

The week ahead: Mental Illness Awareness Week (Video) (Video)

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Video: [Mental Illness Awareness Week Discussion Held](#)

The Week Ahead: Mental Illness Awareness Week

The [Alabama Department of Mental Health](#) is joining efforts nationwide to celebrate [Mental Illness Awareness Week](#), being observed nationwide October 7 through October 13, 2012. This is the twentieth year the event has been sponsored by [The National Alliance on Mental Illness](#).

Mental illness affects over 100,000 people in Alabama. Nearly one of every 48 people in Alabama has some form of mental illness that interferes with their ability to perform the daily activities of life.

Alabama, like most states in the United States, has been forced to reduce funding for mental illness programs across the state due to lack of income.

A large majority of people who suffer from mental illness (97 percent in Alabama) can live a useful and productive life if they have proper training and medical care.



Bryce Hospital, opened in 1861 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is Alabama's oldest and largest inpatient psychiatric facility it was closed in 2012.

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Many large employers, notably Walmart, have special programs that train and supervise people with a mental illness so they can have a job and quite often live independent lives.

The unfortunate reality in Alabama is there is a certain less than human element in the workplace and lurching about in the state that receive some sort of perverse gratification in harassing or making fun of people who have a mental illness problem. Do not have any compassion for these sub rodent individuals. No offense to rodents is implied.

We all face tough economic times in Alabama so what can you do to be a part of [Mental Illness Awareness Week](#)?

Express your appreciation for any individual you see or know that has a mental illness, especially if they are working. You will make their day.

Volunteer. Contact the Alabama Department of Mental Health. There is plenty to do and not enough help.

Mental illness is just another disease but you never hear people making fun of someone who has cancer do you? Stigma is a major barrier to people seeking help when they need it.