

# Prevalence of Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System

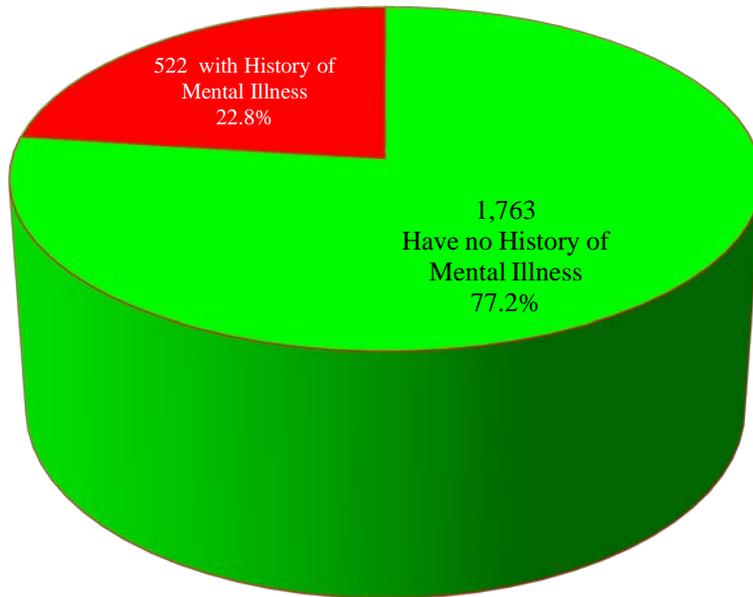
## Descriptive Analysis

Mental health and criminal justice data available from 2011 was cross-matched and analyzed at the Nevada State Health Division in order to assess prevalence of mental illness in the criminal justice system. Frequencies, rates, and patterns of detention of mentally ill individuals at the Carson City County Jail (CCCJ) were thoroughly evaluated and compared to findings related to inpatient and outpatient care provided by the Nevada State Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services.

The number of mentally ill individuals involved with the criminal justice system and detained in jails and prisons continues to grow in Carson City County, Nevada and nationwide. This significant increase is attributed in most part to a severe lack in resources available for proper services and timely case-management for mentally ill individuals.

In 2011, there were 2,285 individuals detained at least once at CCCJ, and of those, 522 had previously been served for a mental illness related problem. The prevalence of mental illness among persons admitted to CCCJ reached about 22.8% percent in 2011, as illustrated in figure 1. It is also estimated that about 75% of these mentally ill individuals have a dual diagnosis or a co-occurring alcohol and/or drug use disorder.

**Figure 1. Prevalance of Mental Illness in Carson City County Jail, Nevada 2011**

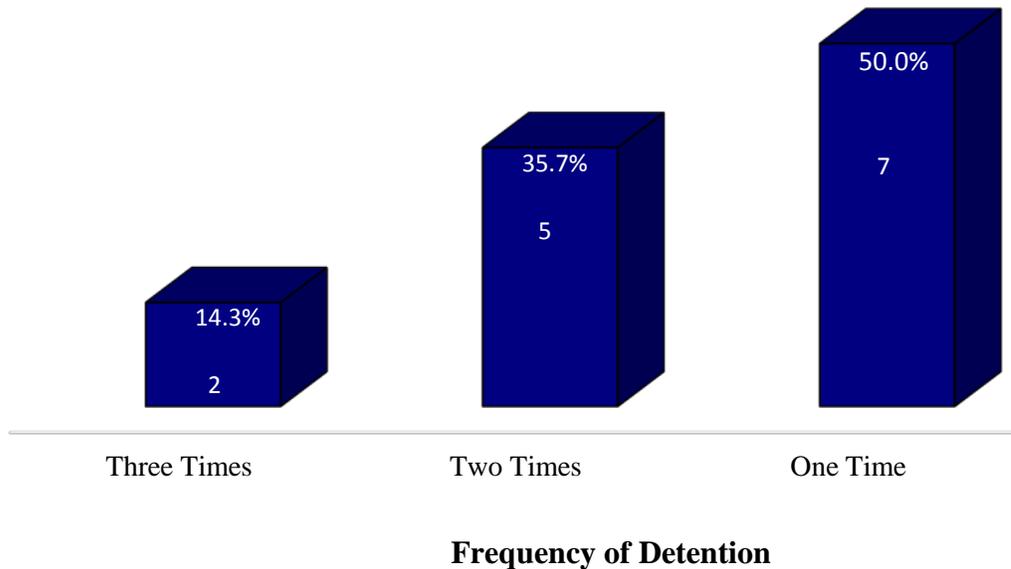


## At Least 1 in 5 CCCJ Detainees Has a History of Mental Illness

Half of the 14 mentally ill individuals who were admitted to mental health facilities twice or more during 2011 were also detained twice or more at the CCCJ in 2011. Within the one-year period, two mentally

