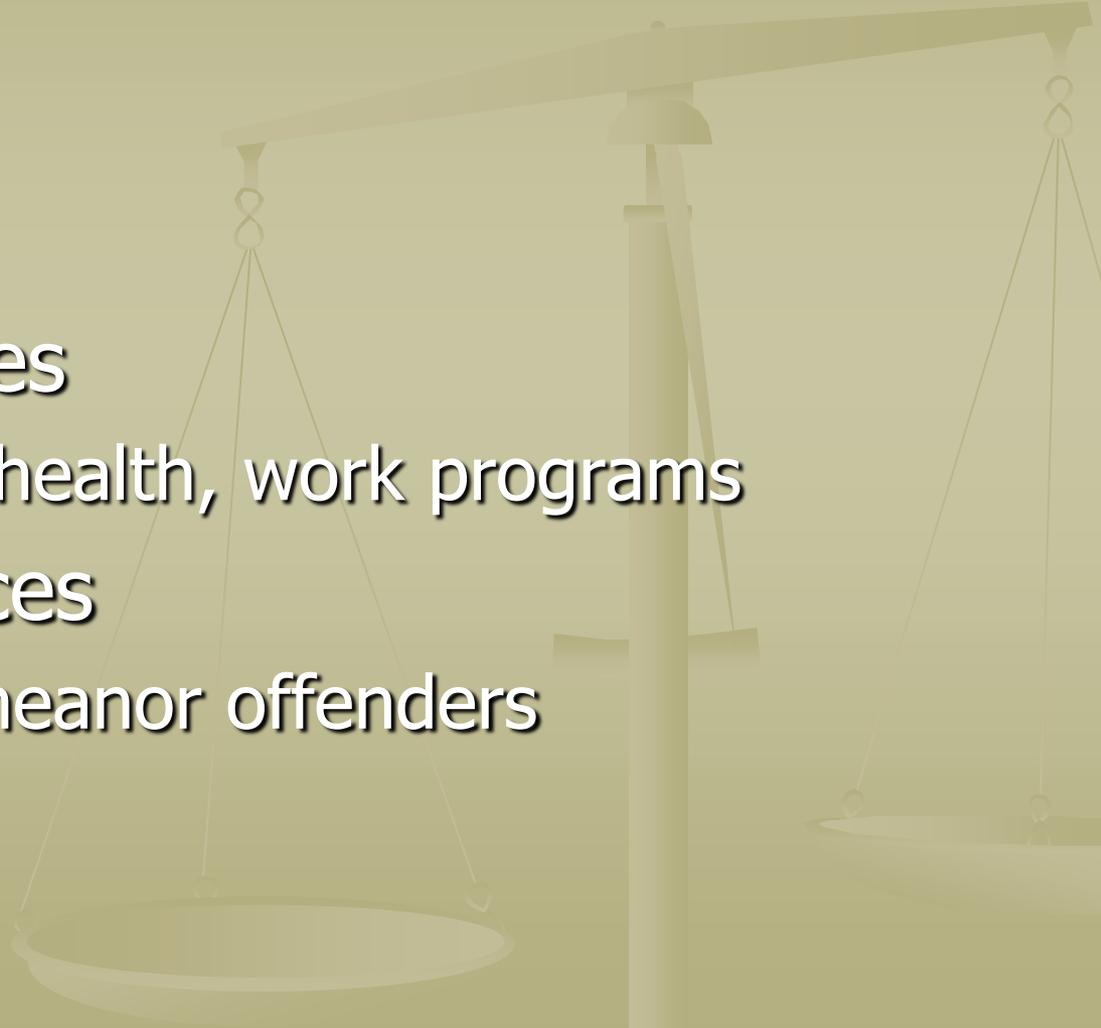


The State of Corrections in Cowlitz County



Director Marin Fox Hight

Corrections?



- Jail
 - 2 facilities
 - 400 beds
- Offender Services
 - Inmate mental health, work programs
- Probation Services
 - Monitor misdemeanor offenders

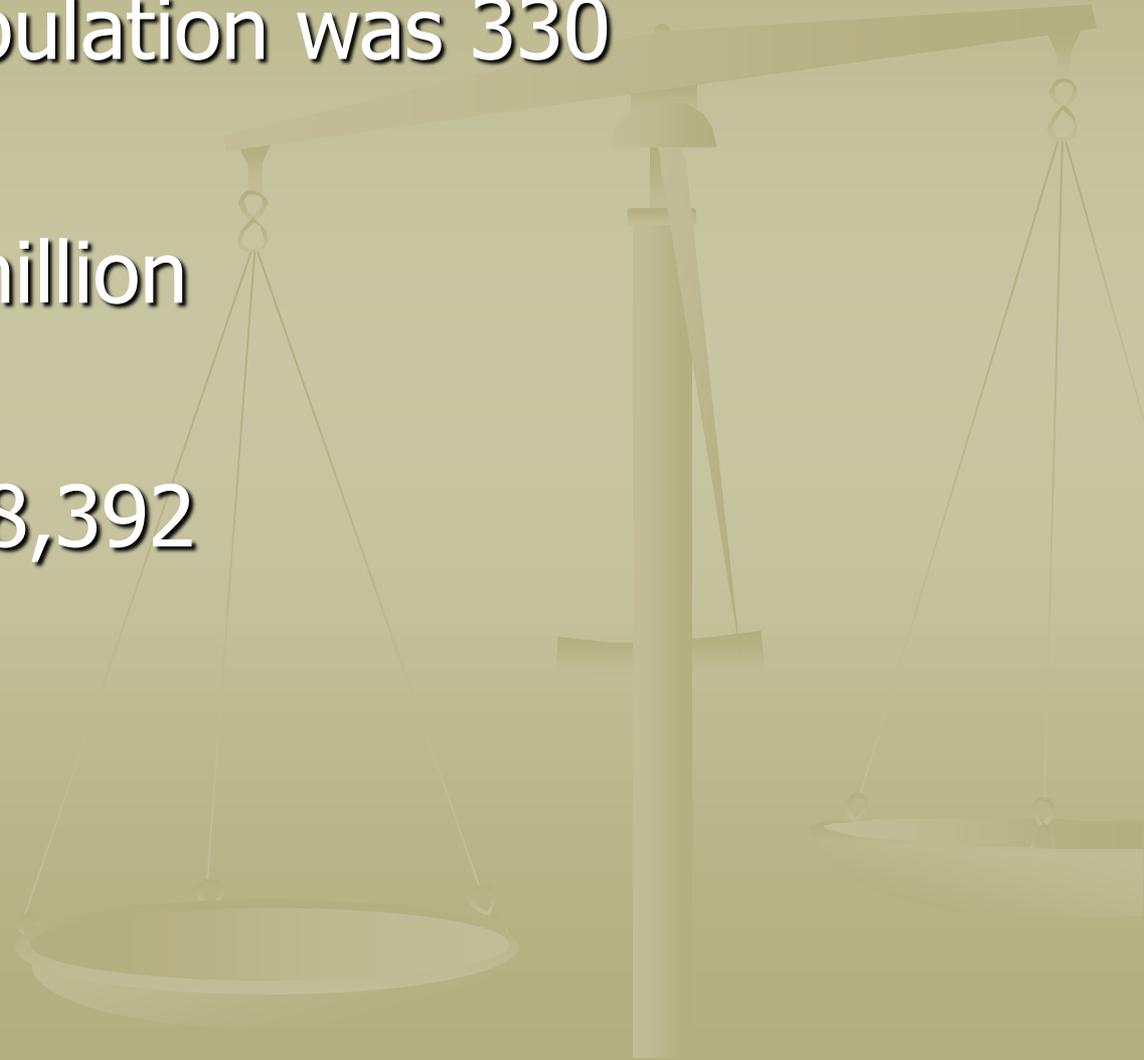
Jail in 2000

- Average jail population was 232
- Budget was 4 million
- Total bookings 5,072



Jail in 2010

- Average jail population was 330
- Budget was 7 million
- Total bookings 8,392



What are the issues?

