Psychiatric Mental Health (PMH) nurses work at the forefront of our nation’s most urgent health challenges. They understand that whole health begins with mental health and work to shatter the myths and stereotypes associated with this vital area of health care.

PMH nurses provide care and support to individuals, groups and communities. More PMH nurses are needed to help bridge the mental health care gap and ensure people receive the care and support they need.

If you are committed to helping people and are inspired by stories of healing and recovery, a career in psychiatric nursing may be right for you.

THE NEED:

56 million+ Americans experience mental illness or struggle with substance use disorder

Only 44% of adults receive the care they need

Only 20% of children receive the care they need

1 in 5 U.S. adults lives with a mental health condition

American Psychiatric Nurses Association

The American Psychiatric Nurses Association is the largest professional membership organization in the US committed to the practice of psychiatric-mental health (PMH) nursing and wellness promotion, prevention of mental health problems, and the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric and/or substance use disorders.

For more information, please visit: www.apna.org/aboutpsychnurses

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Screen, diagnose and provide care for mental health and substance use disorders.
- Perform interventions to help those in crisis.
- Educate patients, families, caregivers and communities.
- Coordinate care with other health care professionals and caregivers.
- Prescribe medication.*
- Perform psychotherapy.*

WHO ARE OUR PATIENTS?

- Teens and adults experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Children exposed to traumatic and adverse events.
- Soldiers returning from combat operations.
- Older adults struggling with Alzheimer’s and dementia.
- Anyone facing opioid, alcohol or other substance use disorders.
- People confronting anxiety, depression or suicide.
- Anyone facing opioid, alcohol or other substance use disorders.

*This work is specific to PMH advanced practice nurses.