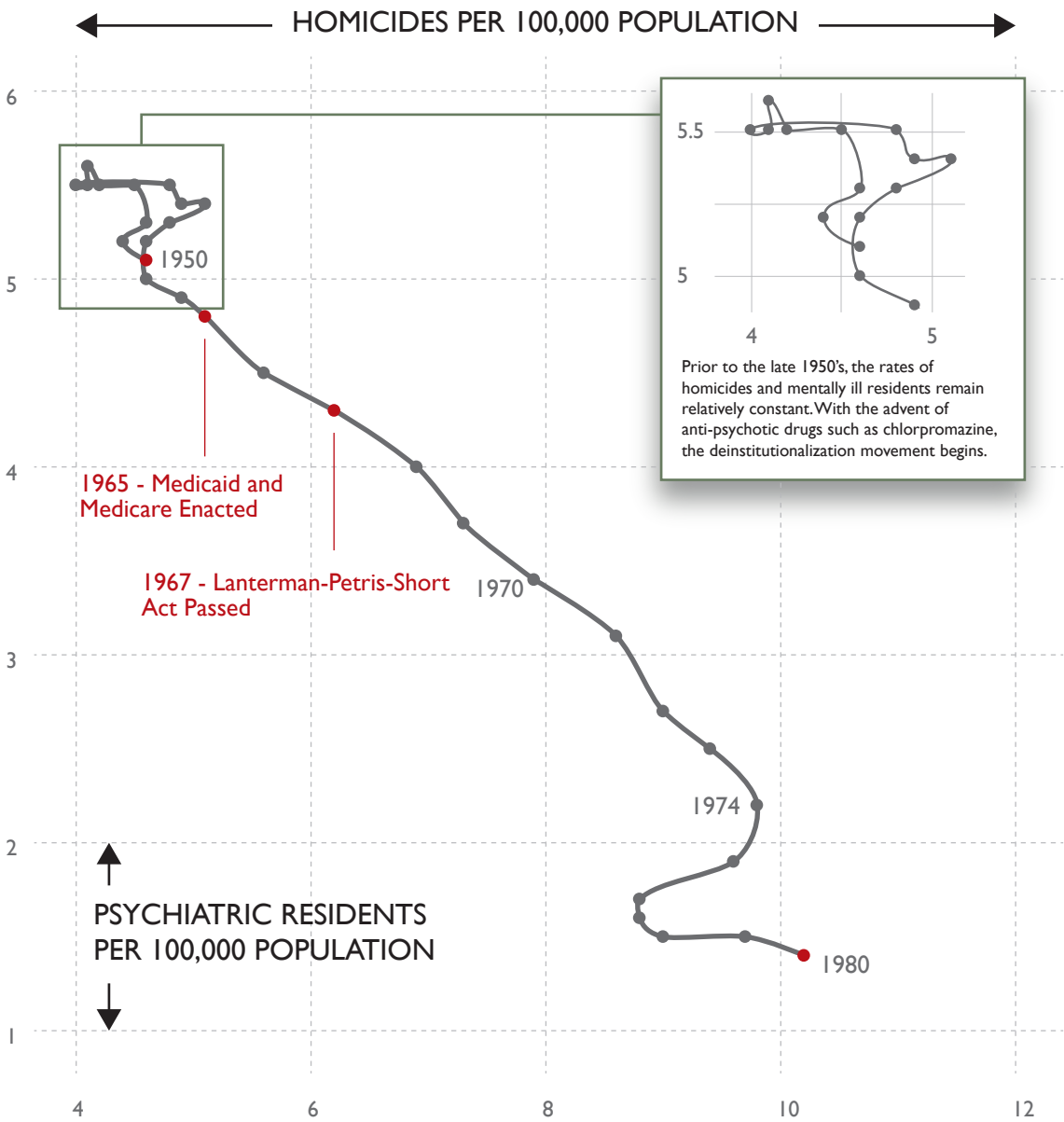


More Mentally Ill People Go to Prison than Psych Hospitals

During the deinstitutionalization movement in the United States countless individuals with severe mental illnesses were moved out of large state institutions, with most of these institutions being shut down altogether.