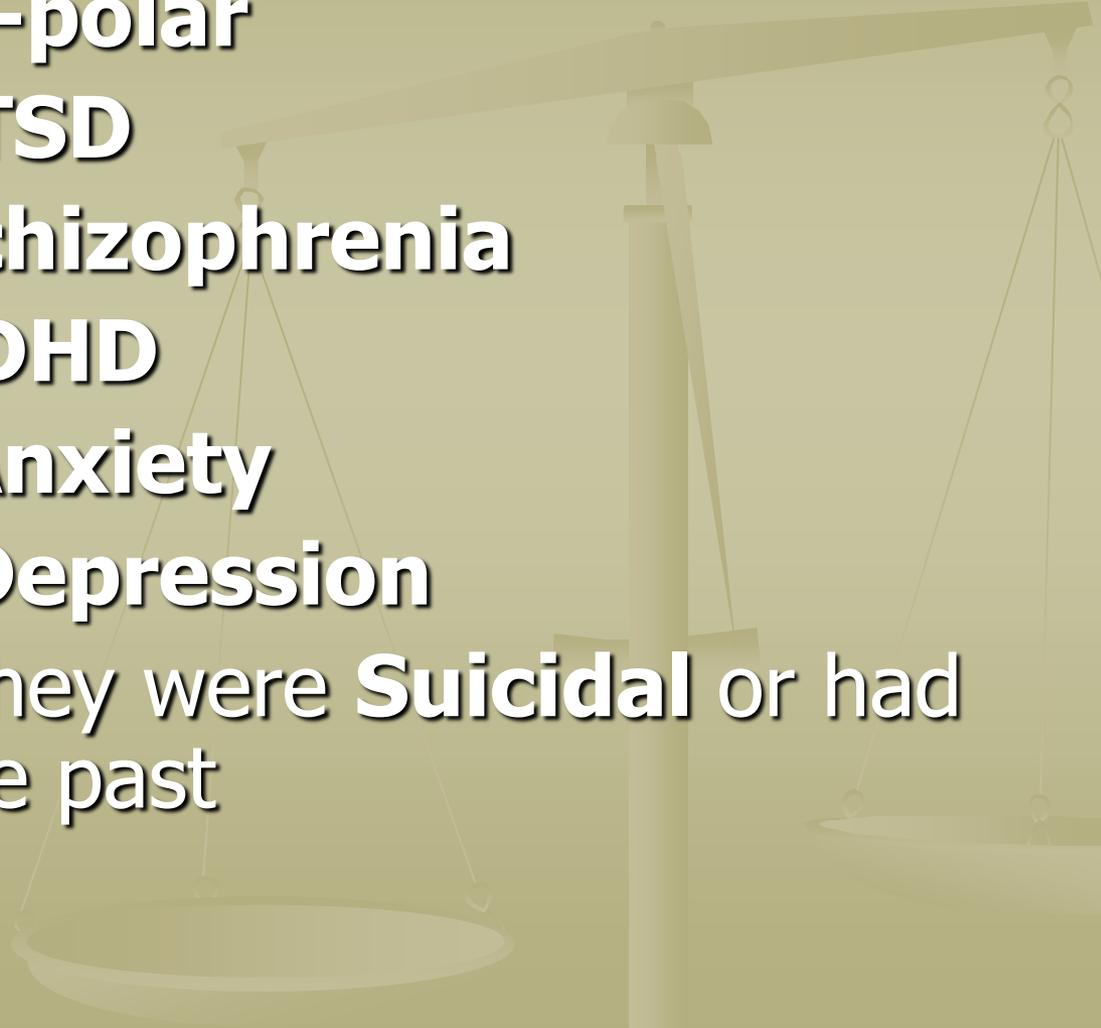
- Mental Health
- Addiction
- Medical
- Recidivism
- **Money**

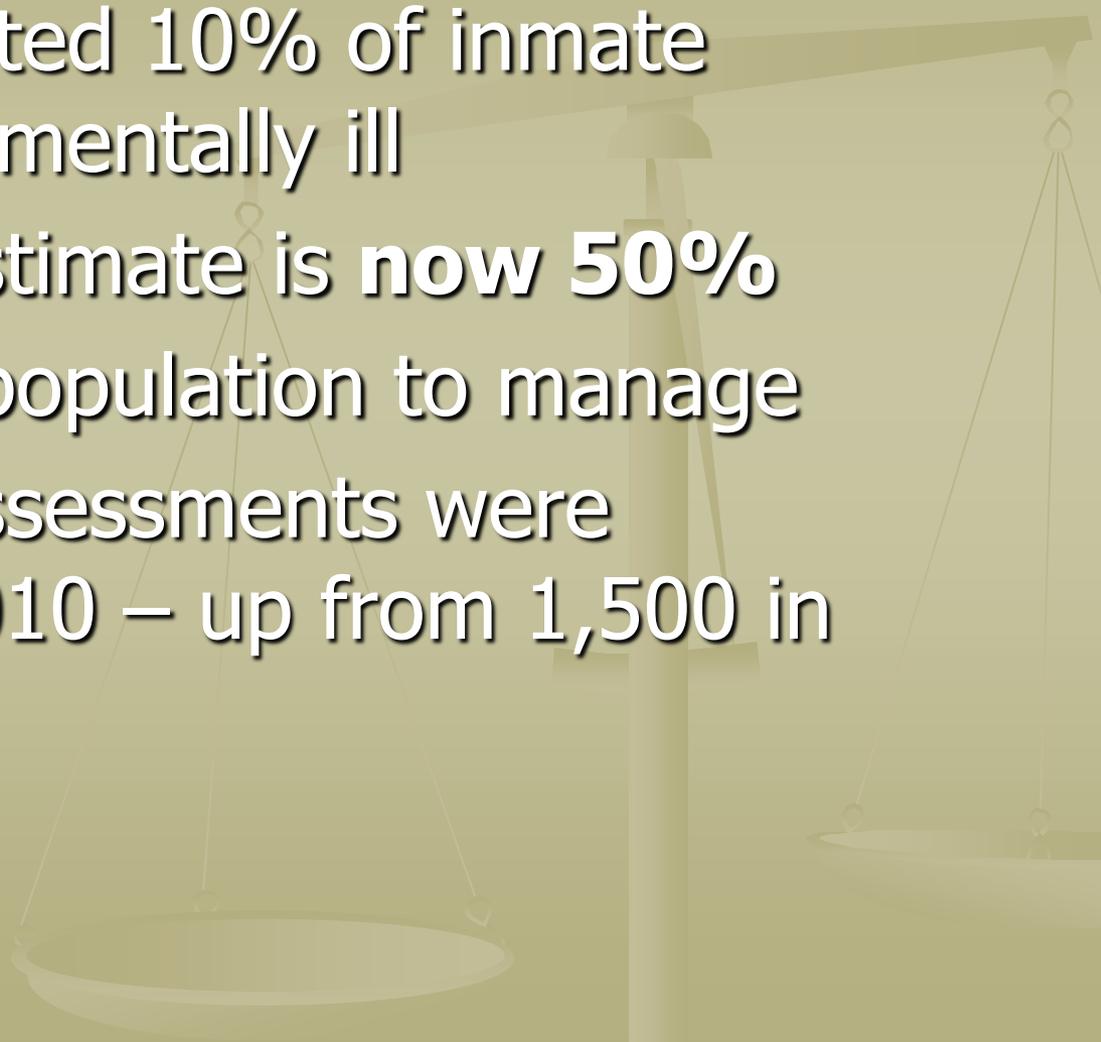


Inmate Mental Health

- “I want to know whats going on here & why Im here institutionalized becoming paralyzed at the waking hour of midnight, sounds strange of perfect visions & sight. Help is under way. I surely can hold on longer. I get my final destination not in a prisons segegration”

2010 self reported mental health diagnosis

- 8% reported **Bi-polar**
 - 4% reported **PTSD**
 - 3% reported **Schizophrenia**
 - 2% reported **ADHD**
 - 11% reported **Anxiety**
 - 18% reported **Depression**
 - 17% reported they were **Suicidal** or had attempted in the past
- 

