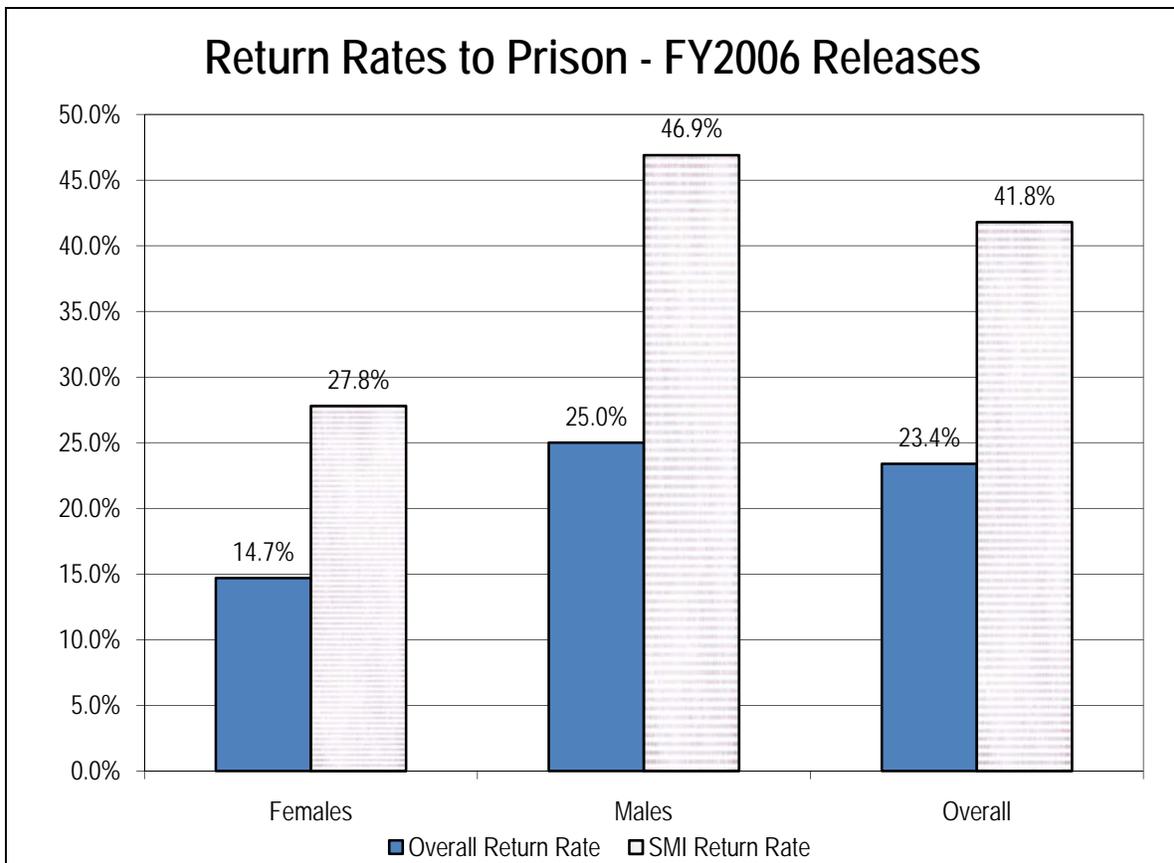


Oklahoma Department of Corrections
Mental Health Services Facts
(December 2009)

The following are frequently asked questions concerning mental health services within the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

How many offenders with serious mental illness return to prison after discharge? What is the recidivism rate?

Recidivism is defined in research in several different ways, including percentage of released offenders who are again incarcerated; percentage of released offenders who are arrested for another crime; percentage of released offenders who are convicted of another crime, etc. Below is a chart of the percentages of offenders with a serious mental illness who were released between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, and who were again incarcerated in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections by July 1, 2009:



How many offenders have a mental illness?

Approximately 12,600 (50 %) out of 25,200 offenders have a history of, or are currently exhibiting some form of mental health problem. Of the 2,700 female offenders, 2,130 (79%) and of the 22,500 male offenders, 10,350 (46%) fall in that category. Approximately 6,500 (26%) of the total population, 1400 (52%) females and 5,175 (23%) males, currently exhibit symptoms of a serious mental illness, given the most conservative definition. And approximately 20% of those with serious mental illness refuse treatment, sometimes creating serious management problems. Since 1998, the number of offenders receiving psychotropic medications has dramatically increased (300%), while the total inmate population has only increased 19%.

What are the costs for mental health services for DOC offenders?

The exact costs of mental health services for DOC offenders is very difficult to calculate, given all the indirect costs of medical services, housing, food, security, programs, etc. In addition, the costs for mental health services in private prisons are not available, although they are included in the contract per diem cost. Average overall daily costs for incarcerating prisoners vary according to security level, from \$43.00 to \$70.00 per day, with a median cost of \$54.32 per day. In FY 2009, approximately \$10,500,257 was spent directly only on mental health professional salaries and psychotropic medications for offenders in the state-owned and private facilities.

What crimes are offenders with mental illness incarcerated for?

A November 2009 study revealed overall, 55% of incarcerated offenders with some form of mental illness had been convicted of only non-violent offenses, 45% had at least one violent offense included in their sentencing. Of the mentally ill females, 61% were incarcerated only for non-violent crimes, and of the males, 42% were incarcerated only for non-violent crimes. The 2009 study was not able to analyze the percentage of all offenders with no prior crimes (i.e., first-time offenders); however a 2003 study revealed that 47% of all offenders with a mental illness were first time offenders.

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