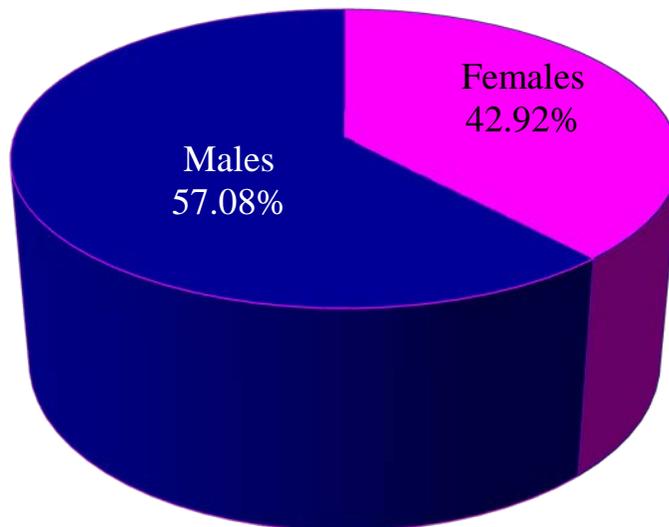
ill individuals were detained 3 times, 5 were detained 2 times, and 7 (about 1 in two) were detained once in 2011 as illustrated in figure 2.

**Figure 2. Individuals who were Admitted at Least Twice by Frequency of Detention at Carson City County Jail Nevada 2011**



The percentage of mentally ill males detained in 2011 at CCCJ was significantly higher than that for females. More than 57% of all individuals with mental illness who were detained at least once in CCCJ in 2011 were males as illustrated in figure 3.

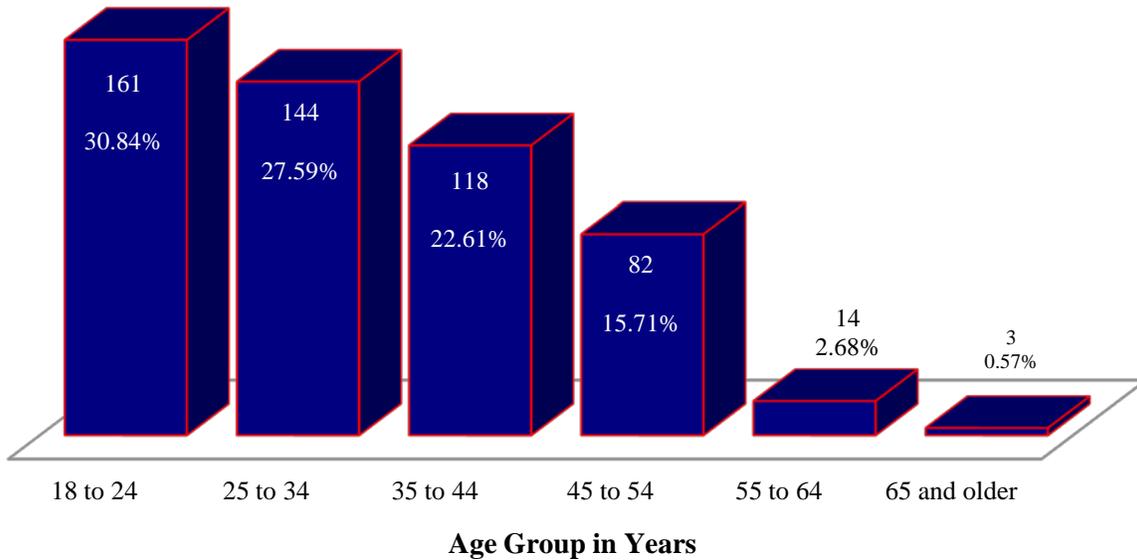
**Figure 3. Mentally Ill Individuals Detained at Least Once at Carson City County Jail by Gender, Nevada 2011**



The age of mentally ill individuals detained at least once at CCCJ in 2011 ranged from 18 to 77 years with a median of 34. The detention rate exhibited some tendency to increase with age and peaked at age 21. As illustrated in figure 4, about 30.84% of all mentally ill individuals detained at CCCJ in 2011 were age 24 or

