

# Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office

## Mental Illness in Jails Jail Overcrowding Habitual Offenders

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# Mental Illness in Jails

- *The Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness in Prisons and Jails – National Sheriff's Association, April 2014*
- Among the findings of the survey are the following:
- From 1770 to 1820 in the United States, mentally ill persons were routinely confined in prisons and jails. Because this practice was regarded as inhumane and problematic, until 1970, such persons were routinely confined in hospitals. Since 1970, we have returned to the earlier practice of routinely confining such persons in prisons and jails.
- In 2012, there were estimated to be 356,268 inmates with severe mental illness in prisons and jails. There were also approximately 35,000 patients with severe mental illness in state psychiatric hospitals. Thus, the number of mentally ill persons in prisons and jails was 10 times the number remaining in state hospitals.

# Mental Illness in Jails

- In 44 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, a prison or jail in that state holds more individuals with serious mental illness than the largest remaining state psychiatric hospital. For example, in Ohio, 10 state prisons and two county jails each hold more mentally ill inmates than does the largest remaining state hospital.

# Mental Illness in Jails

- Problems associated with incarcerating mentally ill persons include:
- Jail/prison overcrowding resulting from mentally ill prisoners remaining behind bars longer than other prisoners
- Behavioral issues disturbing to other prisoners and correctional staff
- Physical attacks on correctional staff and other prisoners
- Victimization of prisoners with mental illness in disproportionate numbers
- Deterioration in the psychiatric condition of inmates with mental illness as they go without treatment
- Relegation in grossly disproportionate numbers to solitary confinement, which worsens symptoms of mental illness
- Jail/prison suicides in disproportionate numbers
- Increased taxpayer costs
- Disproportionate rates of recidivism

# Mental Illness in Jails Alabama

- The largest public institution holding mentally ill individuals in Alabama is the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham; approximately 20 percent, or 483 of its 2,413 inmates, are thought to have serious mental illness.
- Alabama has virtually no jail diversion programs and is among the states spending the least on public psychiatric treatment programs.

# Mental Illness in Jails 1970 to the Present

- With the emptying of mental health facilities in the 1960's, widely referred to as deinstitutionalization, was probably the most well-meaning but poorly planned medical-social policy of twentieth-century America; it has been reviewed elsewhere. Because the majority of patients being discharged from the hospitals were not given follow-up psychiatric care and relapsed into psychosis, some inevitably committed misdemeanor or felony acts, usually associated with their untreated mental illness, and were arrested.

# Mental Illness in Jails 1970 to the Present

- *by the early 1980s, three decades ago, it was clear that deinstitutionalization was resulting in a progressive increase of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system.* Discharging individuals with serious mental illnesses without ensuring that they received proper treatment in the community was a prescription for sure disaster.
- As deinstitutionalization has continued during the past decade, the situation in the nation's prisons and jails has grown increasingly deplorable. In Atlanta, following the closure of the Georgia Mental Health Institute, "the number of inmates [in the county jail] being treated for mental illness . . . increased 73.4 percent." Following the closure of the Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital, the head of the local county jail reported that "prisoners with mental problems . . . increased by 60 percent." A 2006 report by the Department of Justice reported that 15 percent of inmates of state prisons and 24 percent of inmates in local jails were psychotic.

# Mental Illness in Jails 1970 to the Present

- Higher estimates of serious mental illness for individual institutions are increasingly being reported, such as 30 percent for Ohio's Stark County Jail and Missouri's Boone County Jail; 40 percent for Texas's El Paso County Jail and Alabama's Tuscaloosa County Jail (2006).

# State Mental Health Facilities Closing

- Alabama Psychiatric Services- 28,000 patients
- North Alabama Regional Hospital- 74 patients
- Greil Memorial Psychiatric Hospital in Montgomery- 62 patients
- Searcy Hospital in Mt. Vernon- 193 patients
- Partlow Developmental Center

# State Mental Health Facilities ALL in Tuscaloosa

- The “New” Bryce-268 patient beds
- Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility
- Mary Starke Harper Geriatric Psychiatry Center

# Mental Illness in Jails 1970 to the Present

## What Have We Done in Tuscaloosa?

- Mental Health Court- Began in June 2012
- Indian Rivers- Assesses the inmate to see if they qualify.
- Judge Almond- Monitors the offender and makes sure they are in compliance with his orders.

