Current State of Mental Health System

The current state the "Mental Health Highway" infrastructure has lead to sections deteriorating, misguidance, and limited access points to mental health services—preventing individuals and their caregivers from accessing the right types of services at the right time.





 ${\bf Food/Hotel}$ - Basic needs that can offset a mental health crisis if provided at the right points.



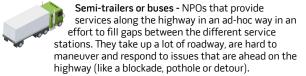
Coffee Stop - Quick fix to a problem. i.e.: calling 211 or a Distress Centre.



Gas Station - Full-service stop where an individual or family can get in-person counseling support and referrals to other specialists. However, not all service stations offer the right type of fuel (i.e. emerging adults need different types of supports than seniors) and in some cases the station may be open, but the pump may be empty.



Hitchhiker - Individuals who don't have a car to get on the highway, will go wherever they can be taken, even if it isn't the right solution for their problem. These individuals tend to get stuck in a loop of getting bounced around from service to service because they can't actually get to the service they need.





Emergency vehicles - The most expensive mental health services. Once an individual ends up in one of these vehicles, they have a straight line to the end of the highway at the hospital or prison.



Potholes/Barriers/Detours - These are things that prevent the flow of the highway. Some are well marked with clear instructions and others just show-up. Some of these barriers are unintended consequences from overuse or traffic (i.e. heavy trucks on the freeway).



These services have a fee-for-service model or are private.