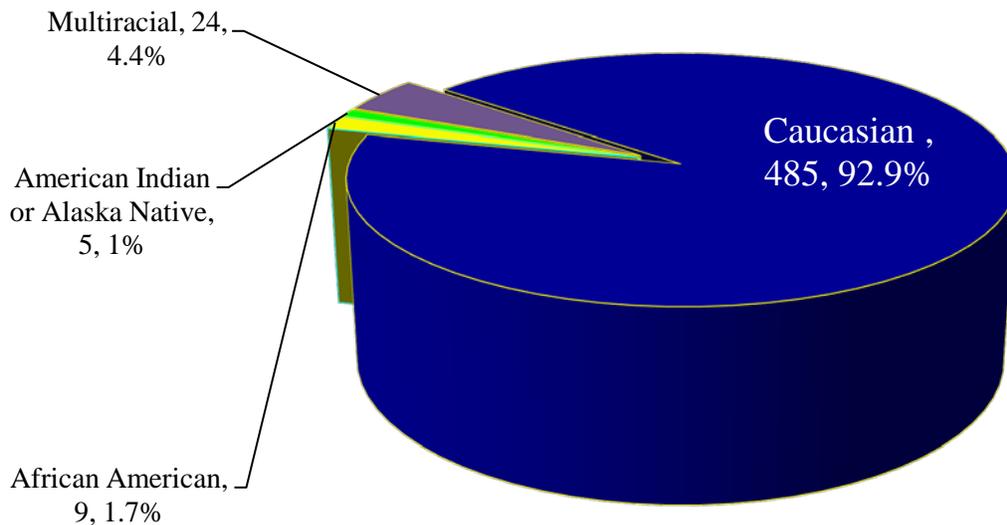
younger. Detention rate in 2011 showed a gradual tendency to decline after age 24. Those aged 25 to 34 years (144) had the second highest detention rate (27.6%), followed by age group 35 to 44 and so on.

**Figure 4. Detention of Mentally Ill Individuals at Carson City County Jail by Age Group, Nevada 2011**



The majority of mentally ill individuals who were detained at CCCJ in 2011 were Caucasian as illustrated in figure 5.

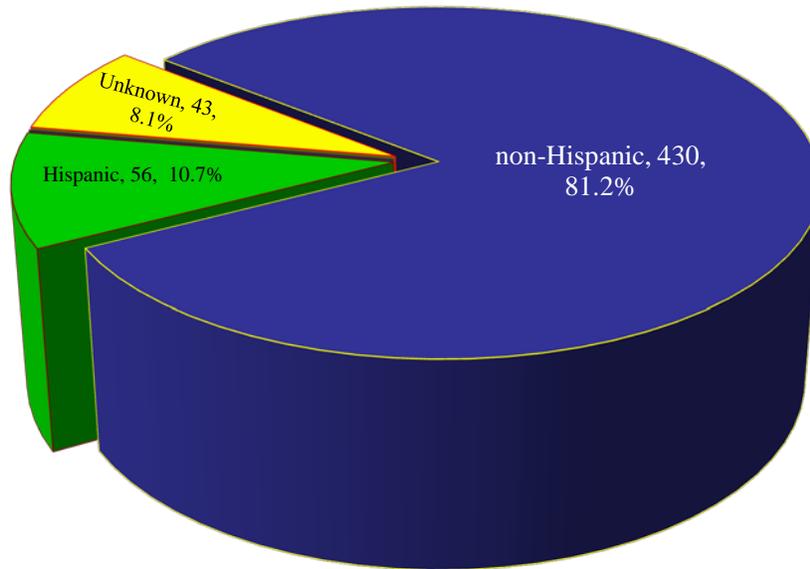
**Figure 5. Detention of Mentally Ill Individuals at Carson City County Jail by Race, Nevada 2011**



It is important to note that Caucasian mentally ill individuals were over-represented in CCCJ while other racial/ethnic minorities were under represented. The rate of Caucasians (92.9%) at CCCJ in 2011 significantly exceeded their overall rates in Carson City County, which is less than 80%.