# Mental Illness in Jails

## What Have We Done in Tuscaloosa-Mental Health Court

- Originally chart-reviewed every inmate detained in the TCJ at that time (approx. 600 cases)
- Since then we have additionally assessed approximately 350 individuals for the program
- We maintain a maximum of 40 cases at one time
- Standard enrollment is for an intensive treatment period of 12 months
- We have had 35 successful graduates
- 5 clients were dismissed from the program for non-punitive reasons
- 2 clients ended the program early due to EOS

# Mental Illness in Jails

## What Have We Done in Tuscaloosa-Mental Health Court

- 22 clients have been revoked from the program since 2012 due to failure to follow program rules or violations of the terms of their conditional release
- Approx. 100 clients have been served through this program since June 2012
- The treatment team consists of one Master's Level therapist and one Bachelor's Level case manager
- An individual must have a diagnosis of a serious mental illness to qualify for the program
- There are rule-outs for violent felony crimes and some drug charges (manufacturing and trafficking)

# Mental Illness in Jails 1970 to the Present

## What Have We Done in Tuscaloosa

- Contract with the University of Alabama Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.
- A Psychiatrist, Dr. Giggie, comes to the jail once and sometimes twice a week to evaluate inmates with a history of mental illness and determine the best course of action and treatment for the individual.

# Important Supreme Court Rulings

- *Olmstead v. L.C.*- a ruling that requires states to eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and to ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.
- *Washington v. Harper*- The United States Supreme court ruled that the Due Process Clause permits a state to treat an incarcerated inmate having a serious mental disorder with antipsychotic medication against his will, under the condition that he is dangerous to himself or others and the medication prescribed is in his best medical interest.
- We can't let America's Prison and Jails become the new asylums for the Mentally Ill. We must not let those with mental illness languish in jail. Once they come to our jail, it is our duty to make sure they are treated humanely, and that includes ensuring they receive the appropriate treatment for mental illness.

# Prison Overcrowding

- Governor Bentley signs Prison Reform Act 2015-185 149 pages
- Creates a Class D Felony that is designed to ease overcrowding through probation.
- Sets new parole guidelines
- More services to ensure recidivism rate is reduced
- Adds new limited driving permit
- Release inmates to federal custody if federal sentence exceeds state sentence
- Authorizes addition of 1,500-2,000 more prison beds
- Authorizes Sheriff's to not take Parole/Probation violators if jail is at or over capacity or violator has a severe medical condition and is a security threat.
- Parole/Probation violation hearings must be within 20 days of arrest

