

Heartland and US Mental Illness, Incarceration and Veterans

Heartland = Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma

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Percentage of Population with Mental Illness, Incarcerated and Veterans

Study Summary

1. Percentage of the Population who are Mentally Ill

Average 19; Colorado, Iowa, **Kansas**, Nebraska 18, Missouri 19, Oklahoma 22

2. Percentage of Incarcerated Population who are Mentally Ill

Average 33; Colorado 29, Iowa 47, **Kansas** 38, Missouri 16, Nebraska 37, Oklahoma 33

3. Percentage of Population Incarcerated who are Veterans

Average 7; Colorado 9, Iowa 6, **Kansas** 8, Missouri 7, Nebraska 3, Oklahoma 6

4. Percentage of Incarcerated Veterans who are Mentally Ill

Average 44; Colorado 33, Iowa 50, **Kansas** 66, Missouri 18, Nebraska 60, Oklahoma 35

5. Percentage of Incarcerated Mentally Ill Veterans with Less than an Honorable Discharge (no data for Nebraska and Oklahoma)

Average 21; Colorado 22, Iowa 4, **Kansas** 10, Missouri 46

6. Percentage of Incarcerated Mentally Ill Veterans convicted of Violent Crime

Average 68; Colorado 66, Iowa 53, **Kansas** 84, Missouri 64, Nebraska 95, Oklahoma 45

7. Only data for the United States as a whole

Percentage of Population who are Mentally Ill is 18



Recommendations

1. Annual conference call among interested Heartland state agencies, federal agencies, state NAMI and national NAMI
 - A. Review common areas of concern
 - B. Discuss potential solutions
2. Request that DOJ collect and report on this data beginning in FY 2016
3. State of Kansas consider 2015 legislation to provide:
 - A. Diversion programs to keep people with Mental Illness out of the criminal justice system connecting them with mental health treatment;
 - B. Therapeutic care (prescribed medications and counseling) for incarcerated offenders living with mental illness;
 - C. Discharge planning linking people with mental illness to community based services upon their release from correctional facilities;
 - D. Kansas Psychological Association annual and random, unannounced, KDOC facilities audits, and
 - E. Require law enforcement to determine veteran status of anyone charged with a crime and if convicted their status must become part of their incarceration profile instead of relying on “self-identification”.

Percentage of Population with Mental Illness, Incarcerated and Veterans

Background

I am Jim Brann a member of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition (KMCH) and KS National Alliance for Mental Illness (KS NAMI). I am also a veteran of Vietnam. My father and an uncle served in WWII, and other uncles served in Korea and during the Vietnam era. I also have multiple cousins who served in Vietnam. My youngest son served two tours in Iraq. In other words, I come from a pretty typical American family.

I am a firm believer in the Jimmy Valvano philosophy of life: **“never, ever, never, ever, never give up”!** I hope you have a similar philosophy based on your faith or some other deeply held belief.

During the KS Mental Health Advocacy Day on March 13 I met with Governor Brownback, Representatives Bollier, KleeB, Rubin and Senator Denning.

The purpose of these meetings was to urge them to:

1. Protect mental health funding and budgets;
2. Work with Representative John Rubin and Governor Brownback to create legislation that addresses Mental Health and Criminal Justice System issues.

My youngest son deployed to Iraq twice serving with the Marine Corps. During his first tour he was involved in extreme combat at Fallujah and Ramadi. He was awarded Certificates of Commendation (Individual Awards) for these engagements. He also received the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Iraq) Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2), and Marine Good Conduct Medal and was promoted early. Unfortunately he got in trouble during his second tour in Iraq and received a Bad Conduct Discharge.

He suffers from Bi-polar Disorder and Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder. Since leaving the Corps he has self-medicated and had multiple encounters with law enforcement. He is currently incarcerated in Sedgwick County Jail awaiting sentencing for a probation violation. This is his 2nd violation. On November 3, 2013 after serving 60 days for his first violation he was released from Sedgwick County Jail at midnight; no money, wearing shorts and a tee-shirt, no transportation and no place to go.

Objective

I fully support recently passed KS HB2655 which provides alternatives for veterans who encounter law enforcement as long as they have acceptable discharges from the military, are mentally ill and served in combat. This bill is a great start but leaves out Kansas men and women who were separated with less than honorable discharges and Kansas non-veterans with mental illness.