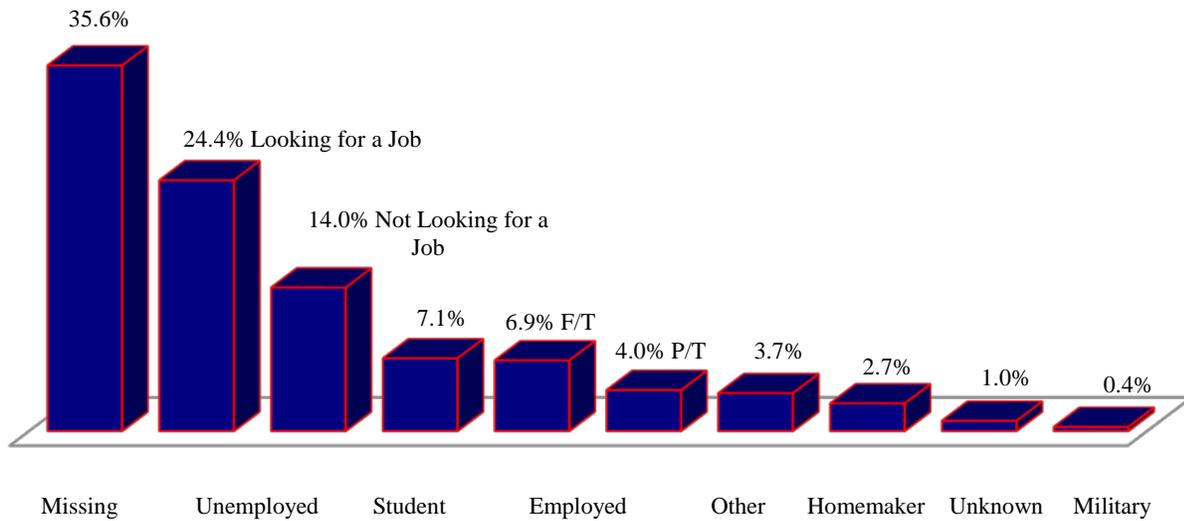
Mentally ill Hispanics who were detained at least once at the CCCJ in 2011 were under represented. 10.7% of mentally ill individuals detained at CCCJ in 2011 were Hispanic Whites, and 8.1% were Hispanics of unknown or undetermined racial origin. While about 26.4% of Carson City County residents are of Hispanic origin, regardless of their race, a mere 18.8% of all mentally ill individuals detained at least once at CCCJ in 2011 were of Hispanic origin as illustrated in Figure 6.

**Figure 6. Detention of Mentally Ill Individuals at Carson City County Jail, Nevada 2011 by Ethnicity (all races)**



As illustrated in figure 7, about one in four mentally ill individuals detained at CCCJ in 2011 were unemployed seeking employment; 14% were unemployed and were not seeking employment; 6.9% were full-time employed; and about 4.0% were part-time employed. Figure 7 also shows that 7.1% were students; 2.7% as homemakers; 0.4% as military; and 0.2% were retired. Employment status was unknown for 1%, and was missing for about 35.6% of the mentally ill detainees at CCCJ in 2011.

**Figure 7. Mentally Ill Individuals Detained at Carson City County Jail by Employment Status, Nevada 2011**



About one-fifth of individuals with mental illness detained at least once at CCCJ had a high school diploma; 7.9% had some college education; 12.3% had some general education; 2.1% had vocational or technical school training; 1.3% had college degrees; and about 0.6% had graduate degrees, as illustrated in figure 8.

**Figure 8. Mentally Ill Individuals Detained at Carson City County Jail by Education, Nevada 2011**

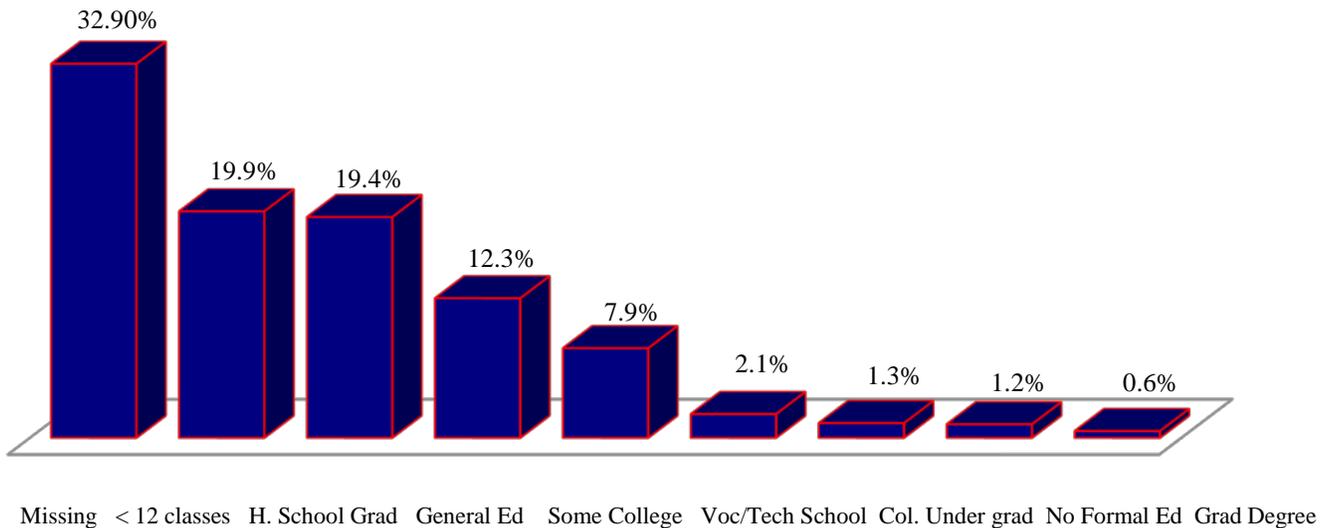
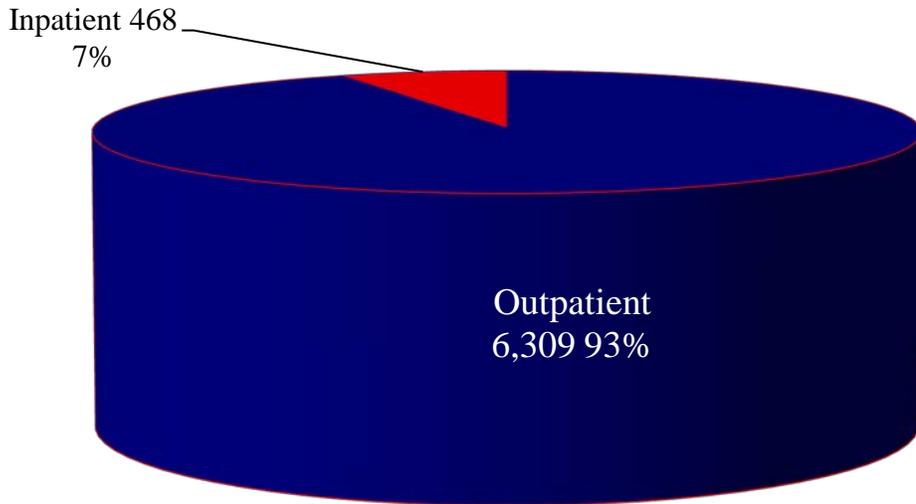


