



FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS IN ONTARIO VERSUS BRITISH COLUMBIA

A COMPARATIVE ISSUE ANALYSIS

Individuals with mental illness in the Criminal Justice System are vulnerable; they are stigmatized, at risk of recidivism, and require mental health treatment. Therefore, this analysis explores inter-provincial differences in forensic mental health practices and services in Ontario and British Columbia.

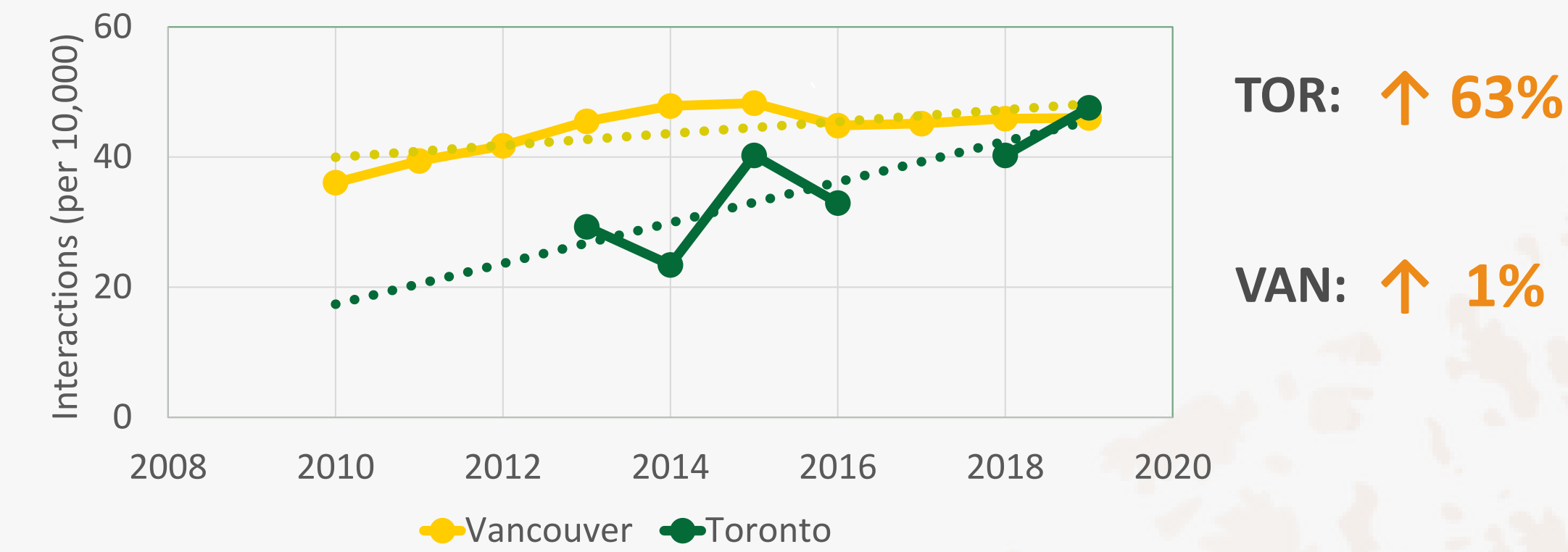
HEALTH PERCEPTIONS

Reports of poor mental health have **remained the same** for four years in BC and ON.