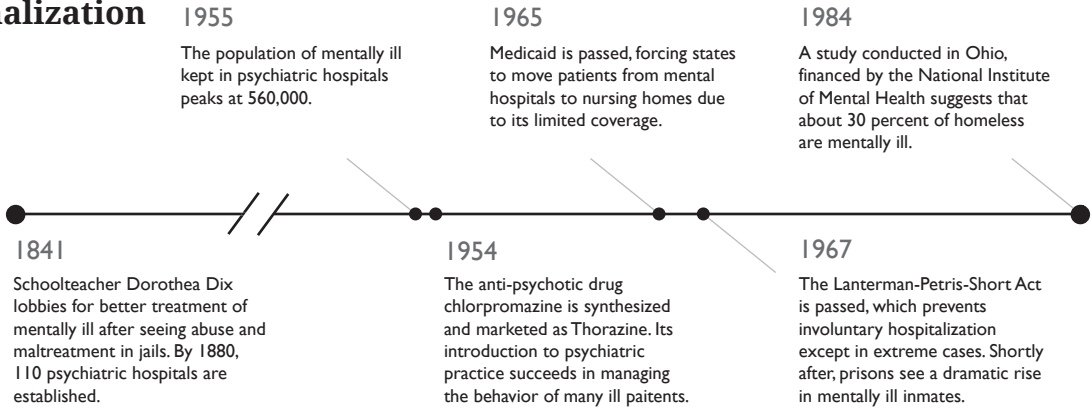
Deinstitutionalization is regarded as a systemic failure by many. Concomitant with the movement is an increase in homicide rates, prison rates, homelessness, and mental health crises.

The terms “transinstitutionalization” or “reinstitutionalization” are sometimes used to acknowledge the fate of many mentally ill persons: incarceration. With the closure of state mental hospitals, mentally ill individuals are not held involuntarily, and rarely comply with medication requirements. As a result, many of them eventuate in prisons, which are ill-equipped to provide the proper care they need.