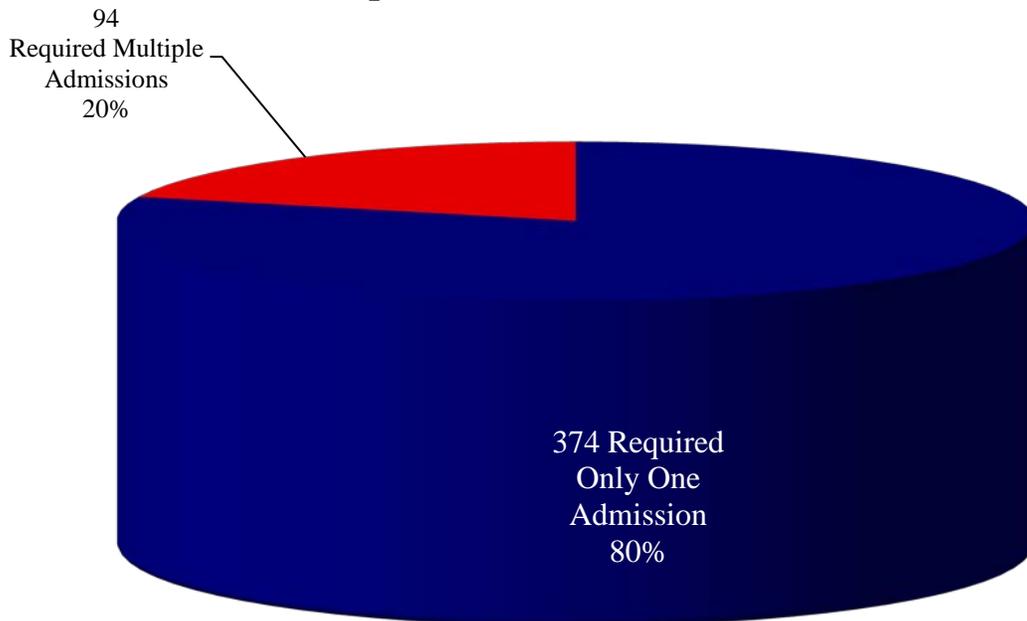
Figure 9 illustrates that there were 6,309 outpatients and 468 inpatients who received services at mental health facilities in northern Nevada in 2011.

