



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION, REHABILITATION, AND COUNSELING

INFORMATION LETTER

Evaluating Empathy and Stigma Toward People with Mental Illness Who Are Incarcerated

You are invited to participate in a research study to evaluate news media effects on empathy and stigma toward people with mental illness who are incarcerated. The study is being conducted by Keith Huffman, MA, LPC, who is the Principal Investigator while under the direction of Jinhee Park, PhD, Research Supervisor in the Auburn University Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling (SERC). You are invited to participate because you are a counseling student enrolled in a CACREP-accredited counseling program, and you are a graduate student aged 18 or older.

What will be involved if you participate? If you decide to participate in this research study, you will be asked to complete the online research survey by first reading a news media report and answer the research survey items. The study will be conducted online via Qualtrics. We encourage you to respond to the research survey items to the best of your ability. However, you may skip any question that you are unwilling to answer or stop taking the research survey at any time. Your total time commitment will be approximately 30-40 minutes.

Are there any risks or discomforts? Possible risks associated with participating in this study would be a loss of confidentiality. To minimize this risk, the research survey items will not include any identifying information. Additionally, at the end of the research survey, you will be asked to click on a link separate from the research survey to provide your email information for a \$10 Amazon e-gift card. Immediately after the Amazon gift card is provided, your email address will be deleted. You also have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. You may close the browser any time (at the beginning or in the middle of your participation) if you wish to withdraw from the study.

Are there any benefits to yourself or others? There are no immediate or direct benefits for you taking the research survey. However, your participation in the current study may help obtain data that provides insight about how news media reports may affect stigma and empathy toward people with mental illness who are incarcerated. This will contribute to the professional counseling literature and provide considerations for counselor educators and supervisors to consider while preparing future counselors for the counseling profession. We cannot promise you that you will receive any or all of the benefits described.

Will you receive compensation for participating? The first 100 participants who complete the research survey are eligible to receive a \$10 Amazon e-gift card, if they provide their email address to receive the gift card.

Additional or Incurred Costs. You will not incur any costs for participating in this study.

Any data obtained in connection with this study will remain anonymous. We will protect your privacy and the data you provide by securely storing the data on the researcher's personal computer, which is locked and password-protected. Information obtained through your participation may be published in professional journals or presented at professional conferences, but the identities of all research participants will remain anonymous.

If you have questions about this study, please contact Keith Huffman via email at kmh0160@auburn.edu, or Dr. Jinhee Park at 334-844-7620 or by email at jzp0095@auburn.edu. Also, please keep a copy of this document or save a copy on your computer for your information.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance or the Institutional Review Board by phone (334)-844-5966 or email at IRBadmin@auburn.edu.

"The Auburn University Institutional Review Board has approved this document for use from 04/11/2023 to -----, Protocol #23-142 EX 2303."