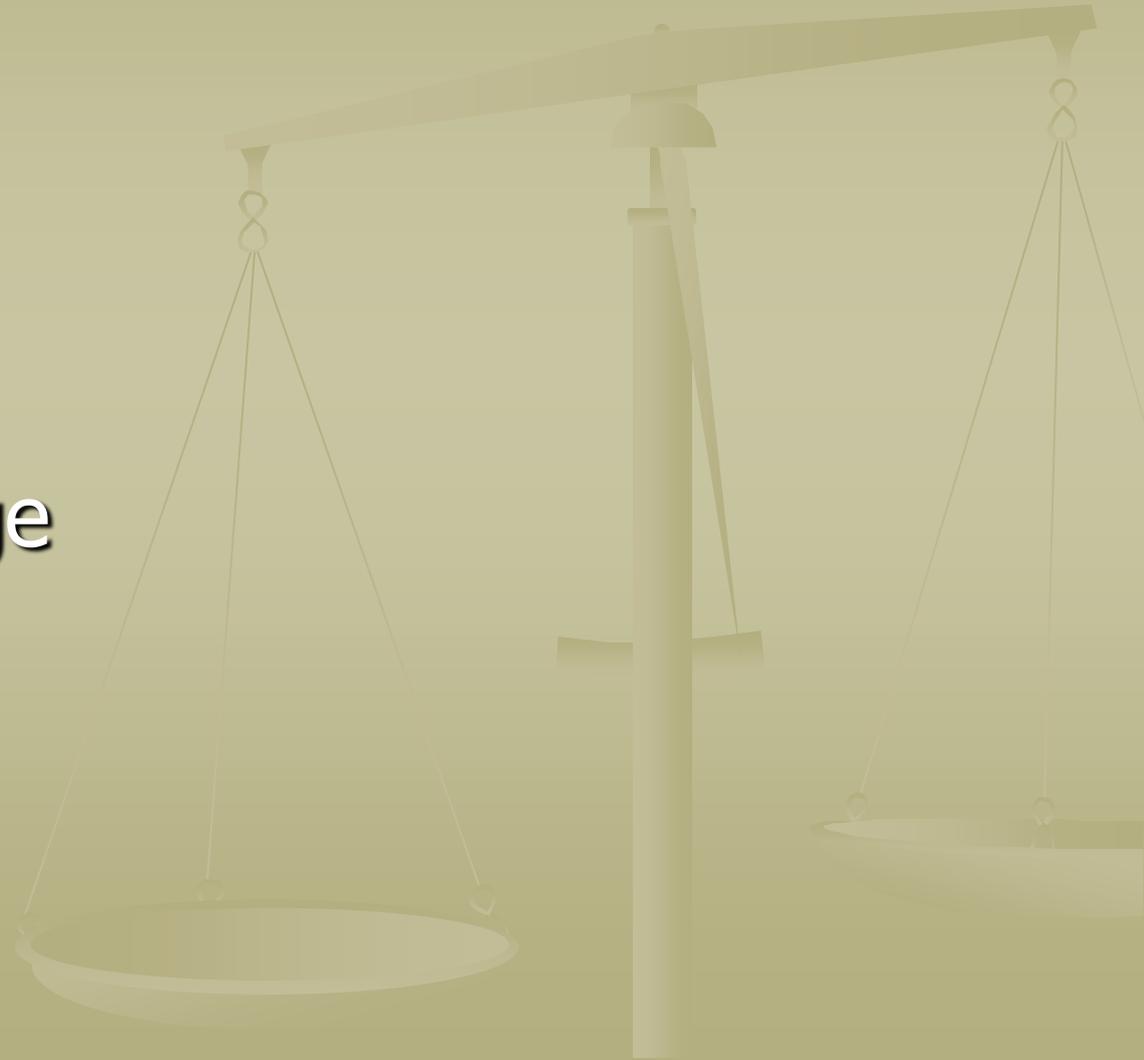
- 
- In 2000, estimated 10% of inmate population was mentally ill
 - In 2010, that estimate is **now 50%**
 - A very difficult population to manage
 - 2,000 suicide assessments were conducted in 2010 – up from 1,500 in 2008

From an incident report . . .

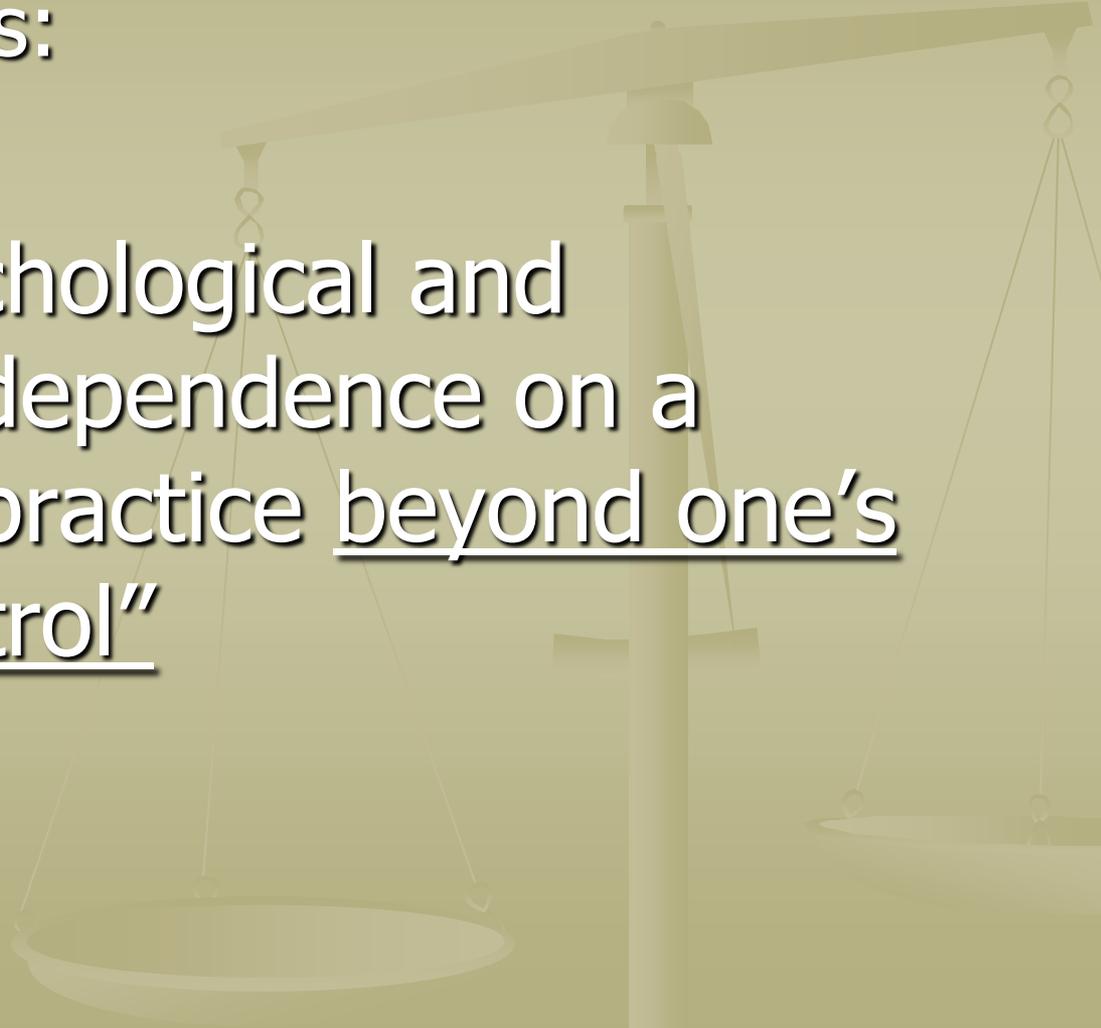
- “inmate Smith’s right little finger had been severed just above the hand and had been re-attached and bandaged prior to coming to jail. Today on dayshift inmate Smith was found to have bitten the injured finger completely off at the old injury point and flushed it down the toilet”