I have offered my assistance to Representative John Rubin, Chairman of the KS House Criminal Justice Committee. The goal is the creation of new legislation in 2015 to enact laws that support all veterans with mental illness who have encounters with the Criminal Justice System especially key components of 2014 KMHC Mental Health and Criminal Justice Issues which call for:

- a. **Diversion programs to keep people with Mental Illness out of the criminal justice system connecting them with mental health treatment;**
- b. **Therapeutic care for incarcerated offenders living with mental illness;**
- c. **Discharge planning linking people with mental illness to community based services upon their release from correctional facilities;**
- d. **Require annual audits and random, unannounced audits of KDOC facilities to be performed by Kansas Psychological Association; and**
- e. **Require law enforcement to determine veteran status of anyone charged with a crime and if convicted their status must become part of their incarceration profile instead of relying on “self-identification”.**

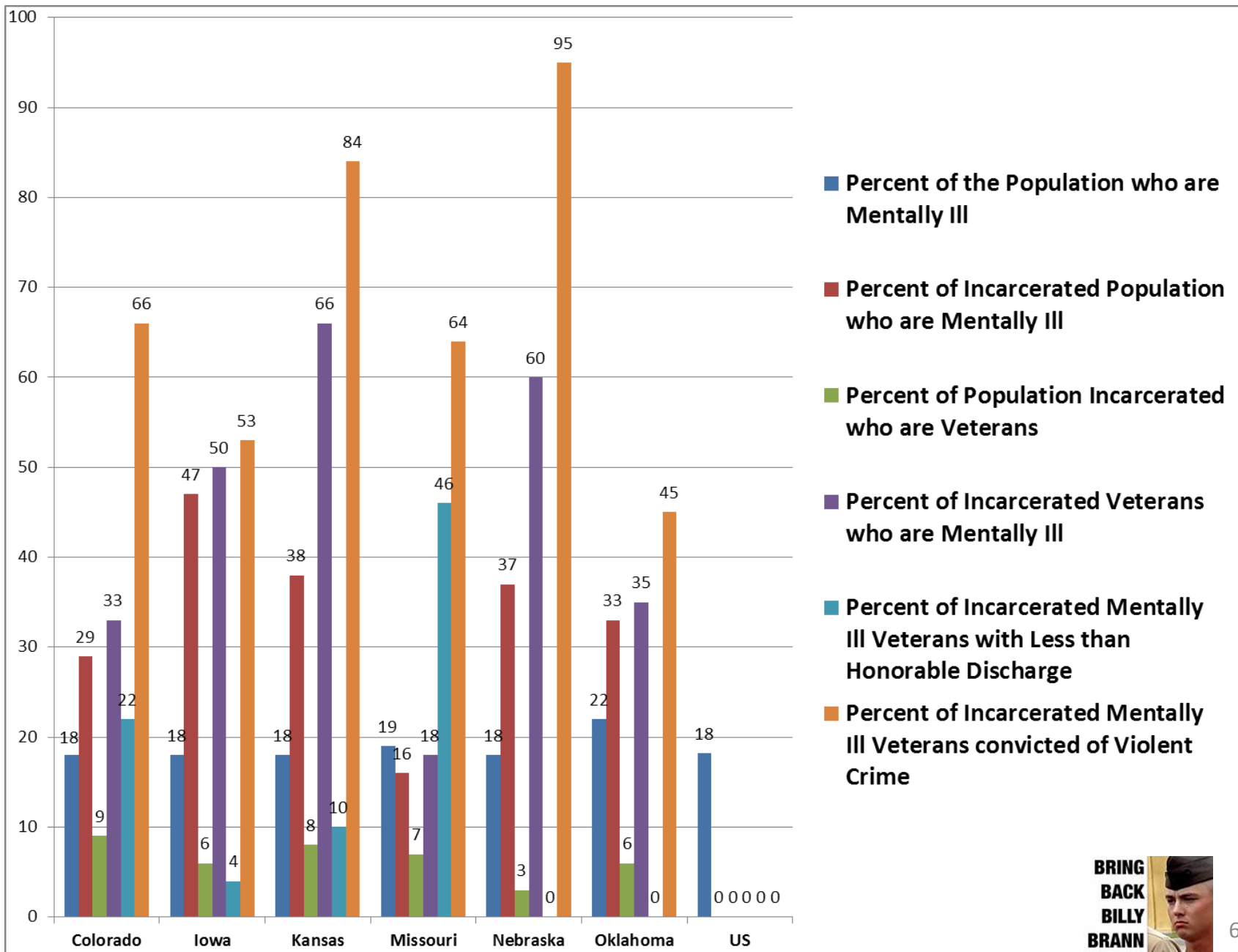
This legislation must apply to both state and local jurisdictions.