**Figure 9. Mentally Ill Patients, Nevada 2011**



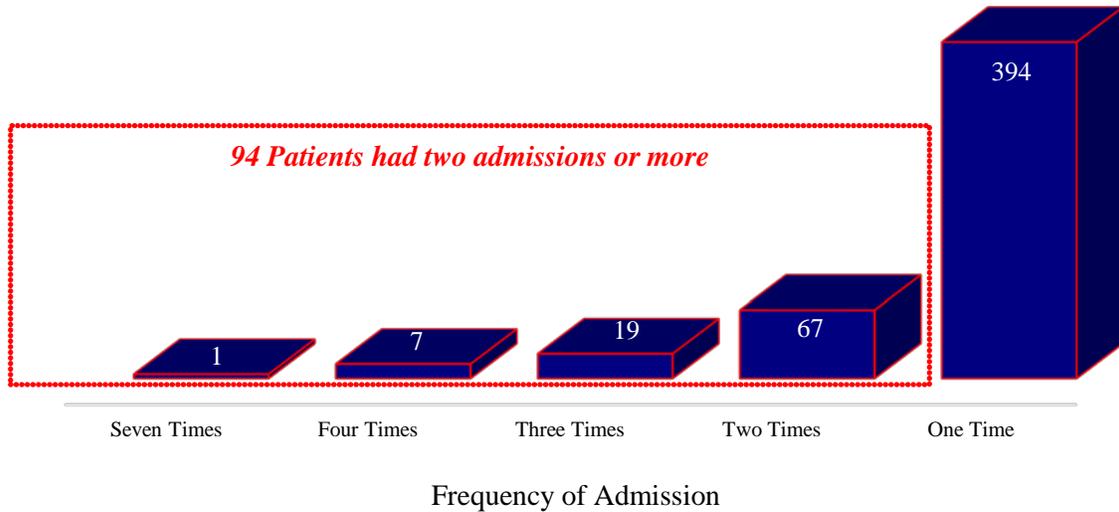
Hospital admission frequency ranged from one to seven times in 2011. One-fifth, 94 of the 468, of the mentally ill inpatient individuals required more than one admission for treatment in 2011 as illustrated in figures 10 to 15, and table 1.

**Figure 10. Mentally Ill Inpatients who Required Multiple Hospital Admissions, Nevada 2011**



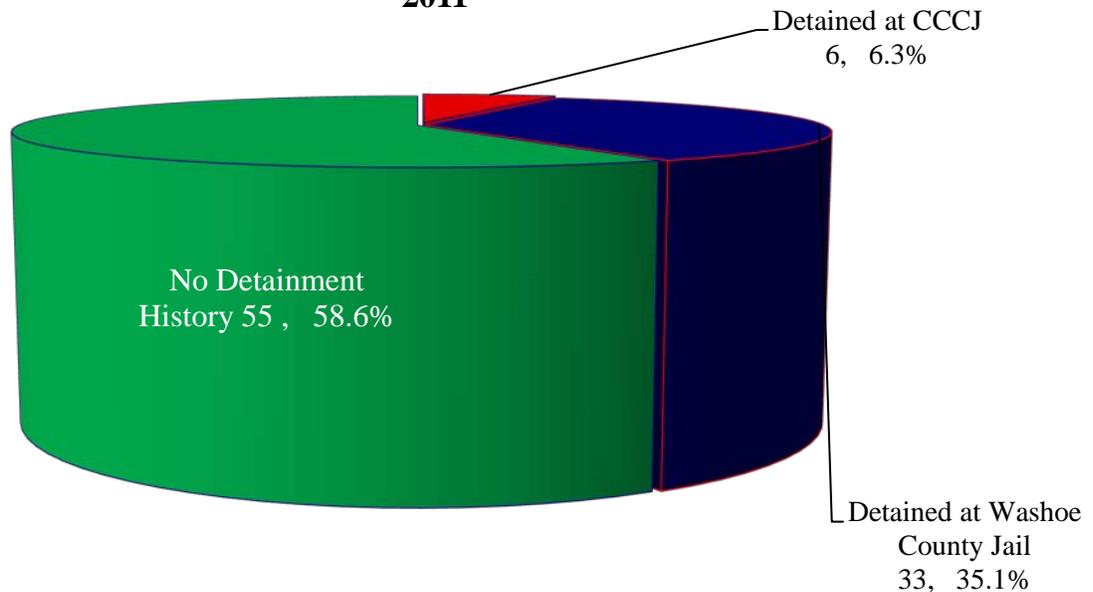
Of the 94 mentally ill individuals, one patient was admitted seven times; 7 patients were readmitted four times; 19 required three readmissions; and 67 required two readmissions at adult mental health facilities in Northern Nevada, as illustrated in figure 11.

