

# Perfect Love Casts Out All Fear: Mental Health, the Criminal Justice System and the Church

Presented by:

NBA Prison & Jail Ministries and  
NBA Mental Health & Congregational Care Ministries  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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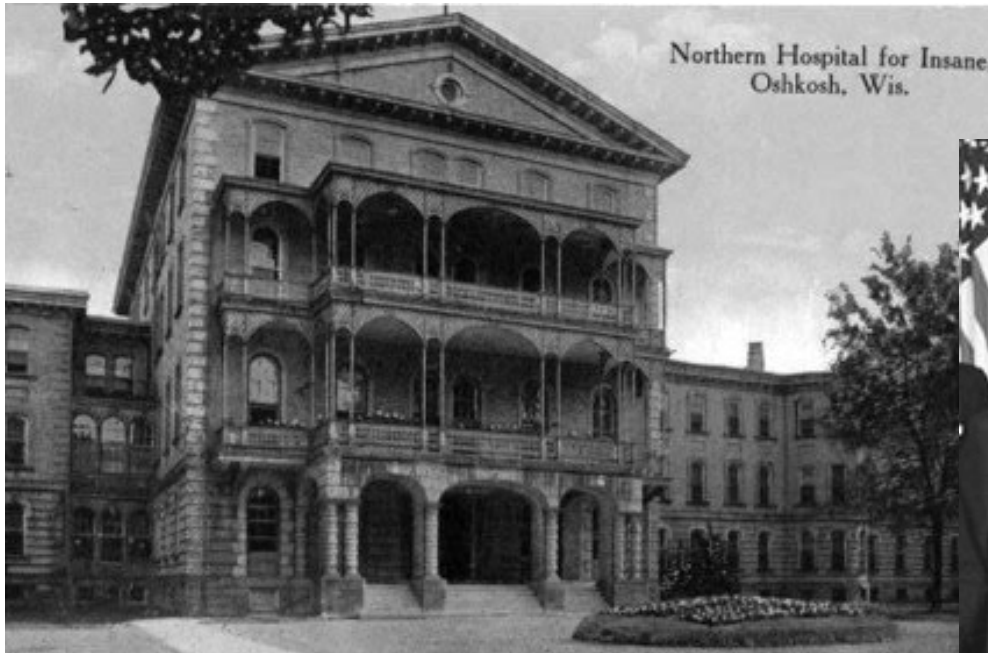
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# We Have A Problem

In a 2006 Special Report, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) estimated that 705,600 mentally ill adults were incarcerated in state prisons; 78,800 in federal prisons; and 479,900 in local jails.



# How We Got Here



Northern Hospital for the Insane  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Mental Health Act of 1963



Early Community Mental Health Clinic



# Trans-Institutionalized Beings

*“Even more than other areas of health and medicine, the mental health field is plagued by disparities in the availability of and access to its services.” Consequently, many of the individuals released into the community without support ended up incarcerated; it is fair to say that, instead of being “deinstitutionalized,” a great number of individuals suffering with mental illness were, in fact, **“trans-institutionalized”** into America’s jails and prisons.*

*Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General, 1999*



# The Pendulum Swings

In 2012, there were **10 times** as many mentally ill persons in prisons and jails than in state hospitals.



Hospitals:  
**35,000**  
mentally ill patients

Prisons and jails:  
**356,000**  
mentally ill inmates

Source: Treatment Advocacy Center

Mother Jones

The three largest mental health providers in the nation today are jails: Cook County in Illinois, Los Angeles County, and Riker's Island in New York.

# Incarcerated Mental Health

Diagnosable substance use disorders

68%  
all jail inmates

Serious mental illnesses in jails



In state prisons, prevalence of serious mental illness is 2 to 4 times higher than in the community.