The veteran population can't be adequately served unless we have specific information about them relating to mental illness, incarceration, type of discharge and types of criminal charges particularly violent crime. As an Advocate for Kansas Mental Health Coalition I have gathered data for Kansas and the five surrounding states – **MO, IA, NB, CO, OK and the US.** **This data provides a clearer picture of our mentally ill, incarcerated veterans and will assist us to advocate for legislation in 2015 that covers all veterans.** The following bar graph and chart reflects this information.

State Departments of Corrections, state NAMI organizations, Veterans Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) and DOJ should work together going forward to provide these statistics. By having better information about the incarcerated population DOCs can be more effective providing mental health services to all Veterans with Mental Illness. The ultimate goal is to provide diversion for people with mental illness if possible, provide therapeutic mental illness care to those we do incarcerate and provide discharge planning linking people with mental illness to community services upon their release from incarceration.



Percentage of Population with Mental Illness, Incarcerated and Veterans



Percentage of Population with Mental Illness, Incarcerated and Veterans

	Percent of the Population that are Mentally Ill	Percent of Incarcerated Population that are Mentally Ill	Percent of Population Incarcerated that are Veterans	Percent of Incarcerated Veterans that are Mentally Ill	Percent of Incarcerated Mentally Ill Veterans with Less than Honorable Discharge	Percent of Incarcerated Mentally Ill Veterans convicted of Violent Crime
Colorado	18	29	9	33	22	66
Iowa	18	47	6	50	4	53
Kansas	18	38	8	66	10	84
Missouri	19	16	7	18	46	64
Nebraska	18	37	3	60	0	57
Oklahoma	22	33	6	35	0	45
US	18	0	0	0	0	0
Notes:	Fill Color	Self-reported; believed to be conservative because of reluctance to reveal the information.				
	Fill Color	Missouri scores mental illness on a scale 1-5 and a score of 3+ is equivalent to a diagnosis of a mental illness.				
	Fill Color	Data not available or not collected				
	Fill Color	US data not available from any source				

The Facts: (published by National Mental Health of America & KDOC)

1. Mental disorders reported in more than 26% of returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. Government Accountability Office
2. More than one in four U.S. troops have come home from the Iraq war with health problems that require medical or mental health treatment, according to the Pentagon's first detailed screening of service members leaving a war zone.
3. Almost 1,700 service members returning from the war this year said they harbored thoughts of hurting themselves or that they would be better off dead. More than 250 said they had such thoughts "a lot." Nearly 20,000 reported nightmares or unwanted war recollections; more than 3,700 said they had concerns that they might "hurt or lose control" with someone else. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
4. The suicide rate among active duty Army soldiers has leveled off in 2010, while the rate has nearly doubled for National Guard and Reserve soldiers in 2010.
5. Female veterans returning from deployment have experienced sexual trauma at the rate of 23-33%, and the suicide rate for female veterans is triple that of non-veteran females.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, "increasingly, emergency rooms, homeless shelters and jails are struggling with the effects of people falling through the cracks due to lack of needed mental health services and supports." In the last five years, significant budget cuts have befallen mental health programs and services. **From 2009 to 2011, states cut mental health budgets by a combined \$4 billion** - the largest single combined reduction to mental health spending since de-institutionalization in the 1970s.

http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=state_budget_cuts_report