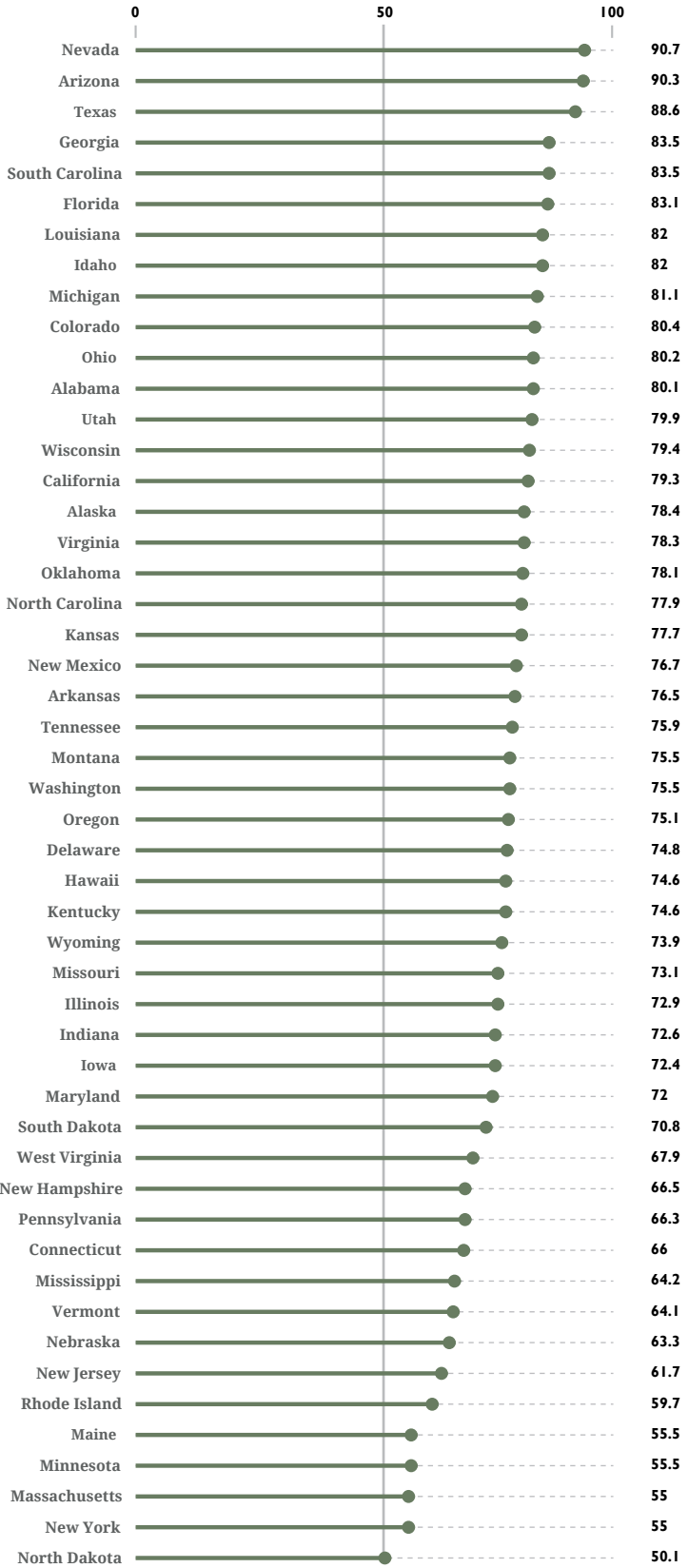
Timeline of Deinstitutionalization

Certain events played an integral role in the establishment and disestablishment of mental institutions. This timeline indicates key events and legislative activity that contributed to the process of deinstitutionalization

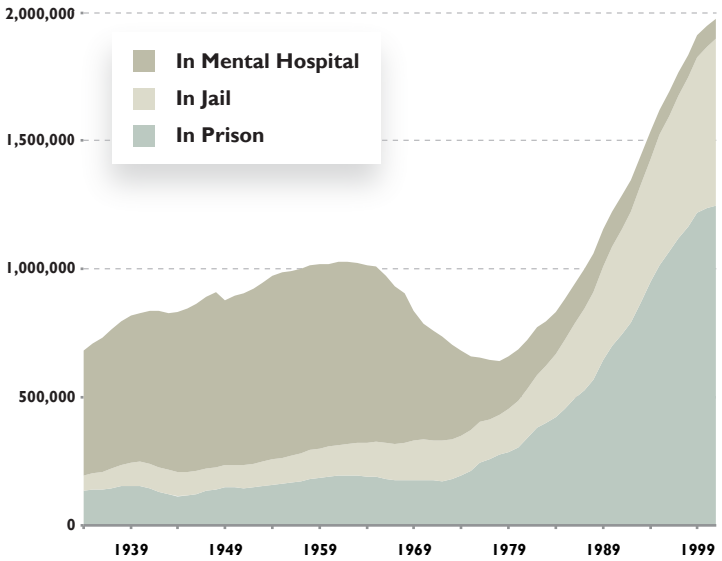


Percentage of Institutionalized Mentally Ill in Prisons

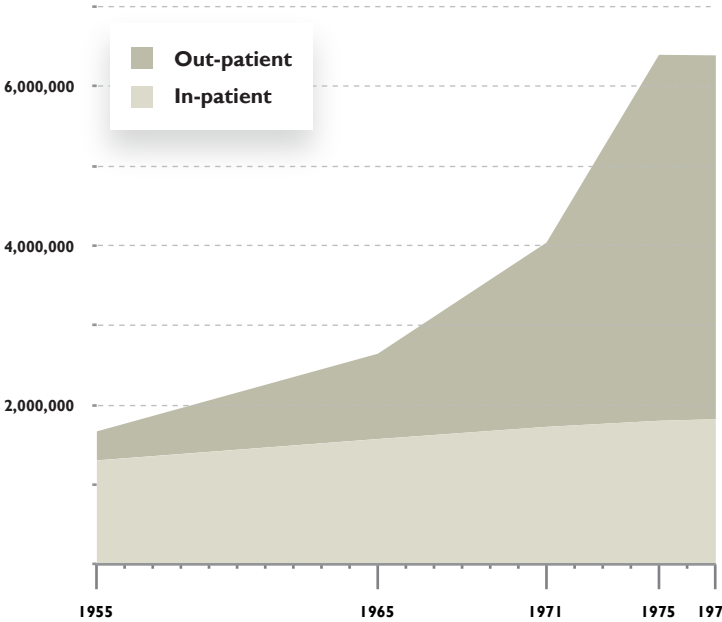
This chart demonstrates the distribution of institutionalized mentally ill people between hospitals and prisons. It is abundantly clear that the mentally ill have a much greater propensity towards prison than any kind of medical care.



Distribution of Mentally Ill in Prisons, Jails, and Mental Hospitals



Number of Patient Care Episodes



Sources

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