Despite the recognition of the stigma faced by those suffering from severe mental illness, research in this area has been limited. In particular, there is a lack of empirical research focusing on stigma in the setting of an inpatient psychiatric facility. The purpose of this study is to examine the stigma perceived by those suffering from severe mental illness (as defined by inpatient status in a long-term psychiatric facility) and the perceptions of severe mental illness by both those suffering from it (current inpatients) and those caring for them (health care workers). To accomplish this surveys are distributed to both inpatients and health care workers to measure perceptions of mental illness. Additionally, inpatients completed a survey of perceived self-stigma due to their mental illness. The perceptions of mental illness are compared between the two groups while the impact of each group’s view on perceived stigma is also evaluated. The hypotheses include: 1. a difference exists in perceptions of mental illness between inpatients and health care workers, 2. stigma perceived by inpatients is related to the perceptions of mental illness held by inpatients, and 3. stigma perceived by inpatients is related to the perceptions of mental illness held by health care workers.

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