

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | December 27, 2015

A Texas man is [suing the states prison system](#), alleging that the two years he spent in solitary confinement constituted a violation of the 14th Amendment. Nelson Patterson maintains his time in isolation caused him physical and mental harm and aggravated a pre-existing medical condition.

A [survey](#) by the national law firm Lowenstein Sandler found that that ten states permit children to be held in indefinite solitary confinement as a form of punishment. Twenty-one jurisdictions prohibit the use of solitary confinement in juvenile facilities and twenty states impose time-limits on the use of solitary confinement, ranging from 6 hours to 90 days.

Under [a class-action lawsuit settled in Illinois](#), 11,000 people with mental health issues will see substantial improvements in their treatment, including major reductions in the time many spend in solitary confinement. Under the agreement, people with mental illness who are in solitary confinement for more than 60 days will have their out-of-cell time increased from less than an hour per day to 20 hours per week.

A Tennessee man who was held in a New Mexico jail for more than a year [will receive \\$750,000](#) for the time he spent in solitary confinement while incarcerated. Michael Faziani, who is bipolar, alleged he was denied his medication while at the Sierra County Detention Center.

Aviva Stahl is a Brooklyn-based reporter who writes about science/health at the intersection of mass incarceration, national security, and trans rights. Shes written for the New York Times, Wired, BuzzFeed News, Solitary Watch, and other outlets. Find her [@stahlidarity](#) and at [stahlidarity.com](#).

Accurate information and authentic storytelling can serve as powerful antidotes to ignorance and injustice. We have helped generate public awareness, mainstream media attention, and informed policymaking on what was once an invisible domestic human rights crisis.

Only with your support can we continue this groundbreaking work, shining light into the darkest corners of the U.S. criminal punishment system.

by [Juan Moreno Haines](#)

October 25, 2022

by [Solitary Watch Guest Author](#)

October 13, 2022

by [Vaidya Gullapalli](#)

September 29, 2022

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