



# Nevada Department of Corrections

## Information for the League of Women Voters

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# NDOC Introduction

## Mission

The Nevada Department of Corrections will improve public safety by ensuring a safe and humane environment that incorporates proven rehabilitation initiatives that prepare individuals for successful reintegration into our communities.

## Vision

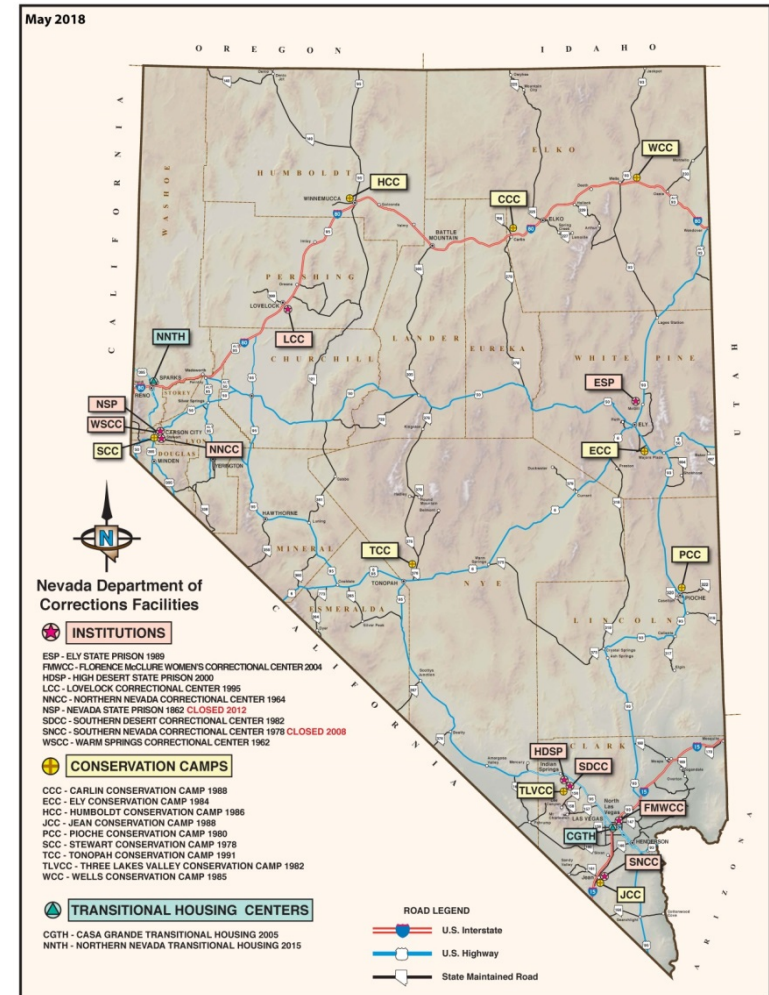
Reduce victimization and recidivism by providing offenders with incentive for self-improvement and the tools to effect change.

## Philosophy

We will pursue our mission with integrity, act in a professional and ethical manner, be responsible for our actions, and raise the department to the highest standards.

## Goals

- \* Operate the department according to best practices.
- \* Ensure the best use of department resources.
- \* Educate stakeholders and customers.
- \* Improve communication.



# NDOC Facilities & Populations

## ▶ 7 Major Institutions

- Lovelock
- Carson City
  - Northern Nevada Correctional Center
  - Warm Springs Correctional Center
- Ely
- Las Vegas
  - High Desert State Prison
  - Southern Desert Correctional Center
  - Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center



