

# Mental Health : Mistreatment and misunderstanding

Have you heard the  
phrase “lunatic”?  
Have you ever  
called something  
“mental”?

The words madness and mental have been used throughout time to label and categorise people; we still use such words today to demonise and 'other' people who struggle with their mental health. Ultimately, the treatment of mental health issues have changed significantly throughout time, often being generalised and stigmatised.

Mental Health: Misunderstanding and mistreatment considers how methods of diagnosis were formed, and the outdated approaches to treatments drawn from these techniques. We reflect on the distressing conditions of asylums in the past and the closure of these institutions, exploring the newer development of community care.

*This exhibition explores these ideas through the discussion of certain terms; we attempt to use these terms sensitively and acknowledge that they are outdated and may be upsetting to some viewers. If you would like to comment on the terms we have used or give us feedback contact us at [mentalhealth.wellcome.exhibition@gmail.com](mailto:mentalhealth.wellcome.exhibition@gmail.com)*

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**This exhibition features images relating to and descriptions of people facing mental health challenges, which may be upsetting for some viewers.**