

MALE AND FEMALE INMATES ON THE MH/MR ROSTER*

Year (as of Dec 31)	Male Population	Males on MH/MR	Female Population	Females on MH/MR
2002	38,275	5,661 (14.8%)	1,815	656 (36.1%)
2001	36,290	5,214 (14.4%)	1,705	642 (37.7%)
2000	35,235	4,789 (13.6%)	1,575	489 (31.0%)

*Includes inmates on PRT Roster.

In 2002, approximately 15.8% of all inmates were on the MH/MR roster. These are inmates who are mentally ill and are participating in treatment.

MALE AND FEMALE INMATES ON THE PRT ROSTER

Year (as of Dec 31)	Male Population	Males on PRT	Female Population	Females on PRT
2002	38,275	1,354 (3.5%)	1,815	174 (9.6%)
2001	36,290	1,170 (3.2%)	1,705	165 (9.7%)
2000	35,235	1,005 (2.9%)	1,575	138 (8.8%)

In 2002, approximately 3.8% of all inmates were on the PRT roster. These are inmates on the MH/MR Roster who are seriously mentally ill and require closer monitoring.

Mental Health Services



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The Department of Corrections provides comprehensive mental health services to the inmate population requiring these services.

Highlights

More than one in six inmates have mental health needs that are addressed by a variety of treatments and services.

The department is committed to meeting the mental health needs of all inmates, ranging from intensive inpatient psychiatric services to basic anger management programs. Services are provided in all institutions and in specialized psychiatric units.

The department has two special Community Corrections Centers (CCC) in Philadelphia that provide a broad range of community reintegration services to mentally ill inmates.

The department has taken steps to enhance its inmate suicide prevention efforts, including additional staff training and developing better methods of assessing potential for suicide.

The number of institutional suicides has dropped from 14 in 1995 to 4 in 2002. This is the lowest rate the DOC has ever recorded, and is lower than the rate in the community.

Overview

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) provides a broad continuum of mental health services to ensure that regardless of how major or minor the emotional disturbance, services are available to all inmates in the prison system. Treatment services include outpatient, psychological and psychiatric services and inpatient psychiatric treatment.

Inmates and Mental Health

Mentally ill inmates are tracked on the Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MH/MR) and Psychiatric Review Team (PRT) rosters. Approximately 15.8% of all inmates are on these two rosters. Inmates who are seriously mentally ill have a substantial disorder of thought or mood which significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or cope with the ordinary demands of life.

Outpatient Services

Outpatient psychology and psychiatry services are provided upon an inmate's initial intake and as needed throughout his or her period of incarceration at all state correctional institutions (SCIs). The department employs approximately 150 psychology staff.

Inpatient Services: Mental Health Units and the Forensic Treatment Center

Inpatient psychiatric treatment is available to all inmates, and is provided in Mental Health Units (MHUs) located in five prisons (Graterford, Frackville, Cresson, Pittsburgh, Muncy) and the Forensic Treatment Center (FTC) at Waymart. The MHUs are small inpatient psychiatric units that are licensed by the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service (OMHSAS). They provide short-term emergency and voluntary mental health commitments. They are operated by vendors under contract with the DOC. The FTC is a 120 bed psychiatric hospital licensed by OMHSAS. It provides long-term inpatient psychiatric treatment and accepts inmates from all DOC institutions and jails in the surrounding 11 counties. It is staffed by vendor medical personnel and DOC employees.

The Intermediate Care Unit (ICU) at Waymart is a 50-bed OMHSAS licensed unit that accepts inmates who have a history of serious mental illness, psychiatric hospitalizations, and Special Needs' Unit (SNU) placements. The ICU prepares inmates for living in a SNU.

Special Needs Units are non-licensed living areas or blocks in 18 DOC prisons where inmates with special needs can receive additional or more intense treatment services, support, and protection. The SNUs house approximately 1,600 inmates with handicaps, including medical, mental retardation, and mental illness.

The Special Assessment Unit (SAU) at Waymart is a five-bed psychiatric unit that conducts mental health assessments on inmates in long term disciplinary custody. Placement is for up to 90 days. A treatment plan for mental health services is developed.

The Special Observation Unit (SOU) at SCI Camp Hill is a 20 bed observation area for newly committed inmates who are experiencing stress and are suspected of having mental health problems.

Community Corrections
Special residential programming for inmates who are severely mentally ill is being provided through the Gaudenzia FIRST program in Philadelphia. This program provides residential services along with key community linkages to assure a smooth transition for these special needs individuals.

Residential dually diagnosed treatment for inmates and parolees with mental illness and substance abuse is being provided in Philadelphia, Allentown, and Pittsburgh via private vendor contracts.

Suicide Prevention

Since 1995, the DOC has enhanced its suicide prevention efforts by augmenting training for staff in RHUs and SMUs. The DOC has produced suicide prevention videotapes and brochures which are presented to inmates upon reception and periodically thereafter. The DOC has also developed a suicide risk indicators' checklist administered to inmates upon initial and RHU reception, and purchased new flame-proof, tear-resistant smocks and blankets for use by inmates on suicide watch. The number of institutional suicides has dropped from 14 in 1995 to 4 in 2002, while the inmate population increased from 28,554 in January 1995 to 40,090 in December 2002.

If you would like more information about mental health services please call :

Bureau of Health Care Services
717- 731-7031

or visit us on the web at
www.cor.state.pa.us