

**Thesis Portfolio**

**Effects of Access to Mental Health Services Following Release from Custody**  
(Technical Report)

**Accessibility and Availability of Mental Health Resources to Treat Mental Health  
Disorders Among University of Virginia (UVA) Engineering Students**  
(STS Research Paper)

An Undergraduate Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the School of Engineering and Applied Science  
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In Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
Bachelor of Science, School of Engineering

Nathaniel Donkoh-Moore  
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Department of Engineering Systems and Environment

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## **Sociotechnical Synthesis**

There are two projects described in this paper. The first is the technical project, which builds on previous work to examine the current mental health services available to those released from the Charlottesville area regional jail. Helped the criminal justice system agencies and community mental health service providers understand the return to custody rate of inmates released from county jail within 12 months between the years 2015-2019. The technical project team's deliverable included key findings: from the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail (ACRJ) dataset from 2015 to 2019, 913 individuals screened in for a referral to mental health services. This is 26% of the total inmates who were screened at ACRJ, and individuals who received services from R10 were more likely to return to custody (19%) within 12 months than screened-in individuals who did not receive these services (11%).

The second is the STS project proposal that looks at the access and availability of mental health resources across college campuses by examining the mental health resources provided. Due to the wide variations between the colleges at UVA, the availability of resources for this project, the SEAS, or UVA Engineering was the case study to identify the primary resources that schools should seek to provide to their students.

Recommendations from the second project that directly relates to those in the first project included increasing funding to mental health resources, making mental health resources available to those with the most need through videos, and other technology. These with continuous monitoring will result in fewer inmates returning to custody from the screened-in population.