# **AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION**

**Jail Numbers 2011 - 2014**

**2011 AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION – 621**

**AVG. 81 ABOVE RATED CAPACITY**

**INMATE TO OFFICER RATIO – 1:51**

**(Initiated Conditional Release Program with Avg. 35 Inmate Participation)**

**2012 AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION – 624**

**AVG. 104 ABOVE RATED CAPACITY**

**INMATE TO OFFICER RATIO – 1:54**

**2013 AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION – 641**

**AVG. 101 ABOVE RATED CAPACITY**

**INMATE TO OFFICER RATIO – 1:53**

**2014 AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION – 623**

**AVG. 83 ABOVE RATED CAPACITY**

**INMATE TO OFFICER RATIO – 1:51**

**Total Prisoners Booked into Jail 2014- 12,305**

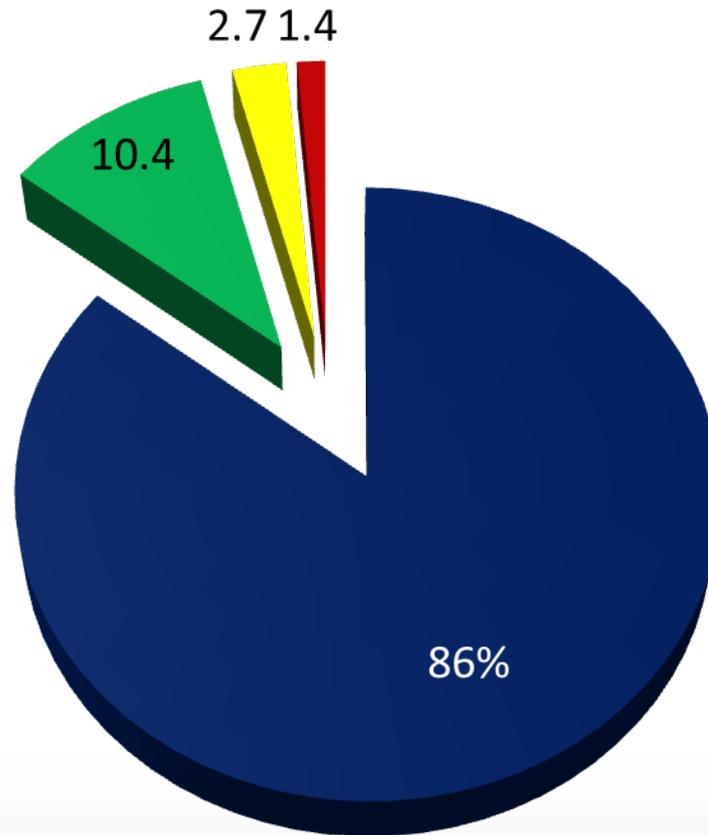


**TUSCALOOSA COUNTY JAIL**

# AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY 2014

## Percentage of Population

■ < 30 Days   ■ 30 - 180 Days   ■ 180 - 365 Days   ■ > 365 Days



**TUSCALOOSA COUNTY JAIL**

# STATISTICAL INFORMATION

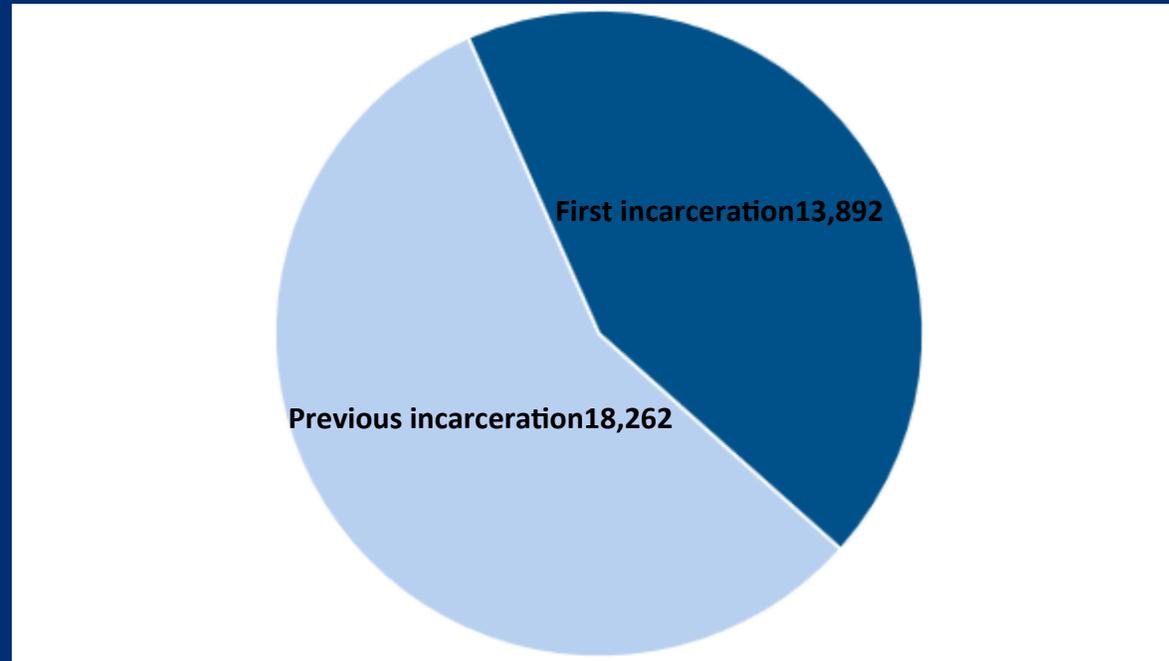
## TOP 5 SENIOR INMATES AS OF 03 March 2015

	Inmate Name	Charges	Date of Incarceration
1	Tamarcus Kendrell Thomas	Capital Murder & UPOCS	03-29-2009
2	William Stweart	Burglary 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Attempted Burglary 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Capital Murder; Sell Near a School	03-11-2012
3	Michael Kardell Ford	Burglary 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Theft of Property 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Robbery 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Robbery 3 <sup>rd</sup> ; Attempted Burglary 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Capital Murder	03-11-2012
4	Leroy Devon Hines	Resisting Arrest; Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; Violation of Protection From Abuse; Capital Murder; DV2 Strangluation	03-19-2012
5	Cynthia Diane Mack	Interference with Custody; NWNl x 3; Capital Murder	04-20-2012



# TUSCALOOSA COUNTY JAIL

# Habitual Offenders State Prison



# Habitual Offenders State Prison

- 4 out of every 10 inmates
- Property Crimes- 35.8 percent
- Personal Offenses- 33.6 percent
- Drug Crimes-23.9 percent
- Other Crimes- 6.7 percent

# Habitual Offenders

- The Alabama Legislature passed the Habitual Felony Offender Act in 1977 to crack down on repeat criminals. Since then, the prison population has increased by 840 percent, although experts say the law is not the only reason for that dramatic run-up.
- Prison Reform Act is designed to lower numbers of inmates in state prison to 137% over capacity.

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