Cost of Mental Illness

- Resources
- Medication
- Property damage
- Officer injuries



Addiction

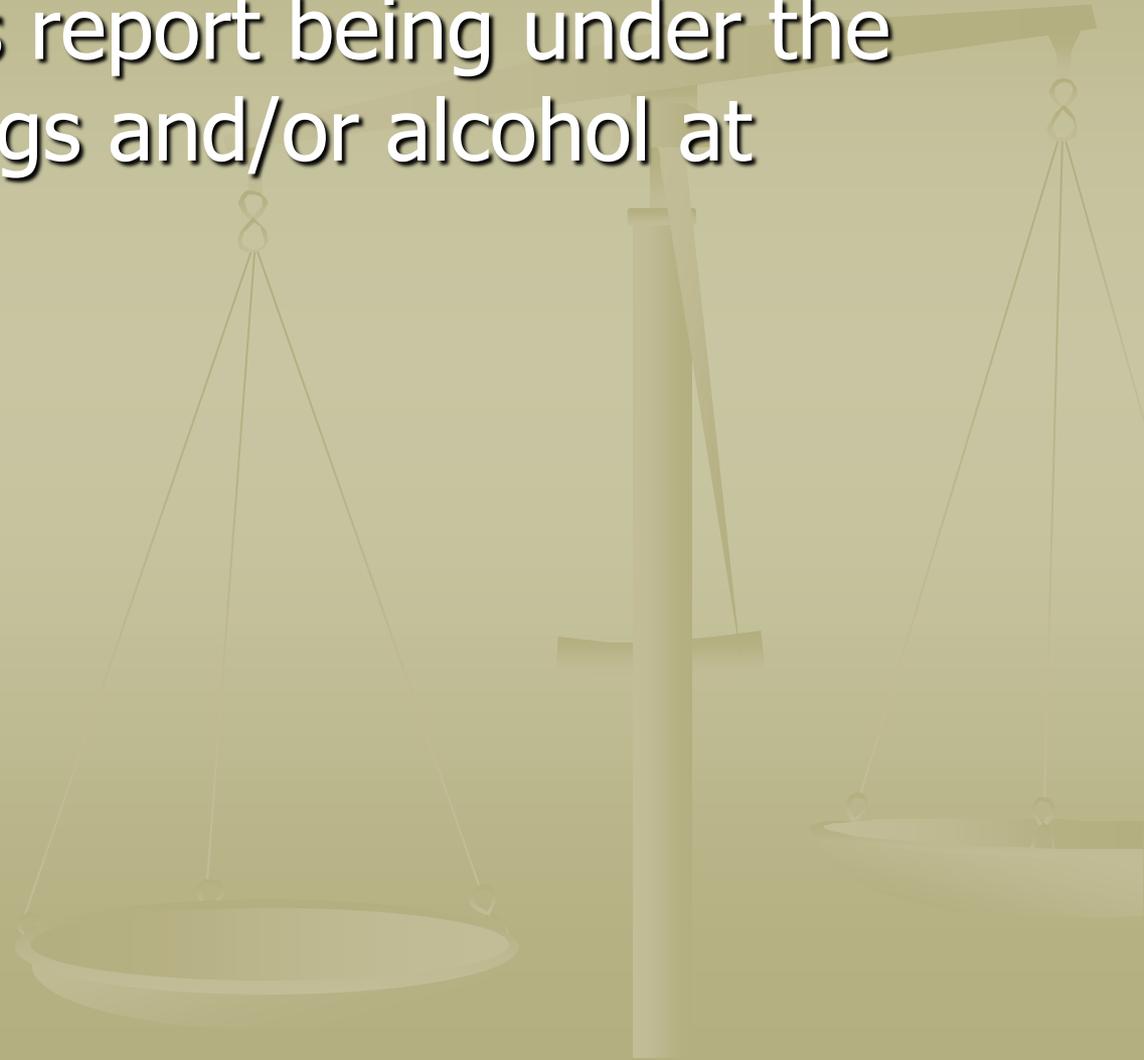


- By definition it is:

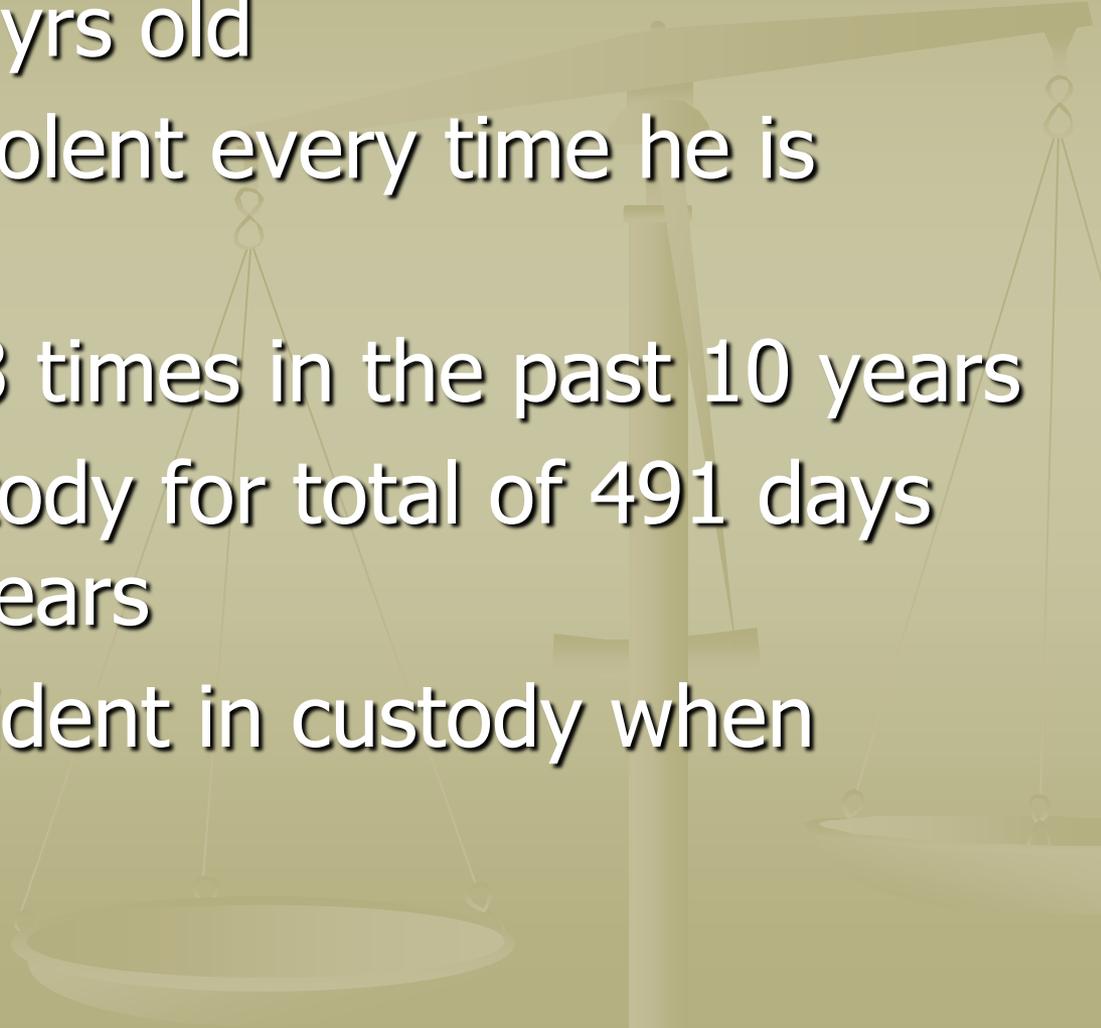
“Habitual psychological and physiological dependence on a substance or practice beyond one’s voluntary control”

Addiction

- 29% of inmates report being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at booking
- Drugs in jail
- Heroin is back