## ▶ 9 Conservation Camps

## ▶ 2 Transitional Housing Centers

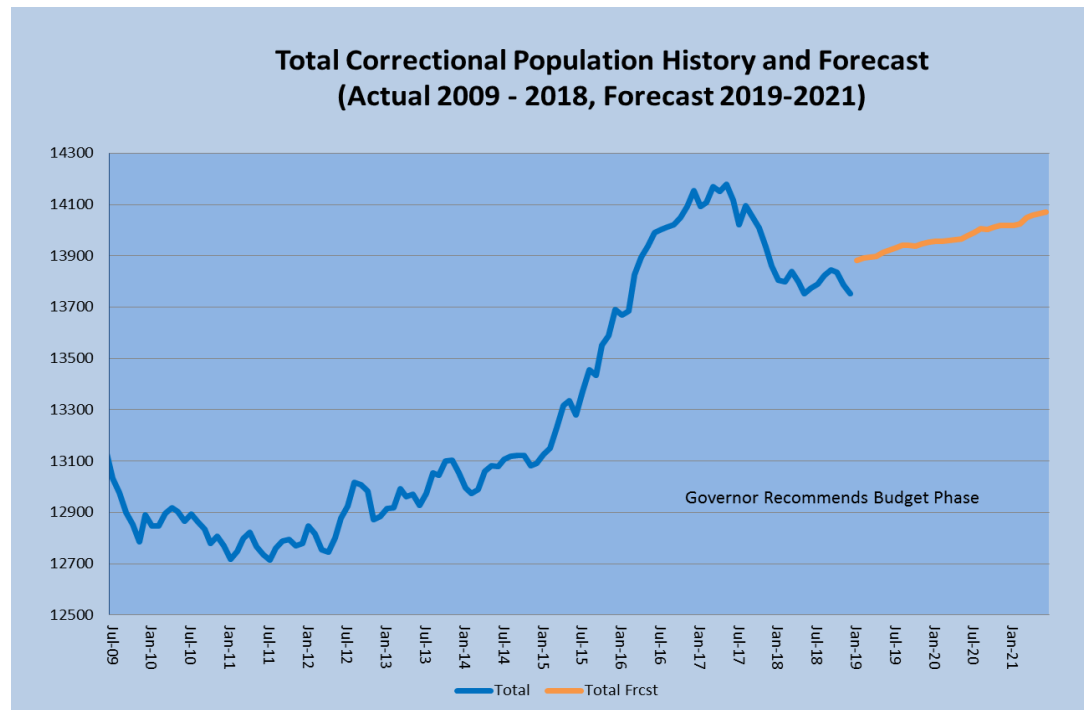
# Managing a small city with a difficult population

- ▶ Security to ensure no escapes and safety of staff and inmates
- ▶ Feeding, clothing, hygiene for all inmates
- ▶ Medical/Mental Health care (internal and transportation outside the prison)
- ▶ Maintenance of all building systems and equipment (completely self-contained)
- ▶ Employment, Education, Programs (controlled/scheduled movement required)
- ▶ Access to Legal and Religious materials and services
- ▶ Inmate Programs (Prison Industries and institutional jobs)
- ▶ Financial management of inmate funds
- ▶ Recreational activities
- ▶ Transportation of inmates (medical, court, between institutions)

All of these elements must be provided or completed with little reliance on outside assistance and very little margin for error.

# Inmate Populations

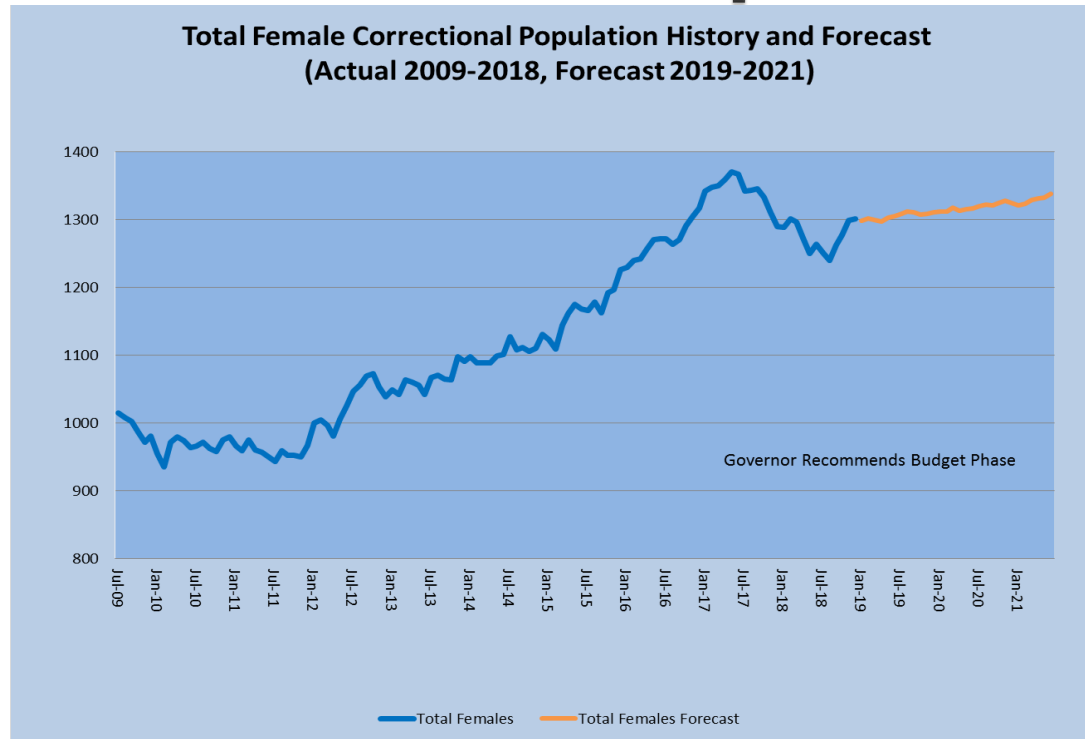
## 14% of patients overall are on psych meds



