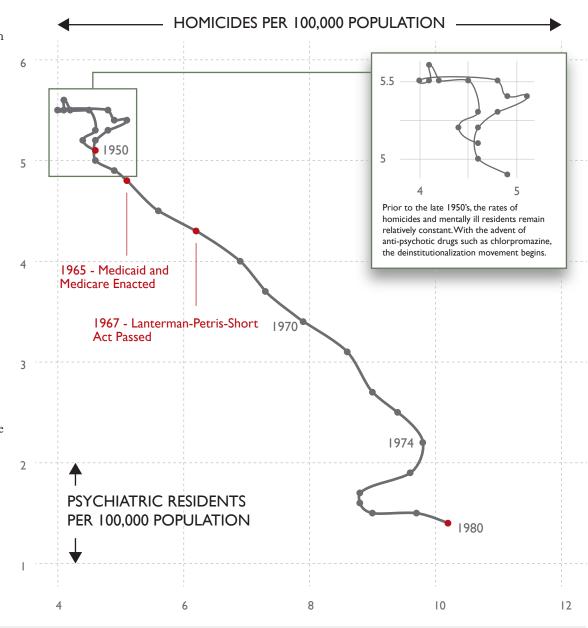
# More Mentally Ill People Go to Prison than Psych Hospitals

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**

1841

maltreatment in jails. By 1880,

IIO psychiatric hospitals are

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

#### 1984 The population of mentally ill Medicaid is passed, forcing states A study conducted in Ohio, kept in psychiatric hospitals financed by the National Institute to move patients from mental peaks at 560,000. hospitals to nursing homes due of Mental Health suggests that to its limited coverage. about 30 percent of homeless are mentally ill. 1954 1967 Schoolteacher Dorothea Dix The anti-psychotic drug The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act lobbies for better treatment of is passed, which prevents chlorpromazine is synthesized mentally ill after seeing abuse and

involuntary hospitalization

in mentally ill inmates.

except in extreme cases. Shortly

after, prisons see a dramatic rise

and marketed as Thorazine. Its

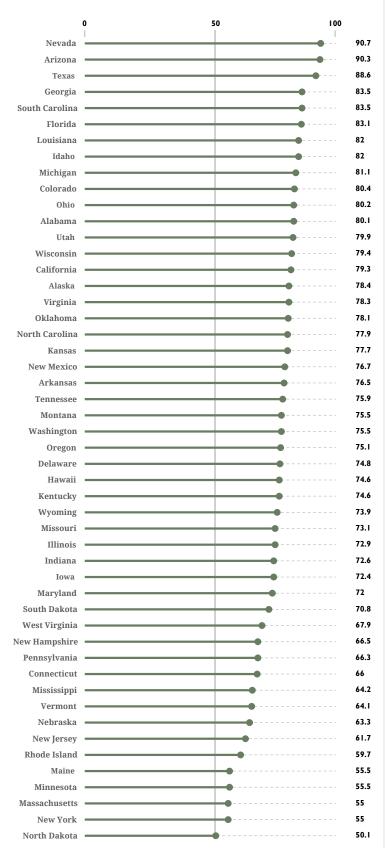
practice succeeds in managing

the behavior of many ill paitents.

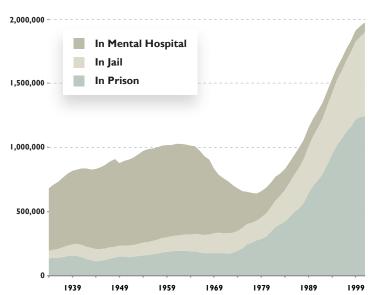
introduction to psychiatric

# Percentage of Institutionalized Mentally III in Prisons

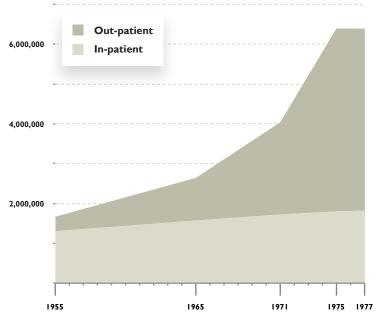
This chart demonstrates the distribution of institutionalized mentally ill people between hospitals and prisons. It is abundantly clear that the mentally ill have a much greater propensity towards prison than any kind of medical care.



### Distribution of Mentally III in Prisons, Jails, and Mental Hospitals



## Number of Patient Care Episodes



#### Sources

An Institutionalization Effect: The Impact of Mental Hospitalization and Imprisonment or Homicide in the United States, 1934-2001

The Journal of Legal Studies, Vol. 40, No. 1 (January 2011), pp. 39-83

Deinstitutionalization: The data demythologized Goldman, H. H., Adams, N. H., & Taube, C. A. (1983). Hospital & Community Psychiatry, 34(2), 129-134.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics

The National Institute for Mental Health

Treatment Advocacy Center