	2016	2019
BC	8%	9%
ON	8%	9%

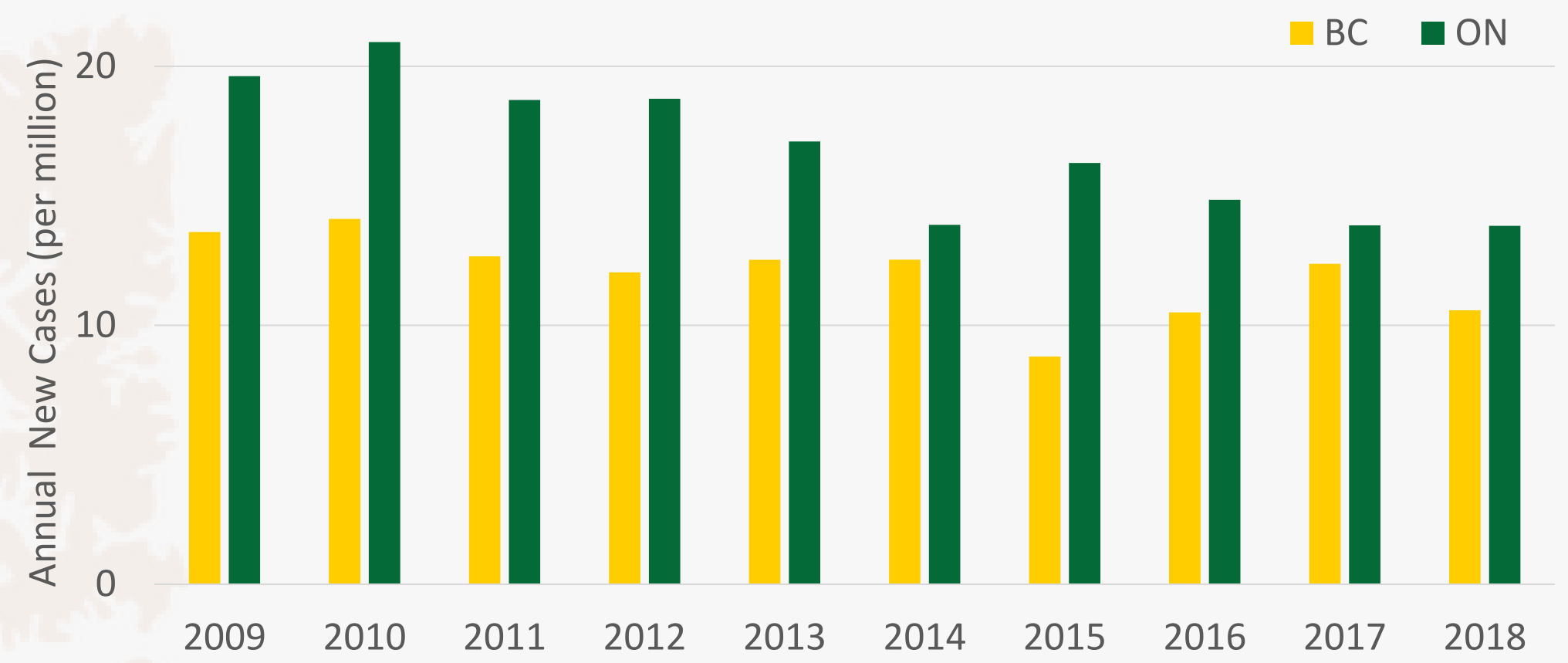
POLICE INTERACTIONS

Police interactions with people with mental illness **increasing at a faster rate in Toronto** than in Vancouver, even when there is no change in mental health perception.



CASES OVER TIME

Ontario tries **41% more NCRMD* cases** than B.C, despite having the same rate of people with mental illness.



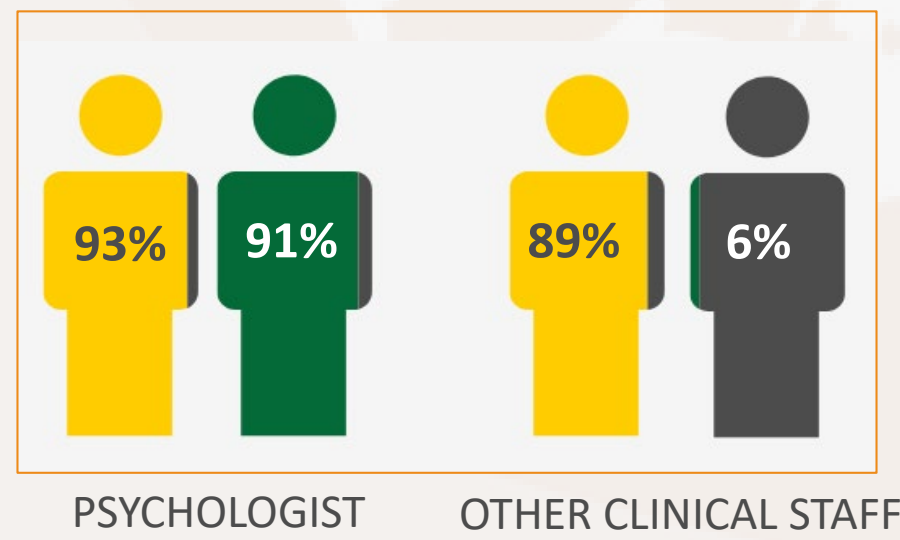
REVIEW BOARD (RB) PRACTICES

There are notable **differences in practices** between the provincial RBs.