**Figure 11. Mentally Ill Inpatients by Frequency of Hospital Readmission, Nevada 2011**



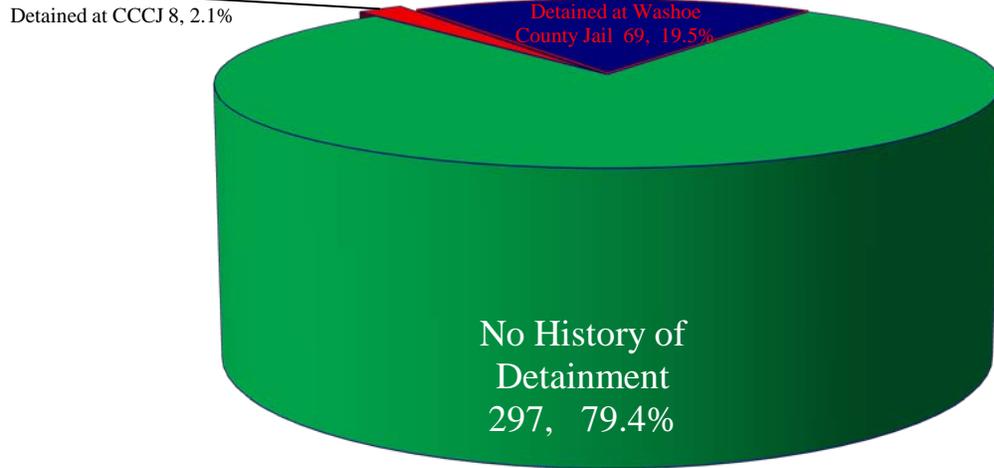
Of the 94 mentally ill individuals who required two admissions or more, 6 mentally ill individuals (6.3%) were detained at least once at CCCJ and 33 were detained at the Washoe County Jail in 2011, as illustrated in figure 12.

**Figure 12. Mentally Ill Inpatients with Multiple Hospital Admission and at Least One Detainment at Washoe/Carson City County Jails, Nevada 2011**



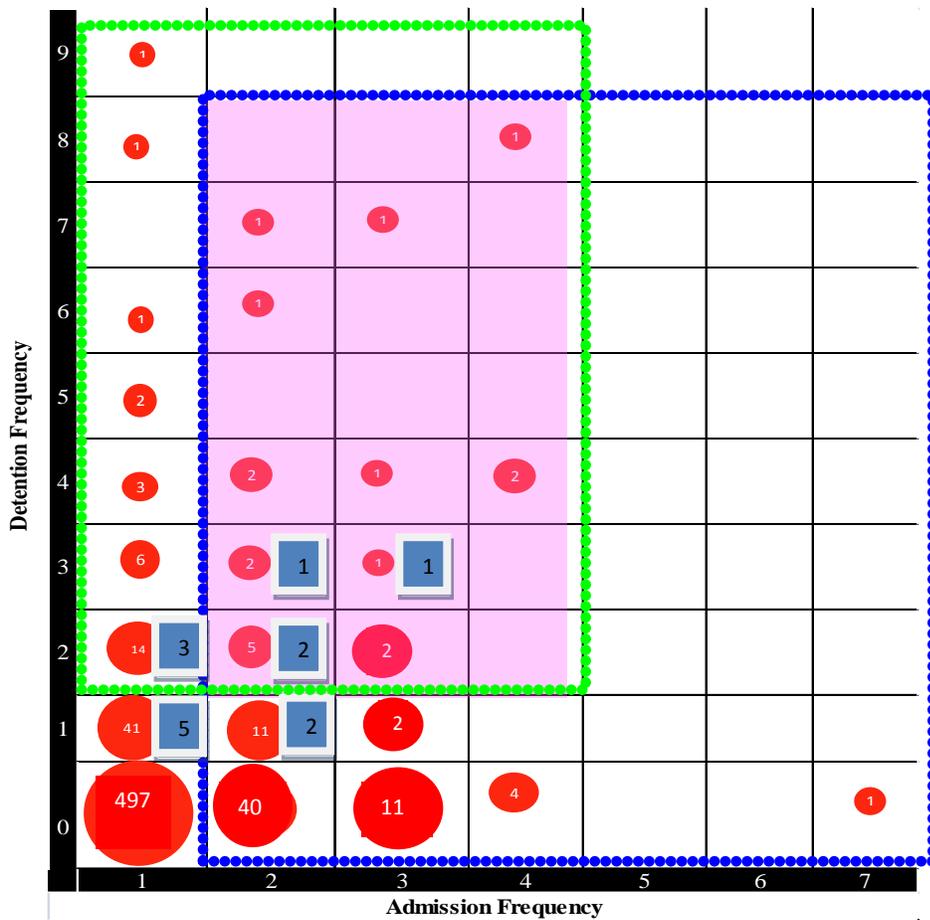
Of the 374 mentally ill inpatients who were admitted once to a mental health facility in Northern Nevada 2011, 69 individuals (19.5%) were detained at Washoe County Jail and 8 mentally ill individuals (2.1%) were detained at CCCJ, as seen in figure 13.

