

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.acluohio.org/en/news/ohio-prisons-solitary-confinement-and-mental-illness>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

[Skip to main content](#)

Lets imagine

You are locked inside a room the size of your bathroom for 23 hours a day and let outside for one hour, but only when its warm and only in a cage the size of a walk-in closet. Your meals are eaten inside this room, and there is limited reading and television access.

This is solitary confinement in Ohio.

Persons With Mental Illness in Solitary

Now imagine you have a mental illness. Make no mistake, you can still be subjected to solitary confinement.

Too few community mental health resources make it likely that people with a mental illness will find their way to prison where there are even fewer resources. About 80 percent of those incarcerated in Ohios prisons have a [documented history of alcohol and/or drug abuse](#).

We also know that [19 percent](#) of Ohios prison population is on the mental health caseload, yet mental health expenditures [only account for half of one percent of the budget](#).

More than [450 people with a mental illness](#) are in two of Ohios most restrictive prisons.

Solitary Watch reports, [Persons with mental illness](#) often have difficulty complying with strict prison rules, particularly when there is scant assistance to help them manage their disorders

In 2007, [a federal judge ruled](#) that putting prisoners with mental illness in **solitary confinement is the mental equivalent of putting an asthmatic in a place with little air to breathe.**

Ohio Prisons Are Doing It

Ohio routinely places individuals with mental illness in two of the most restrictive prisons in Ohio with little access to treatment and resources to aid rehabilitation.

Learn more about [ACLU of Ohios campaign to end solitary confinement](#) in Ohios prisons.

Stay informed

2022 ACLU of Ohio