As of 4/17/19 there are **2,563 male** inmates with a classification of a mild impairment and upward for Mental Health/Substance Abuse Disorders. That's approximately 22% of the male inmate population.

12% of male inmates are on psychotropic medications.

# Facilities & Populations



As of 4/17/19 there are **681 female** with a classification of a mild impairment and upward for Mental Health/Substance Abuse Disorders. That's approximately 54% of the female inmate population.

23 % of female inmates are on psychotropic medications.

# Conflict's with definitions

What is the definition of serious mental illness (SMI)?

- ▶ Not only does every state define this in their own way, various departments throughout Nevada define SMI differently from one another as well.

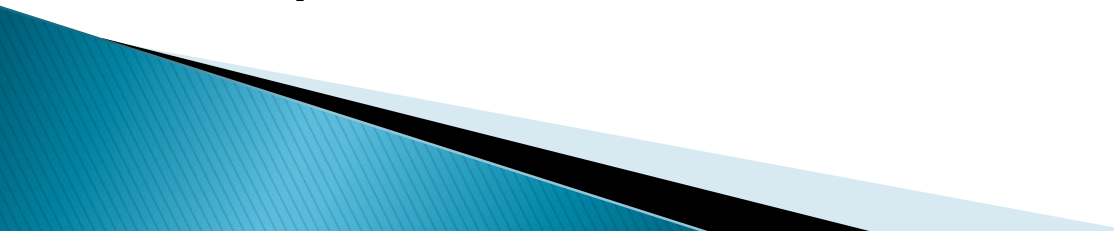


# NDOC uses the SAMHSA definition for SMI:

- ▶ Adults with a serious mental illness are persons:
  - (1) age 18 and over,
  - (2) who currently or at any time during the past year,
  - (3) have a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder (*excluding developmental disorders, dementias, substance use disorders, and psychiatric conditions resulting from other medical conditions*) of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5),
  - (4) that has resulted in functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities, such as activities of daily living.
  
- ▶ A very important piece of the definition is the exclusionary statement – *developmental disorders, dementias*, etc., as those conditions can be very difficult and need to be addressed but do not meet criteria for a serious mental illness.