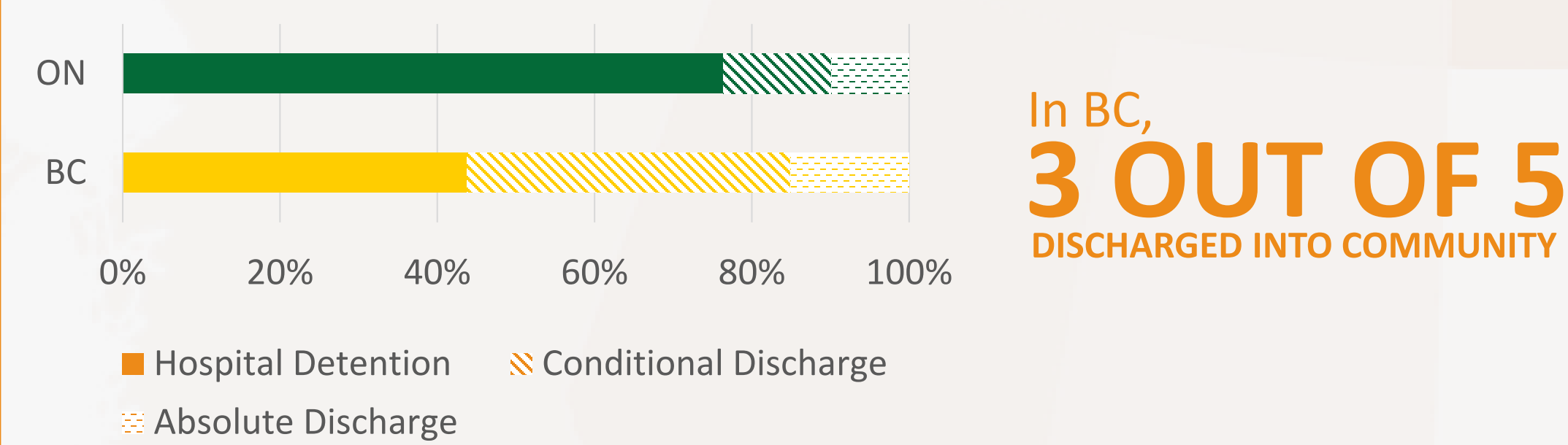
Clinical professionals are more likely to participate in BC hearings, resulting in:

More **diverse** perspectives

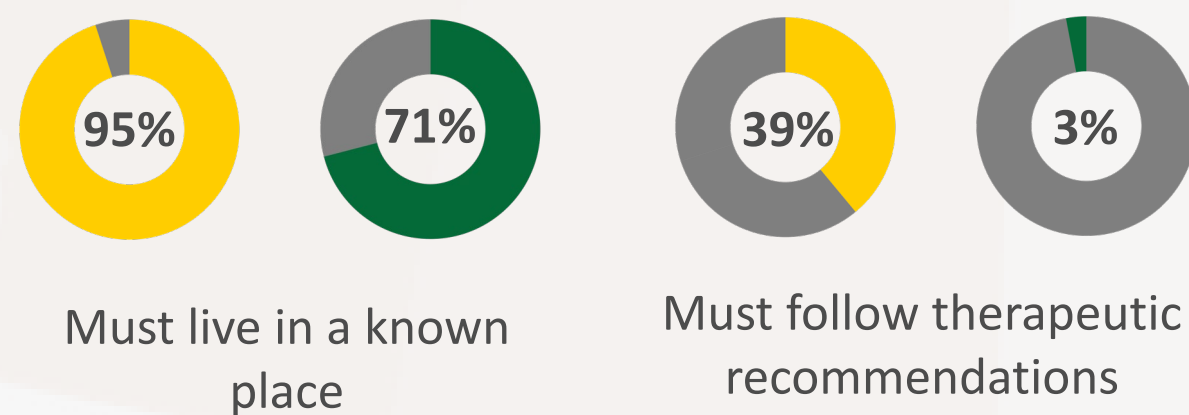
More **direct report** from staff in patient's direct care circle



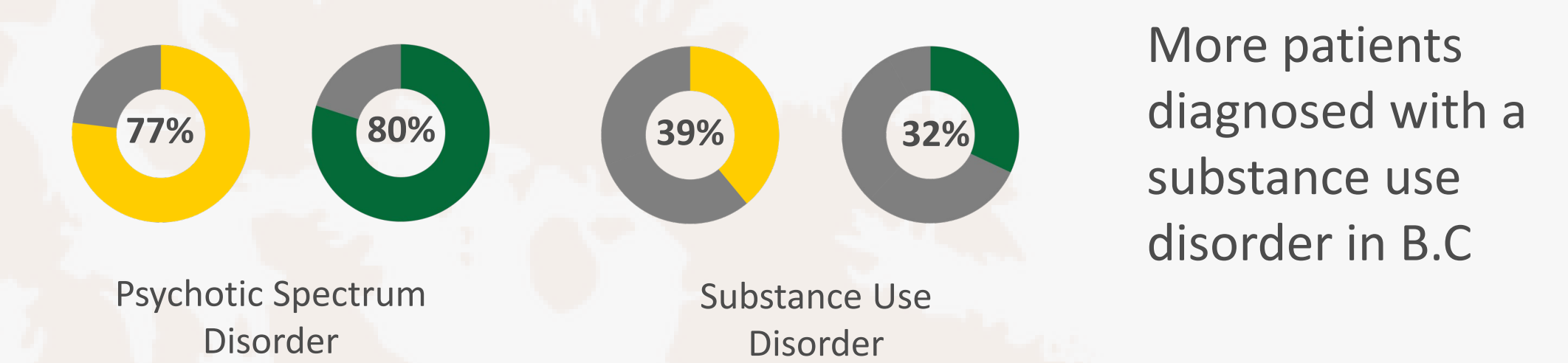
B.C's forensic mental health system may be **more reintegration-focused**.