Percentage of Population with Mental Illness, Incarcerated and Veterans

Sources	
1 Colorado - DOC, NAMI, MHSAS, & SAMHSA	5 Nebraska - DOC, NAMI & SAMHSA
http://www.namicolorado.org/	http://naminebraska.org/
mailto:executivedirector@namicolorado.org	http://www.samhsa.gov/
http://samhsa.gov/	mailto:abby.vandenberg@nebraska.gov DOC
mailto:heather.wells@state.co.us	6 Oklahoma - NAMI, DMHSAS & SAMHSA
mailto:rebecca.helfand@state.co.us	http://www.namioklahoma.org/
mailto:alysha.stucker@state.co.us	mailto:lisa@namioklahoma.org Lisa Buck
2 Iowa - DOC, NAMI, & SAMHSA	http://samhsa.gov/
http://namiiowa.com/	http://www.ok.gov/doc/documents/annual%20report%202013%20for%20web.pdf
http://samhsa.gov/	mailto:DWright@odmhsas.org David Wright
http://www.doc.state.ia.us/	US - Census Bureau, DOJ, HHS, NIH, SAMHSA, VA and VFW
mailto:Lettie.Prell@iowa.gov DOC	Mailto:askcensus@subscriptions.census.gov Referred to DOJ Bureau of Statistics
3 Kansas - DOC, NAMI' & SAMHSA	Mailto:Margaret.Noonan@usdoj.gov DOJ stopped collecting data in 2004
http://www.nami.org/MSTemplate.cfm?Site=NAMI_Kansas	Mailto:Kendall.Swenson@HHS.GOV HHS cannot find any data related to these issues
http://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/kdoc-annual-reports/2013	www.nih.gov/ NIH MHS doesn't collect data on the incarcerated
mailto:JessicaB@doc.ks.gov Jessica Brunton	http://www.samhsa.gov/ Mailto:Brenda.Boone@samhsa.hi Never responded
http://samhsa.gov/	http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k12State/Tables/NSDUHsaeTOC2012.htm
4 Missouri - DOC, NAMI & SAMHSA	iris_service@mailps.custhelp.com VA can't respond because issue isn't related to benefits or services
http://www.nami.org/MSTemplate.cfm?MicrositeID=310	mailto:pete.smith@va.gov VRM Sr. Analyst
namimockj@yahoo.com	Mailto:info@vfw.org Zach Schwenk, Asst. Director Operation; rels on VA
http://samhsa.gov/	
mailto:David.Oldfield@doc.mo.gov	
2014 KMHC Mental Health and Criminal Justice Issues	
http://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.onefireplace.com/Resources/Documents/2014%20Criminal%20Justice%20Issues.pdf	
2014 KMHC Mental Health and Veterans Issues	
http://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.onefireplace.com/Resources/Documents/2014%20Veterans%20Issues.pdf	



Mental Health and Criminal Justice System Statistics Source Synopsis

Colorado DOC Data

Provided by Heather Wells and Alysha Stucker, CO DOC

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The data are run from the Colorado Department of Corrections' population on 4/1/2014. Please note that our veteran population is tracked by offender self-report at time of admittance into DOC. Additionally, our psychological needs level codes (p-code) range from 1-5, with 3-5 indicating moderate to severe mental health needs. The p-code identifies broad need levels and may not match the definition of offenders with mental illness provided by other states. Offenders with p-codes of 3-5 have been included in this analysis. Finally, the p-code used for this analysis is the veteran's p-code as of 4/1/2014, and is not an indication of his or her mental health status during the commission of the crime.

- As of 4/1/2014 there were 17,699 offenders in the CDOC with 1596 self-reporting as veterans (9%),
- Of those identifying as a veteran 33% (530) had a p-code of 3-5,
- 119 (22%) of that population received a less than honorable discharge, and of the 119, and
- 78 or 66% were convicted of a violent crime.



Mental Health and Criminal Justice System Statistics Source Synopsis

Iowa DOC Data

Provided by Lettie Prell, Director of Research IA DOC

lettie.prell@iowa.gov

- What is the percent of lowans incarcerated with mental illness? 47.1%
- What percent of lowans incarcerated are Veterans? 6.4% and please note some individuals do not wish to report this to us so may be incomplete; also, this percent includes individuals who received bad conduct and “other than honorable” discharges.
- What percent of the incarcerated veterans are mentally ill? 50.3%
- I also looked at serious mental illness for you. Looking at the total prison population, 28.4% have at least one serious mental illness; for veterans the percent is 32.7%.
- For the total prison population – 46.5% are incarcerated for violent offenses as their most serious offense; for veterans – 53.4%.



Mental Health and Criminal Justice System Statistics Source Synopsis

Kansas DOC Data

Provided by 2013 Annual DOC Report and Jessica Brunton, Research Analyst IV, KS DOC

<http://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/kdoc-annual-reports/2013>

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Statistics show that in the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) facilities, nearly 11%, of those incarcerated in prisons are veterans.

Of those, 167 are incarcerated with the most serious offense type involving drugs. In addition, nearly 38% of the entire population of incarcerated in KDOC facilities have some level of mental illness.