9%

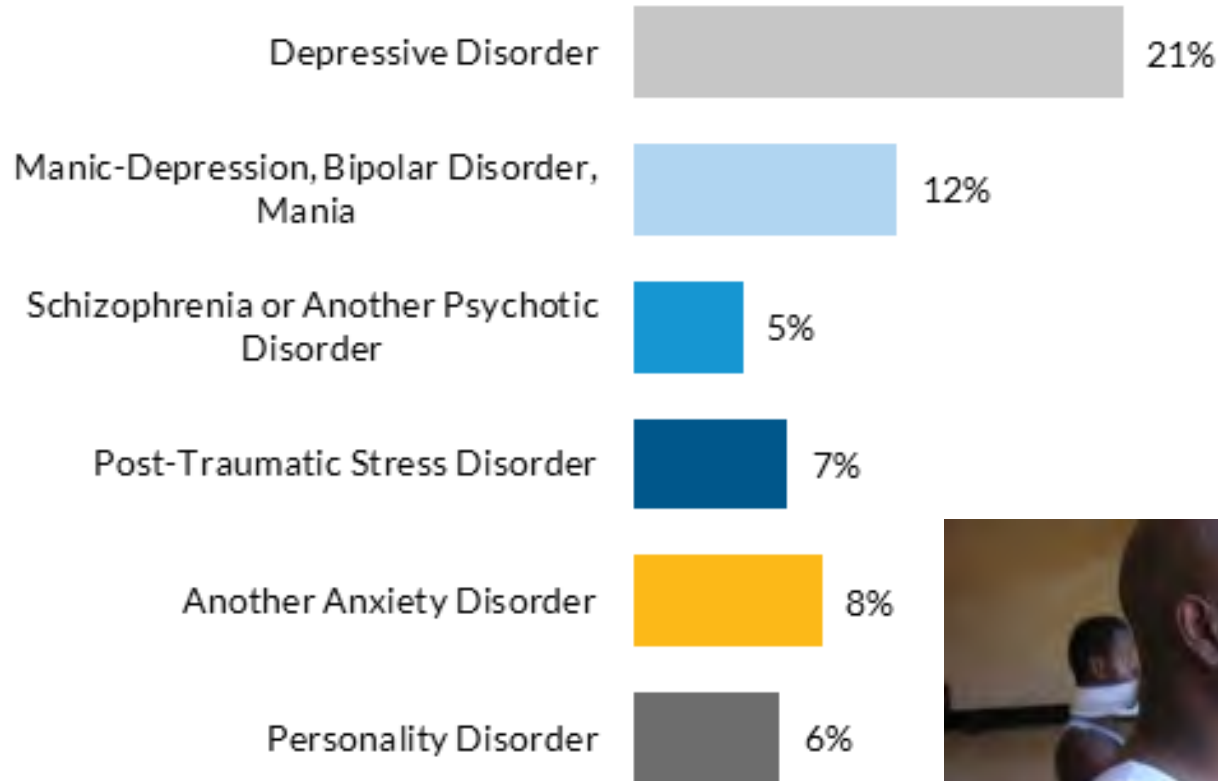
general population

50%  
in state prisons

fewer than 15%  
receive appropriate treatment

# What We Now Find

## Prisoners' mental health issues



**SUICIDE** is the leading cause of death among inmates in local jails, and in the top five for state prisons.



# A Strained System

- About **1 out of 3** state prisoners with mental health problems, **1 out of 4** federal prisoners, and **1 out of 6** jail inmates had received mental health treatment since admission.
- Taking a prescribed medication was the most common type of treatment.
- People with mental illnesses are overrepresented in probation and parole populations, at estimated rates ranging from two to four times the general population.



The background is a teal-tinted photograph of dandelion seed heads and stems. The seed heads are in various stages of maturity, with some showing the characteristic umbrella-like structure of the seeds. The stems are dark and thin, extending upwards from the bottom of the frame. The overall composition is soft and ethereal, with a focus on natural, organic forms.

**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**

# Mark 5:1-20 (Luke 8:26-39)



Healing of:

The Gerasene Demoniac

The Legion

The Mob

The Possessed One

*The Incarcerated One?*

# “Don’t Punish Me”



**“Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.”**

# Acts 3:1-10: Peter Heals a Lame Beggar



Fotos taken from:  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54aea570e4b02f8ed41ac444/54aedf0ae4b083d0979b5e52/55f587c1e4b0945ca58f87a5/1485227013986/?format=1500w>

<sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you..."

<sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"...



Fotos taken from: <https://cbratislava.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/one-day-acts-3.png>

# Breaking Stigmas: How Can the Body of Christ Respond?

**Education**

**Mercy**

**Compassion**

**Love**

**Understanding**

**Care**

**Advocacy**



# Practical Suggestions

- **Educate Yourself & Your Leaders**
  - <http://www.samhsa.gov>
- **Awareness Events (ie: Book Study)**
  - <https://www.nbacares.org/stories-and-news/mental-health-book-study>
- **Family / Children of Incarcerated Support Group**
  - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/supporting/support-services/prisoners/>
  - <https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu>
- **Justice and Advocacy Work**
  - [who.int/mental\\_health/policy/mh\\_in\\_prison.pdf](http://who.int/mental_health/policy/mh_in_prison.pdf)
  - <http://www.nami.org/Search?searchtext=prisons&searchmode=anyword>

# Closing – Sharing Perfect Love

Questions / Comments?



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