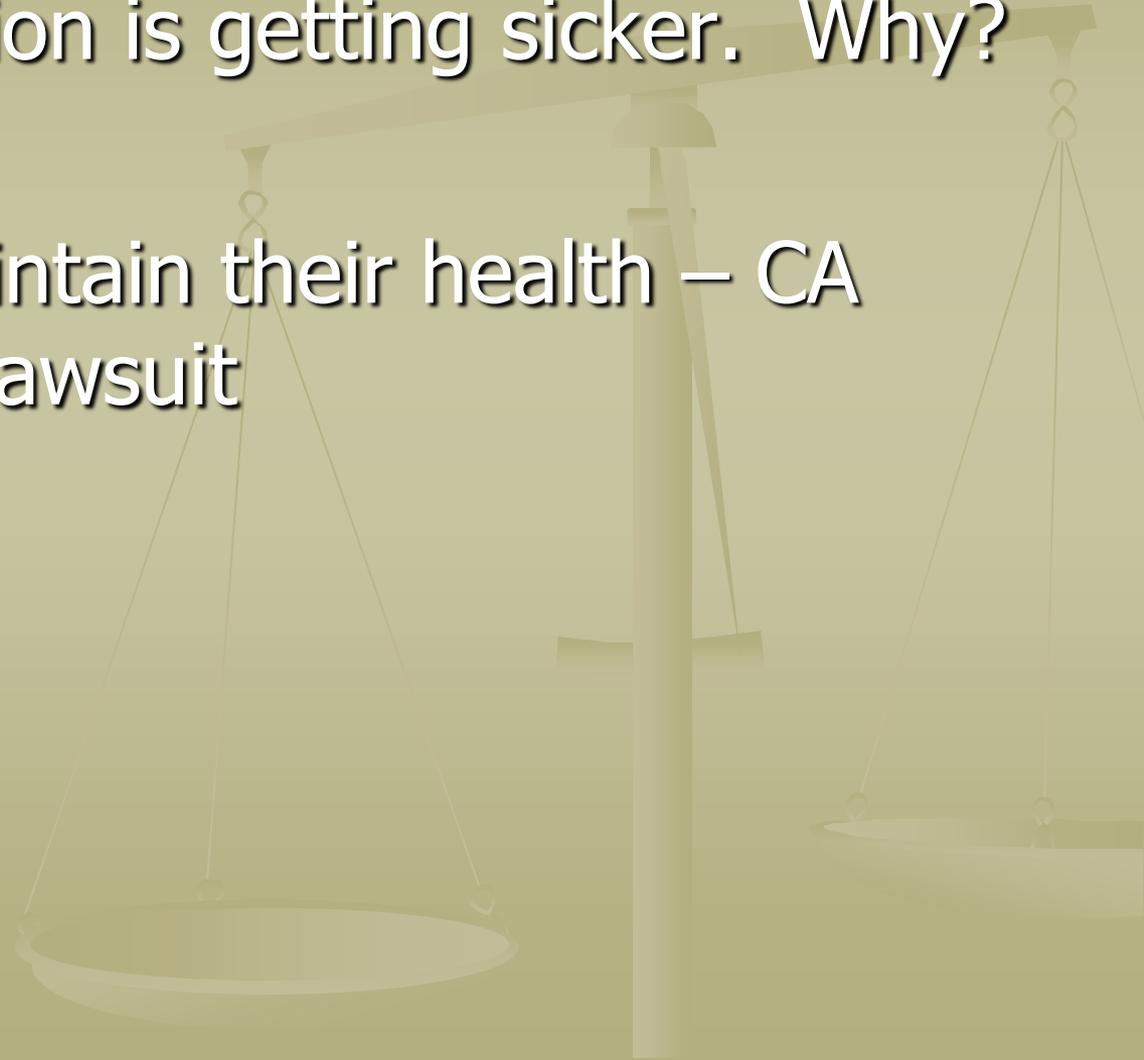
Addiction – a case study



- Inmate now 46 yrs old
- Intoxicated & violent every time he is booked
- Been booked 23 times in the past 10 years
- Been in jail custody for total of 491 days in the past 10 years
- Not a single incident in custody when sober

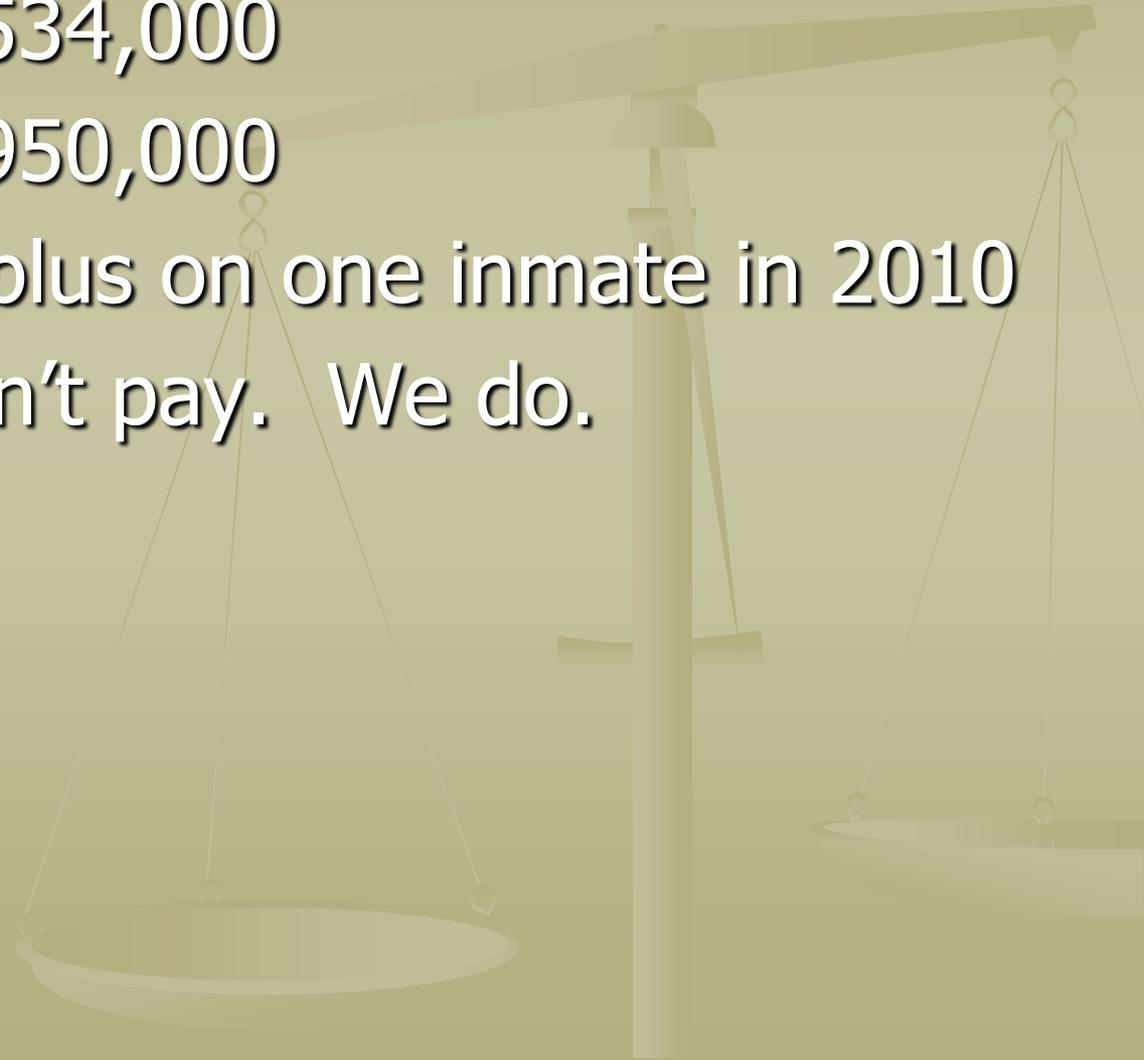
Medical

- Inmate population is getting sicker. Why?
- Required to maintain their health – CA prison medical lawsuit



