

Table 2: Category of Primary Theme by year of publication (10.1176/appi.ps.201200204)

Primary Theme	Year of Publication						Total	
	2011		2001		1991		N	%
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Blame	10	8	11	14	9	12	30	11
Personal Blame	4	3	1	1	1	1	6	2
Parental Failure	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Genetic or Biological Cause	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	1
Environmental Cause	6	5	8	11	6	8	20	7
Dangerousness and Crime	48	39	36	45	19	26	103	37
Danger to Others	4	3	5	7	0	0	9	3
Violent Crime	22	18	4	4	9	12	35	13
Non-Violent Crime	7	6	5	7	3	4	15	5
Suicide or Self-Injurious Behavior	2	2	6	8	2	3	10	4
Mental Illness as a Legal Defense	5	4	5	7	2	3	12	4
Legal Competence	1	1	4	4	0	0	5	2
Criminal Victimization	3	2	1	1	3	4	7	3
Drug or Alcohol Misuse	4	3	6	8	0	0	10	4
Education, Information and Recovery	44	36	22	28	40	53	106	38
Education / Information	22	18	15	19	31	40	68	25
Research Advances	3	2	2	3	3	4	8	3
Biological Treatment	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	1
Psychological Treatment	11	9	1	1	2	3	14	5
Recovery as an Outcome	8	7	3	4	2	3	13	5
Advocacy, Actions and Concerns	21	17	10	13	7	9	38	14
Poor Quality Treatment	7	6	1	1	0	0	8	3
Shortage of Resources	9	7	6	8	3	4	18	7
Homelessness	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	1
Housing Issues	0	0	1	1	3	4	4	1
Insurance Parity	3	2	1	1	0	0	4	1

Supplemental Data:

Data Collection Sheet

Serial Number

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Language

Was there use of negative or stigmatising terms?

See Coding assistance sheet for list

Yes		No		N/A	
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If Yes, who was this referring to?

Service User		Professional		General	
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Was there metaphorical use of mental health terms?

See Coding assistance sheet for definition

Yes		No		N/A	
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Was there use of equating descriptors?

See Coding assistance sheet for definition

Yes		No		N/A	
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Consulted or Quoted

Was a mental health professional consulted or quoted?

See Coding assistance sheet for definition

Yes		No		N/A	
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Was a mental health service user consulted or quoted?

See Coding assistance sheet for definition

Yes		No		N/A	
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Focus of article

Are mental health issues the primary focus of the article?

Yes		No	
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Overall tone

See Coding assistance sheet for definitions

Tick one

Positive	
Negative	
Neutral	
Mixed	

Themes of mental health depiction

See Coding assistance sheet for definitions

Each article can be coded as displaying one primary theme and more than one secondary theme.

	Primary Theme	Secondary Themes
Blame		
Personal blame		
Parental failure		
Genetic or biological cause		
Environmental cause		
Dangerousness and crime		
Danger to others		
Violent crime		

Non-violent crime		
Suicidal or self-injurious behaviour		
Mental illness as a legal defense		
Legal competence		
Criminal victimization		
Drug or alcohol abuse		
Education, information and recovery		
Education/information		
Research advances		
Biological treatment		
Psychological treatment		
Recovery as an outcome		
Advocacy actions and concerns		
Poor quality treatment		
Shortage of resources		
Homelessness		
Housing issues		
Insurance parity		

Coding Assistance Sheet

Use of language

- Was there use of any of the following negative or stigmatising terms for mental illness? Or another negative adjective other than the medical or legalistic ones?
 - Insane
 - Lunatic
 - Schizo
 - Mad
 - Weird
 - Crazy
 - Whacko
 - Maniac
 - Twisted
 - Nuts/nutter
 - Loony
 - Psycho
 - Mental patient
 - Mental home/hospital

- If yes, then who was this referring to?
 - Individual service user
 - Mental health professional
 - People with mental health problems in general

- Was there metaphorical use of mental health terms?
 - Use of terms as a metaphorical descriptor, such as describing something as “schizophrenic” e.g. “the team played schizophrenically”. Use of terms out of medical context can reinforce harmful negative stereotypes.

- Was there use of equating descriptors?
 - Such as describing someone as “a schizophrenic” or “schizophrenic” followed by someone’s name. Having a mental illness is only one part of a person’s life and they should not be labelled by their diagnosis.

Use of sources

- Was a mental health professional consulted or quoted?
 - A mental health professional would include a psychiatrist, psychologist, nurse, social worker, occupational therapist or counsellor.

- Was a service user consulted or quoted?
 - A patient or someone who suffers from mental health problems or uses mental health services.

Overall tone

- **Positive:** showing people with mental illness as possessing strengths, abilities, and potential for recovery and meaningful contribution to society.
- **Negative:** showing people with mental illness as weak, violent, incompetent, helpless or unattractive.
- **Neutral:** neither positive nor negative.
- **Mixed:** shown in both positive and negative ways.

Themes

There are 4 categories of themes items can be coded under. Each article should be coded as displaying one primary theme and as many secondary themes as apply.

If mental health issues are not the primary focus of the article then the themes are coded from the perspective of the mental health issue/service user in the article.

1. Blame

- Personal blame: the article apportioned personal blame to the person for having a mental illness and their actions.
- Parental failure: the article blamed failures in parenting for the presence of mental illness and its resultant consequences.
- Genetic or biological cause: article discussed genetic and biological causes of mental illness.
- Environmental cause: article discussed how environmental factors can impact on the aetiology, symptoms and course of a mental illness.

2. Dangerousness and crime

- Danger to others: portrayed those with mental illness as posing a danger to others, either family/carers or the general public.
- Violent crime: links mental illness with violent crime.
- Non-violent crime: links mental illness with non-violent crimes.
- Suicidal or self-injurious behaviour: links mental illness with suicidal and self-injurious behaviour.
- Mental illness as a legal defence: discussed the issues around mental illness as a defence for criminal activity.
- Psychiatric/psychology report: details that a court has requested a psychiatric or psychological report as part of criminal or civil legal proceedings.
- Legal competence: mental illness impacting on a person's competence to make decisions.
- Criminal victimization: suffers of mental illness as victims of crime or abuse.
- Drug or alcohol abuse: mental illness and co-morbid drug and alcohol abuse and its impact on presentation and prognosis.

3. Education, information and recovery

- Education/information: pieces that give factual information about conditions, their symptoms and diagnosis.
- Research advances: the advancement of scientific knowledge of mental illness and its treatment.
- Biological treatment: to include medications and ECT.
- Psychological treatment: all psychological therapies, to include “talking therapies” and counselling.
- Recovery as an outcome: covers themes of mental illness being a condition with hope and the possibility of recovery.

4. Advocacy actions and concerns

- Poor quality treatment: poor quality treatment of mental illness.
- Shortage of resources: the lack of hospital or community resources for the treatment and support of those suffering with mental illness.
- Homelessness: issues around lack of housing and living on the street in those with mental illness.
- Housing issues: lack of suitable, affordable and supported housing opportunities.
- Insurance parity: inequality in access to insurance and healthcare, including government funded insurance.