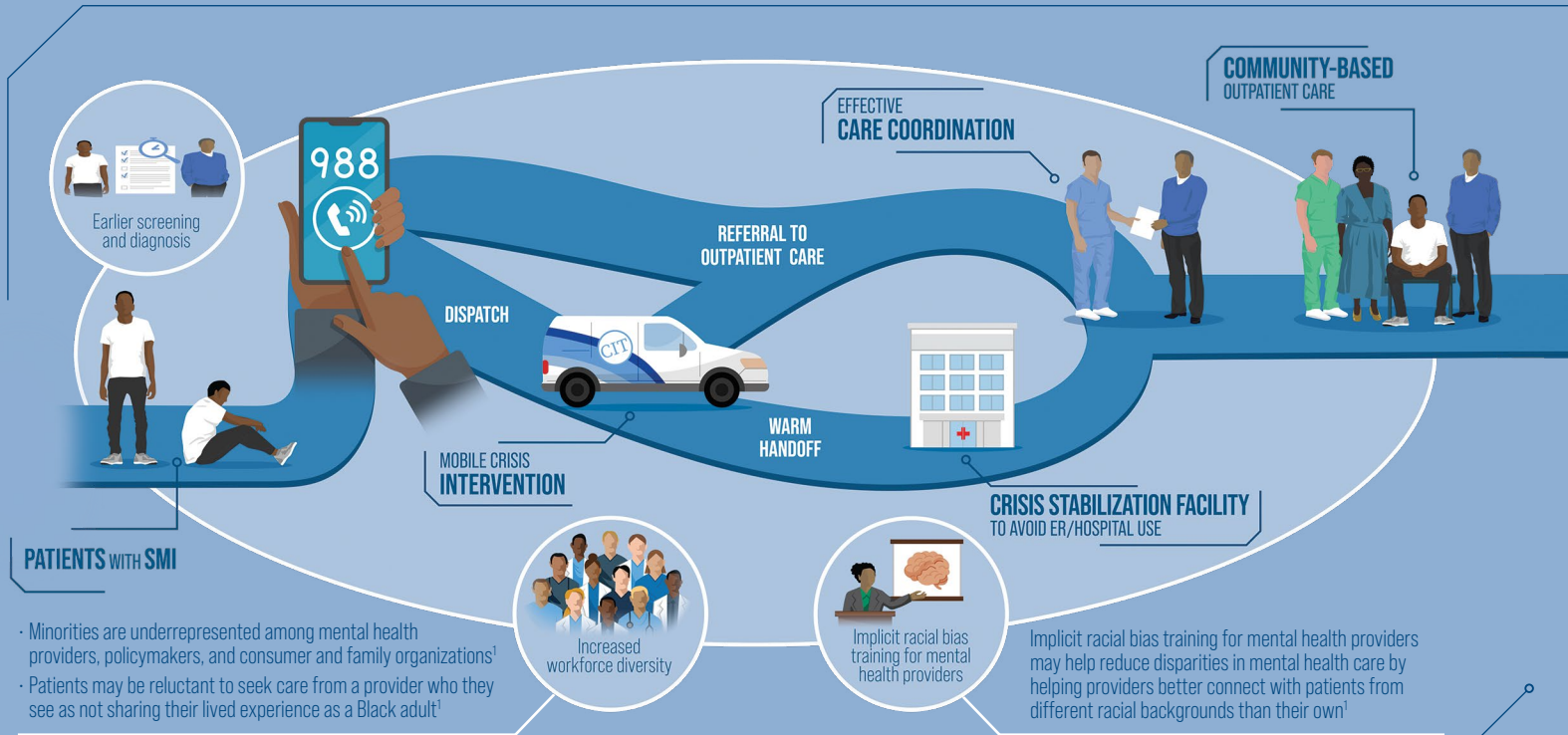


MENTAL HEALTH EQUITY

CAN IMPROVE THE CARE JOURNEY AND OUTCOMES¹⁻³



ENSURING HEALTH EQUITY ALSO REQUIRES THESE SYSTEMIC CHANGES AT EACH TOUCHPOINT



- Earlier screening and diagnosis of SMI are especially important for underrepresented populations, as they are more likely to delay seeking treatment until symptoms become more severe¹
- Early identification and treatment of SMI can improve the management of SMI and reduce the risk of another relapse¹



- Calling 9-8-8 in a mental health emergency instead of 9-1-1 enables a more effective triage to appropriate care²
- Law enforcement response is involved only when necessary²
 - The status quo has been to have police respond to mental health emergencies, and the impact is overwhelming⁴



- 9-8-8 will enable patients with SMI to receive either⁵
 - A direct referral to outpatient care or a crisis care center
 - The dispatch of a mobile crisis intervention team to assess the patient and, if necessary, initiate a warm handoff to a crisis receiving and stabilization facility



A crisis stabilization facility is open 24/7 and staffed with a multidisciplinary team who can meet the needs of the individual in the community or hospital³



It is crucial to transition patients with SMI to community-based outpatient care through effective care coordination following a mental health emergency³

- CCBHCs are federally recognized clinics that offer comprehensive mental health care to vulnerable individuals⁶
- CCBHCs provide a full array of services to address patients' mental health needs, as well as basic primary care and other support services. Moreover, these needs can be addressed in one place by a staff trained in trauma sensitivity and cultural and linguistic competence⁶

988 — AMERICA'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE²

WHAT IS 988?

9-8-8 is a hotline that connects callers with **crisis intervention and mobile crisis teams**, diverting patient care to appropriate settings that specialize in meeting behavioral health needs²



- With 9-8-8, we can avoid criminalizing mental illness and divert these patients to care centers instead of into the prison system. This can result in lifesaving care for those with SMI⁷
- Adult patients with SMI who experience an acute mental health emergency are often met with a law enforcement or crisis medical response because an initial call was made to 9-1-1. This is a result of many communities having limited access to appropriate mental health services³
 - This often leads to patients being arrested or sent to the ED³
- An arrest or hospitalization often leaves patients without coordinated care to connect them to appropriate community services³
- Mobile crisis teams consist of trained professionals who can de-escalate a situation and administer appropriate treatment³
 - These teams are trained to stabilize an individual in crisis, connect them to behavioral health services, and lessen community reliance on police during mental health crises
- Supported by federal legislation and launched nationwide in July 2022. Implementation timelines may vary by region²

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