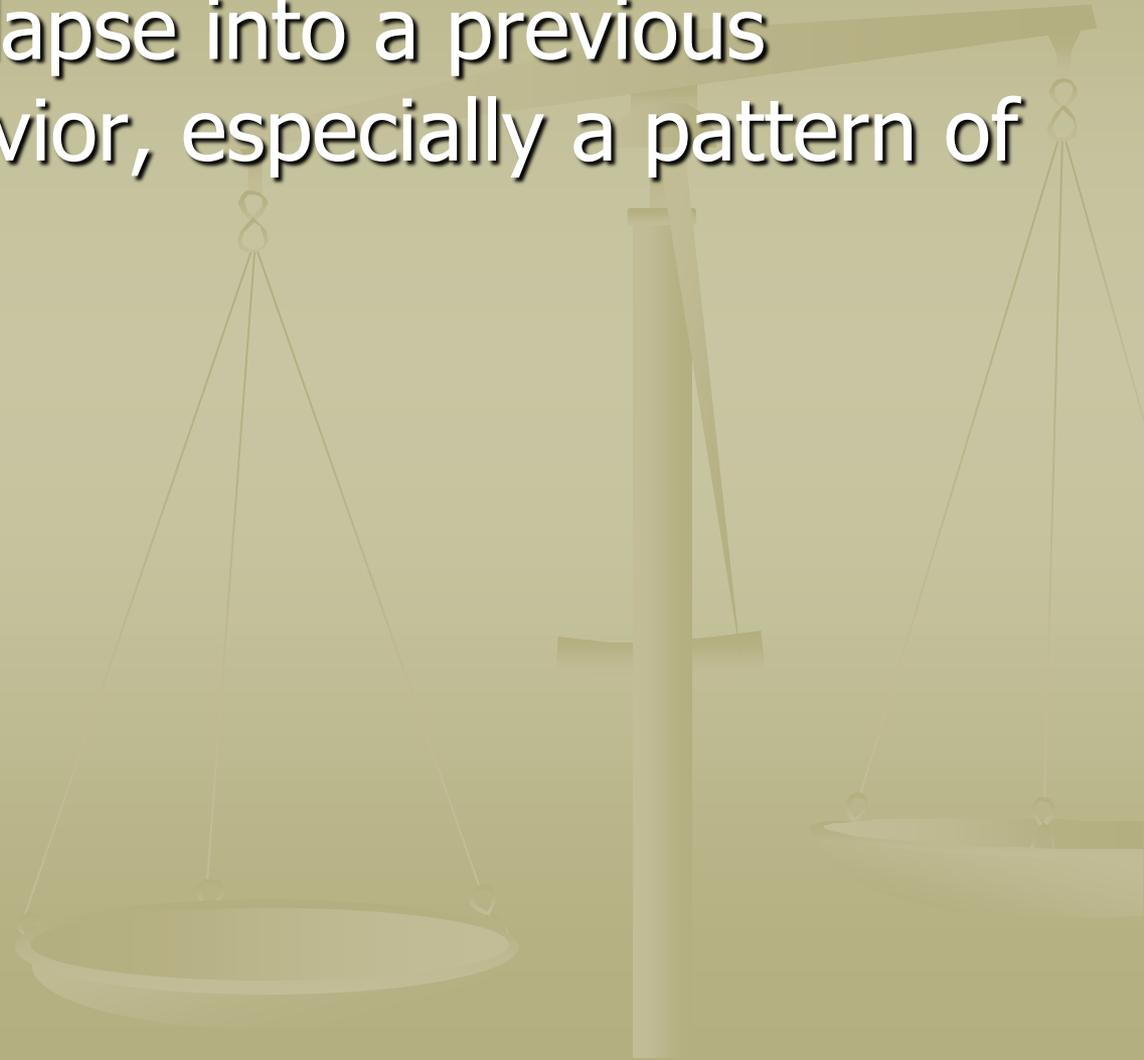
Cost of Medical

- 2000 – spent \$534,000
- 2010 – spent \$950,000
- Spent \$60,000 plus on one inmate in 2010
- The inmates don't pay. We do.



Recidivism

- “a tendency to lapse into a previous pattern of behavior, especially a pattern of criminal habits”