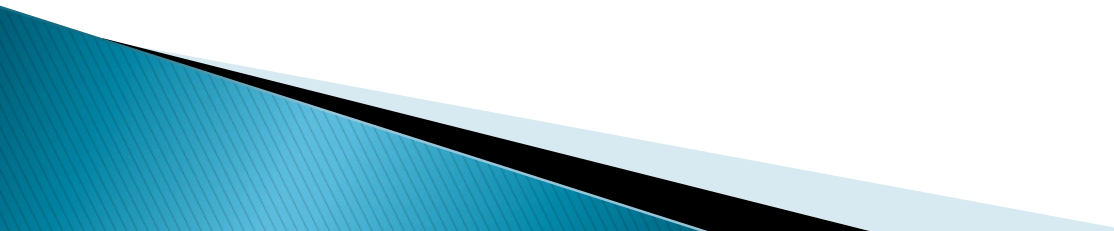
# Community Mental Health Services

- ▶ The amount of community mental health services available, both in and outpatient services, in Nevada is lacking.
  - ▶ NDOC works to connect inmates with mental health services in the community upon his or her release.
  - ▶ Releasing inmates are provided with 4 weeks worth of psychotropic medications on their way out.
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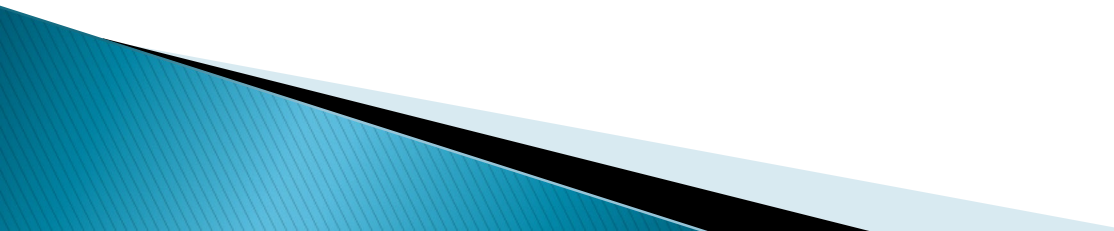
# Electronic Health Records System

- ▶ NDOC is in the process and working on creating an electronic health records system so that a releasing inmates records will be easily transferable to health providers in the community.

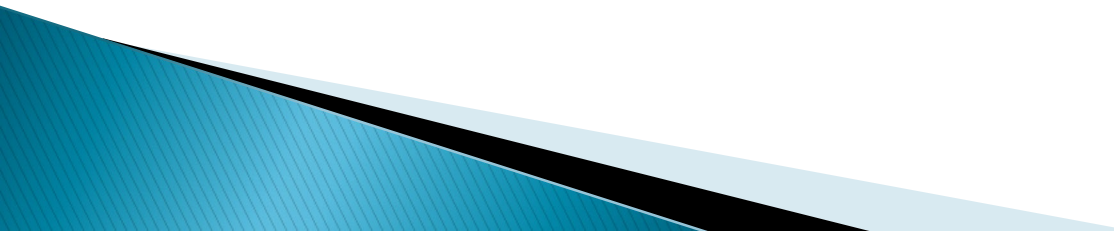
# Mental Health And Medical

- ▶ Inmates mental health and medical overlaps:
    - PTSD – Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome
    - Traumatic Brain Injury
    - Autism
    - Asperger syndrome (AS)
    - Dyslexia
    - Low IQ
    - Bipolar
    - Schizophrenia
    - Alzheimer's & Dementia
    - Etc...
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# Mental Health Needs

- ▶ Officer Training – Use of verbal communications to de-escalate inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff confrontations.
  - ▶ Officers are being trained to recognize when an inmate's behavior is due to a mental health issue and thus de-escalate the situation.
  - ▶ NDOC is preparing for a 200 bed mental health hospital unit at NNCC within the next 2 years.
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# Mental Health Units

- ▶ Centralize Mental Health Care – NDOC has transferred the Seriously Mentally Ill inmates from Ely State Prison to Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC), near mental health care providers with appropriate housing alternatives thus consolidating mental health services to one facility for all male inmates.
  - ▶ NDOC only has one woman's prison, Florence McClure Correctional Center (FMWCC) which is located in Las Vegas. FMWCC has a dedicated mental health unit there as well.
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# Accomplishments

- ▶ Behavior Modification Units – creation of Step-Down Units for re-integrating inmates from Segregation to General Population
- ▶ Close Custody Programming – Increased out-of-cell time to provide incentives for positive inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff behavior.

# Opportunities

- ▶ Improvements in connecting inmates to Community Based Services for a successful reintegration (Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Transitioning Parole to NDOC)
  - ▶ Intermediate Sanction Programs (diversion from prison)
  - ▶ Improved use of Technology (video surveillance, video visitation and telemedicine, Kiosks)
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