B.C imposes **disposition conditions** associated with public safety more often which may affect recidivism and outcomes.

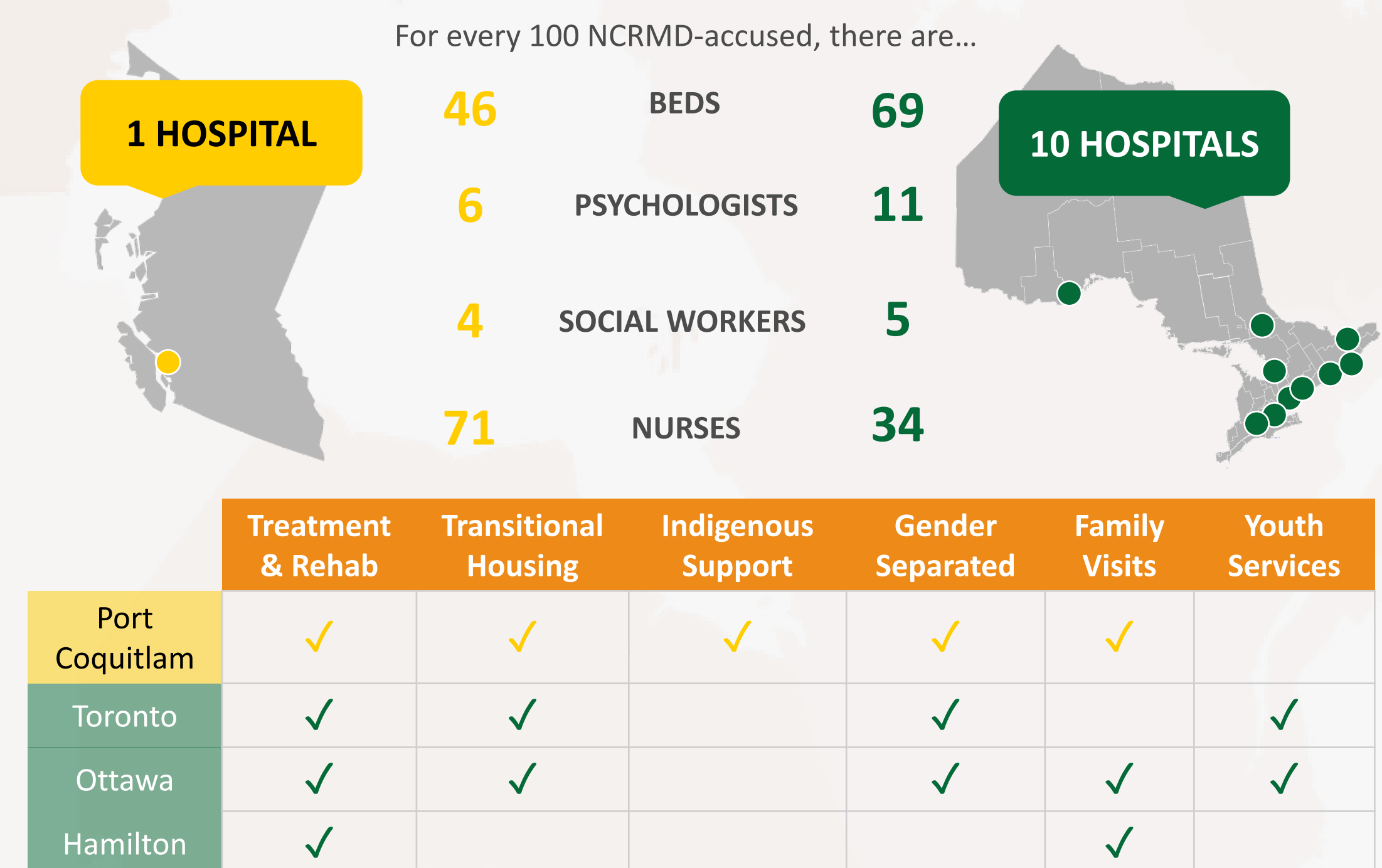


MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS



PROGRAMS

Inner- and inter-provincial **variance in patient resources** affects standard of care and outcomes of patients.



With these findings, we recommend:

A national police guideline to govern interactions with mentally ill persons

Clinical staff to participate more often in Ontario RB hearings

Centralization of hospital programs in Ontario to establish standard policies

Open and transparent data on recidivism and reintegration outcomes to reduce public stigma

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 10. Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0096-01 Health characteristics, annual estimates.
 11. Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex.
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 13. Vancouver Police Department. (2020). Year-End 2019 Key Performance Indicators Report.