As of 6/30/2013

There were 9580 offenders incarcerated in a KDOC facility

Of the 9580 offenders, 799 are veterans (this is SELF-REPORTED)

Of the 799 veterans, 526 (65.8%) have been diagnosed with some sort of mental illness (codes 2 - 6 in chart below)

Mental Disorder Code

	Frequency	Percent
0 - not yet scored	2	.3
1 - none	271	33.9
2 - paraphilia/personality	263	32.9
3 - transient mental disorder	13	1.6
4 - serious Axis I or II	227	28.4
5 - mental retardation	1	.1
6 - severe mental illness	22	2.8
Total	799	100.0

Of the 526, 50 (9.5%) received a dishonorable discharge

MILITARY DISCHARGE CODE

	Frequency	Percent
D - DISHONORABLE	50	9.5
G - GENERAL	119	22.6
H - HONORABLE	312	59.3
M - MEDICAL	36	6.8
S - STILL IN	9	1.7
Total	526	100.0



Mental Health and Criminal Justice System Statistics Source Synopsis

Missouri DOC Data

Provided by David Oldfield, Director of Research and Evaluation MO DOC david.oldfield@doc.mo.gov

Prison Population	Mentally Ill	Veterans	Veterans Mentally Ill	of which		
				Honorable Discharge	Other Discharge	Violent Offenses
31,513	5,025	2056	361	194	167	226
	16%	7%	18%		46%	63%

Missouri scores mental illness on a five point scale at the time of the initial classification and at the periodic reclassifications.

1. No mental health problems
2. Mild impairment
3. Clinic care and medication
4. Serious functional impairment
5. Severe Functional Impairment

Offenders who score 3-5 are considered to be mentally ill and require medication. The mentally ill classification requires a clinical assessment and placement in an institution that has psychiatric services.



Mental Health and Criminal Justice System Statistics Source Synopsis

Nebraska DOC Data

Provided by Dr. Abby Vandenberg, Ph.D. Research Manager and Robert Lyle NE DOC

abby.vandenberg@nebraska.gov

- On 4/8/2014, 5,097 inmates were incarcerated within the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). Of These inmates, 1889 (37%) presented with an Axis I diagnosis;
- 141 incarcerated inmates identified as veterans through self-reported military service (n=6), membership in inmate Veterans clubs (n=112), or both (n=23). These individuals made up approximately 3% of the active population on the analysis date;
- Of the 141 self-reported veterans, 84 (60%) presented with at least one Axis I diagnosis;
- Due to the limited number of inmates who self-reported military service, information regarding discharge status is not available at this time; and
- Of the 84 veterans with at least one Axis I diagnosis, 80 (95% of self-reported veterans with Axis I diagnoses, 57% of all self-reported veterans) were incarcerated for at least one violent offense.



Mental Health and Criminal Justice System Statistics Source Synopsis

Oklahoma DOC Data

Provided by Dr. David Wright, Ph.D., Evaluation Projects Manager, OK OKMHSAS

DWright@odmhsas.org

- Percent of the Population that are Mentally Ill – 22% (Per 2011-2012 NSDUH Table 24: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k12State/Tables/NSDUHsaeTOC2012.htm>)
- Percent of Incarcerated Population that are Mentally Ill – 33% (Per Oklahoma Department of Corrections 2013 Annual Report: <http://www.ok.gov/doc/documents/annual%20report%202013%20for%20web.pdf>)
- Percent of Population Incarcerated that are Veterans – 6% (Per Self Report Data from Oklahoma Department of Corrections)
- Percent of Incarcerated Veterans that are Mentally Ill – 35% (Per Mental Illness Rates Applied to Department of Correction Veteran Population data)
- Percent of Incarcerated Mentally Ill Veterans with Less than Honorable Discharge – (Oklahoma Department of Corrections does not collect this information)
- Percent of Incarcerated Mentally Ill Veterans convicted of Violent Crime – 45% (Per Oklahoma Department of Corrections Mental Health Services Fact Sheet)



Mental Health and Criminal Justice System Statistics Source Synopsis

US - Census Bureau, DOJ, HHS, NIH, SAMHSA, VA and VFW

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www.nih.gov

brenda.boone@samhsa.hhs.gov

www.samhsa.gov

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k12State/Tables/NSDUHsaeTOC2012.htm>

iris_service@mailps.custhelp.com

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None of the above agencies could provide requested statistics, except SAMSHA which provided the % of US population that is mentally ill.