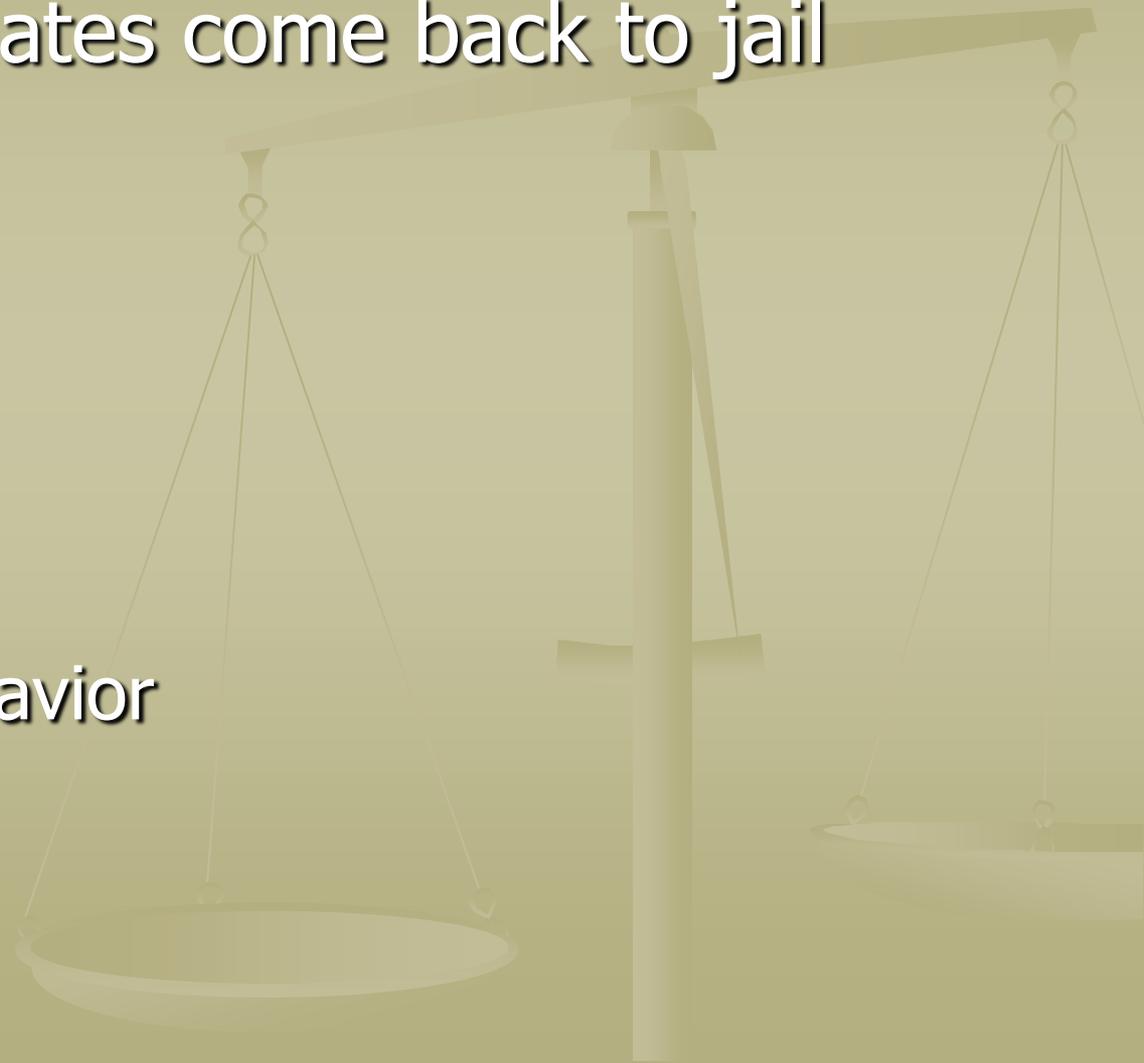


Recidivism - at a glance

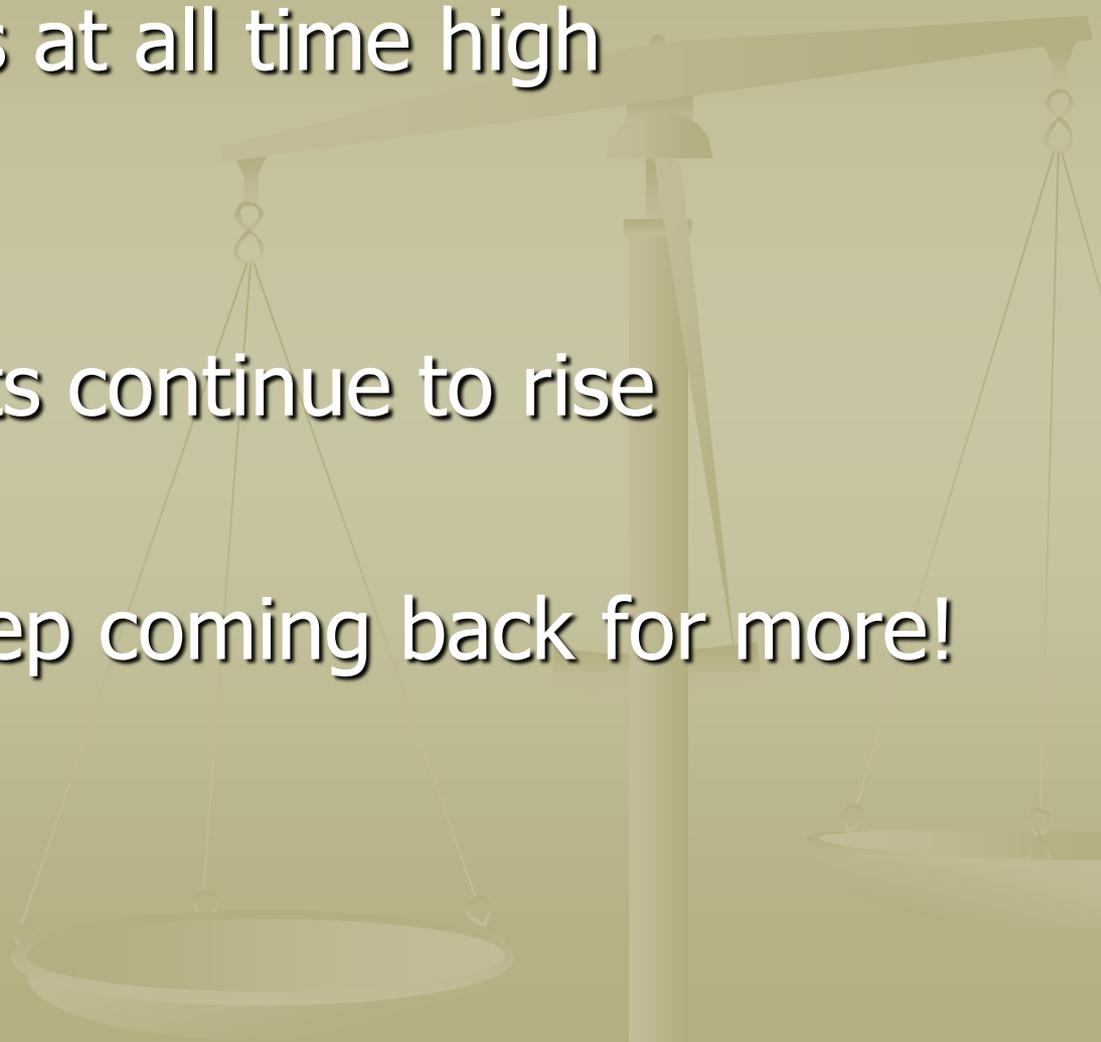
- 57yo – 20 bookings
- 35yo – 25 bookings
- 50yo – 33 bookings
- 35yo – 26 bookings
- 37yo – 24 bookings
- 28yo – 32 bookings
- 33yo – 29 bookings



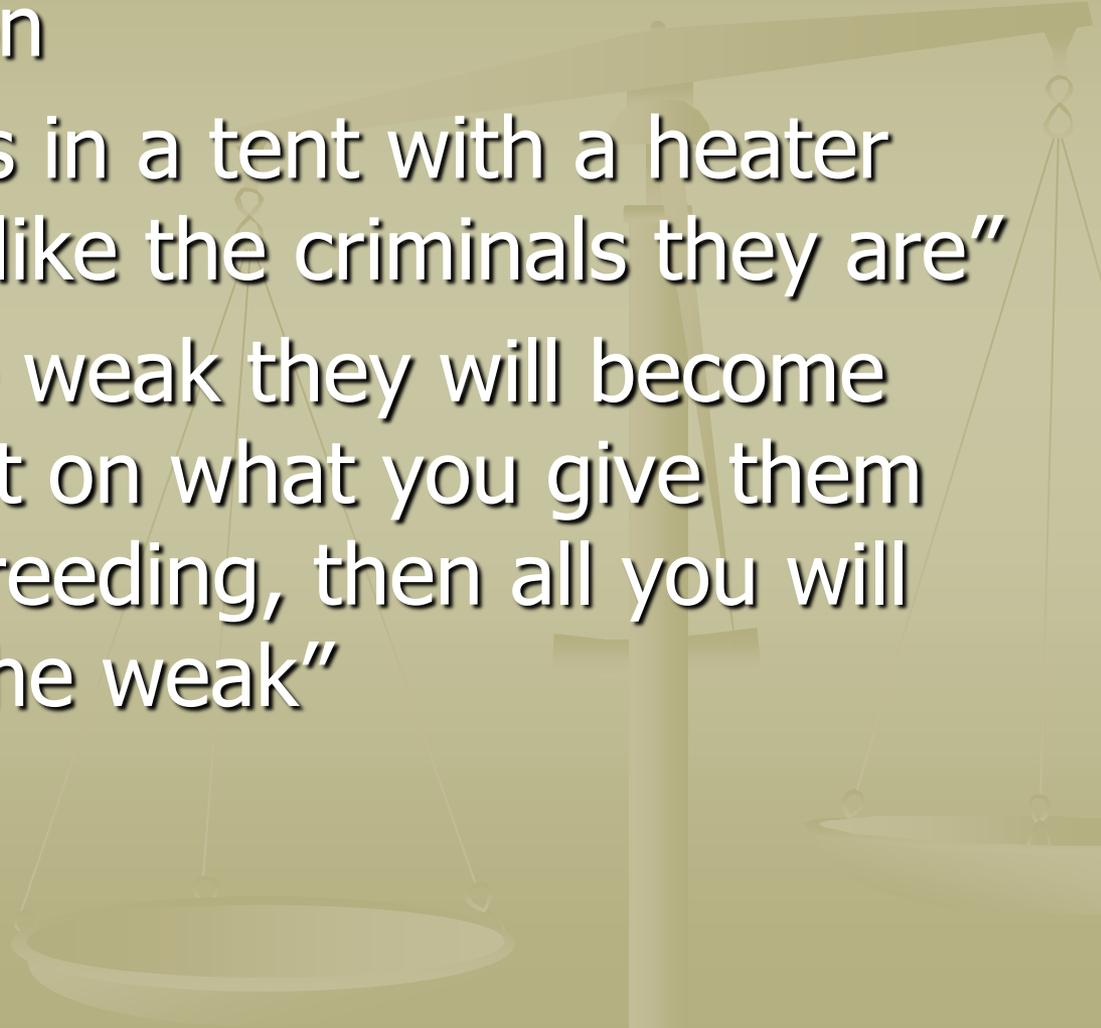
- 72% of our inmates come back to jail
- Why?
 - Addiction
 - Mental health
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Patterns of behavior



Is our system working?

- Prisons and jails at all time high population
 - Corrections costs continue to rise
 - The inmates keep coming back for more!
- 

Where do we go from here?

