



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & JAIL

Mark Sasvary, LCSW
Hudson Valley Mental Health, Inc.

Behavioral Health & Jail

- Upon release from jail or prison, many people with mental or substance use disorders continue to lack access to services and, too often, become enmeshed in a cycle of costly justice system involvement.
 - *Recidivism rates are higher among inmates with mental health problems (1)*
 - *The days and weeks following community reentry are a time of heightened vulnerability (2)*

Behavioral Health & Jail

■ Individuals with mental and substance use disorders are:

- *Less likely to make bail*
- *More likely to have longer jail stays*
- *More likely to serve time in segregation during incarceration*
- *More likely to experience victimization or exploitation*
- *Greater difficulty coping with institutional rules (2)*

Jails and prisons house significantly greater proportions of individuals with mental, substance use, and co-occurring disorders than are found in the general public (2)

The Public

- *5% have a serious mental illness*
- *8.5% have substance use disorders*
- *14-25% have co-occurring SMI & SUD*

Jail inmates

- *17% have a serious mental illness*
- *68% have substance use disorders*
- *33-60% have co-occurring SMI & SUD*



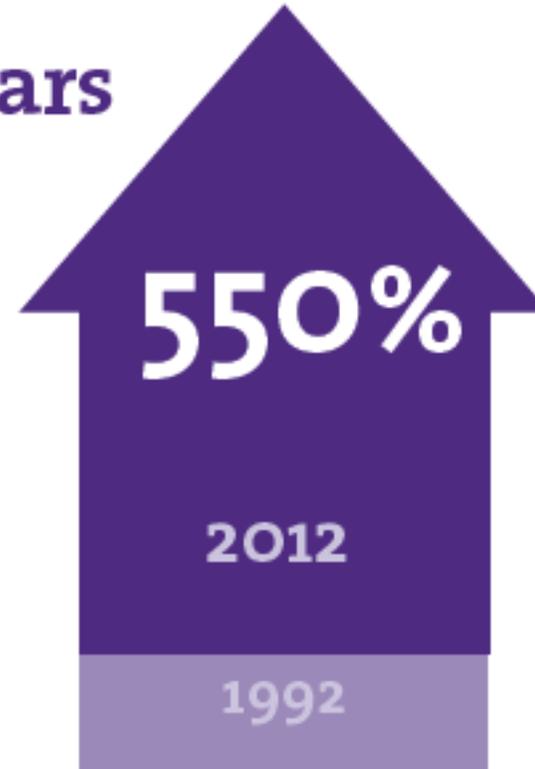
Suicide and Violence

Suicide accounts for one-third of deaths in jails. 15 percent of state prisoners reported violence-related injuries and 22 percent reported accidental injuries.

(3)

Graying Behind Bars

People aged 55 years and older are among the fastest growing segments of the incarcerated population. Older adults have higher rates of chronic conditions and mental and physical disabilities.



(3)

Homelessness (1)

- *46% of homeless people have mental illness*
- *17% of jail inmates said they were homeless in the year before their incarceration*
- *Providing housing for persons with mental illnesses who are homeless reduces criminal justice involvement by 38% (jail days served)*

Trauma

- Childhood traumas potentially explain 32.4% of psychiatric disorders in adulthood (1)

Trauma

- SAMHSA's Targeted Capacity Expansion for Jail Diversion targeting inmates with Co-occurring Disorders
 - *92.9% of participants had experienced sexual or physical abuse in their lifetime*
 - *61% had experienced sexual or physical abuse in the past 12 months*

Trauma

- NYS Maximum Security Prison (1999):
 - *70% of women inmates physical abuse*
 - *59% severe sexual abuse*
 - *75% physical violence by a partner*
 - *77% history of physical or sexual violence*

Sources

1. SAMHSA: Behavioral Health and Justice Involved Populations, Presentation by Administrator Hyde, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, Feb 11, 2011.
2. SAMHSA: Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison: Implementation Guide. (SMA)-16-4998. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2017.
3. Cloud, D. On Life Support: Public Health In the Age of Mass Incarceration. New York, NY: Vera Institute of Justice, 2014.