**Figure 13. Mentally Ill Inpatients Admitted Once to Hospital with at Least One Detainment at Washoe County Jail or CCCJ, Nevada 2011**



**Figure 14**

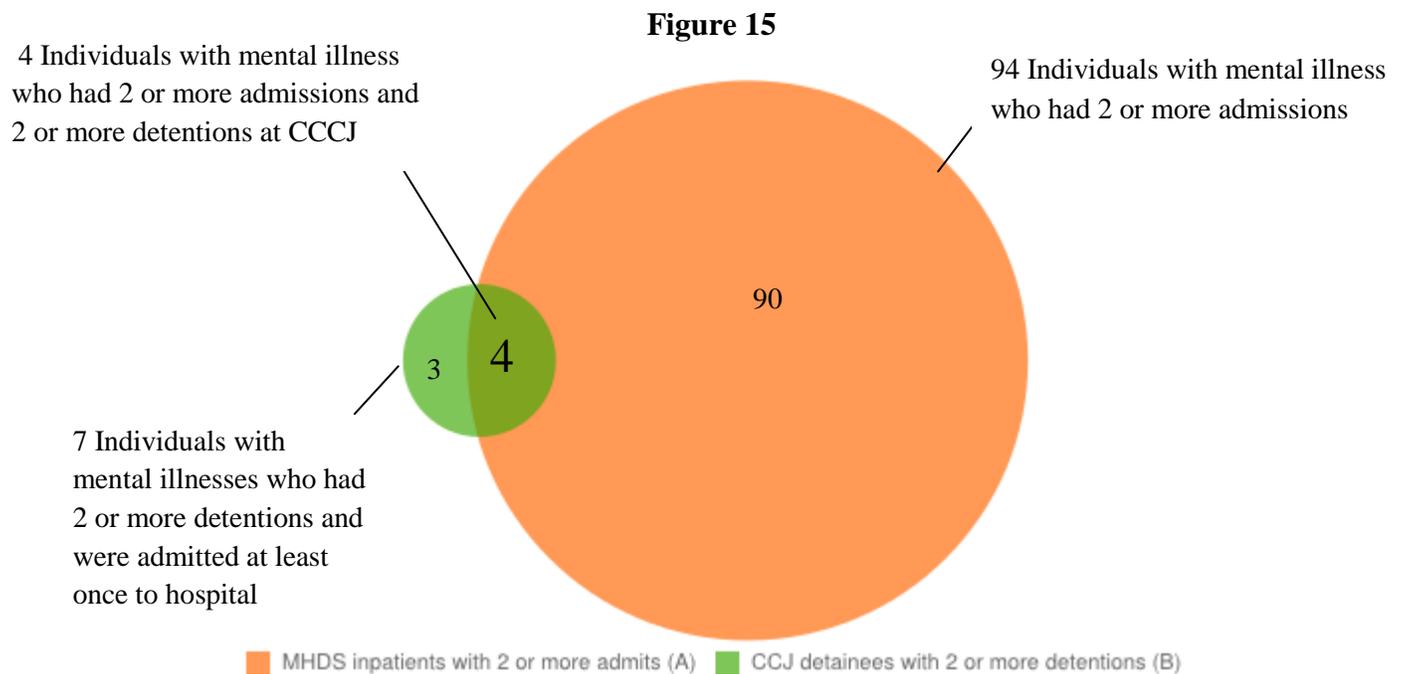
**Detention among Mentally Ill In-patients - Washoe County Jail, Nevada 2011 and CCCJ, Nevada**



As it is illustrated in Figure 14:

- The blue frame shows 94 mentally ill individuals with multi (2 or more) admissions with or without detention
- The green frame shows mentally ill individuals with multi (2 or more) detentions with at least one admission
  - 47 were detained at Washoe County Jail (red)
  - 7 were detained at CCCJ (blue).
- The pink-colored area represents mentally ill individuals with multi (2 or more) admissions and multi (2 or more) detentions
  - 19 were detained at Washoe County Jail
  - 4 were detained at CCCJ

Of the 94 patients, 4 had multiple hospital admissions and multiple detentions at CCCJ in 2011, as illustrated in figure 15.



A†	AB% of A	B	AB% of B	AB
94	4.3%	7	57.1%	4

The table below shows the frequency of detainment for mentally ill inpatients at CCCJ in 2011.

Admissions	Detentions	Total Number of Patients	Percentage
7	0	1	100.00%
4	0	7	100.00%
3	3	1	5.30%
3	0	18	94.70%
2	3	1	1.50%
2	2	2	3.00%
2	1	2	3.00%
2	0	62	92.50%
1	2	3	0.80%
1	1	5	1.30%
1	0	366	97.90%

- Seven mentally ill patients were detained 3 times at CCCJ in 2011
- Five mentally ill patient were detained 2 times at CCCJ in 2011
- Two mentally ill patients were detained once at CCCJ in 2011

#### Technical Note

- Limited data sets consist of one year (2011) from Carson City County Jail and several years from the Nevada State Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services were used
- Probabilistic data set matching was based on limited number of variables including social security and date of birth
- Figures and rates in this report are subject to change as recent and more complete data sets becomes available