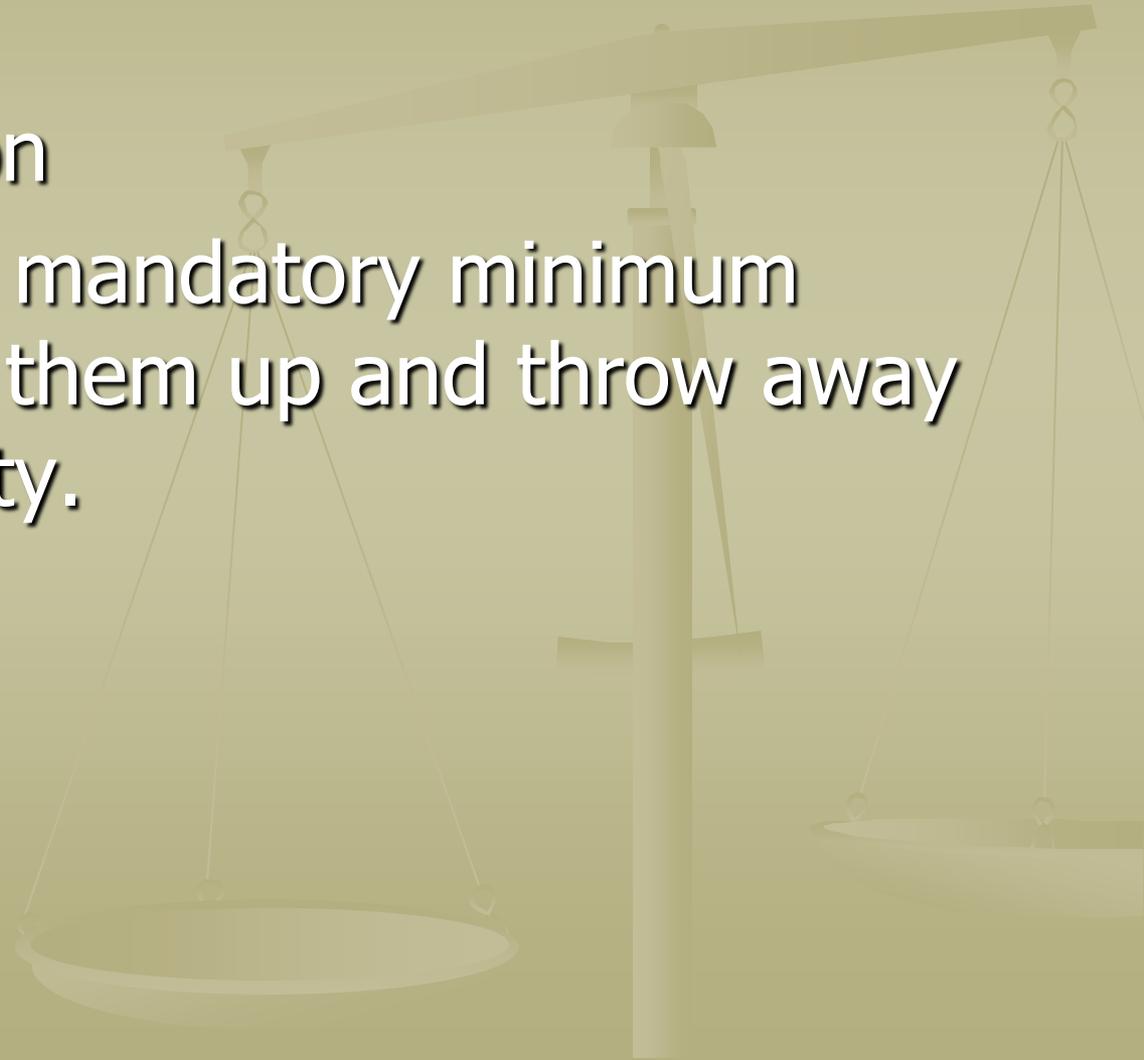
- Public perception
 - “put these idiots in a tent with a heater and treat them like the criminals they are”
 - “If you feed the weak they will become more dependent on what you give them and just start breeding, then all you will get is more of the weak”
- 

Re Entry

- Assist the inmates with the risk factors
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Treatment
 - Housing
 - Change the behavior patterns
- 

It sounds simple . . .

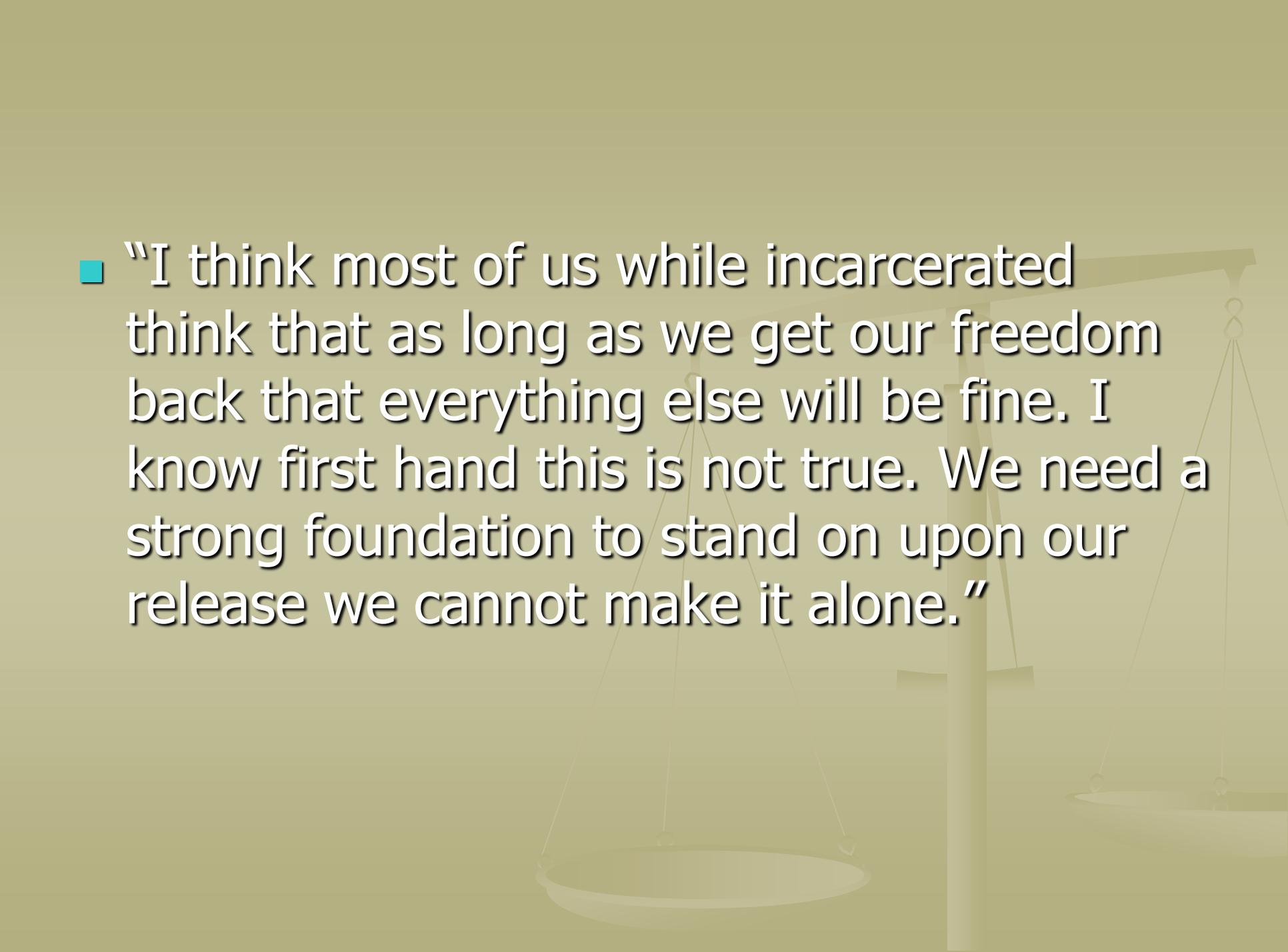
- Budget cuts
- Public perception
- A big shift from mandatory minimum sentences, lock them up and throw away the key mentality.



Steps in the right direction

- New Start Money Smart
- Work Search Program
- Drug & Alcohol Class
- DV Class
- Anger Management
- Work Crew
- Work Release



- 
- “I think most of us while incarcerated think that as long as we get our freedom back that everything else will be fine. I know first hand this is not true. We need a strong foundation to stand on upon our release we cannot make it alone.”

Questions?

