

?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?

DID YOU KNOW . . .

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- That Massachusetts spends \$43,000 average per year to lock up one individual; and spends more on imprisoning people than it does on higher education?
- That the U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration of any country in the world; and that in 2004 one out of every 33 people were incarcerated, on parole or probation?
- That half of all detainees in county lock-ups are awaiting trial for non-violent crimes? That a 1999 Massachusetts study states that half of those convicted could qualify for "intermediate (in-community) sanctions" rather than imprisonment?
- That public policy and laws cause overcrowding in jails and prisons?
- That the sheriff of Middlesex County agrees that building more prisons will not solve any crime problems but still wants \$253 million? (Somerville News, June 21, 2006)
- That Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral will not place human needs funding before jail expansion for women? (Boston Neighborhood Network TV, May 22, 2006)

Community solutions are less expensive and more effective

Statewide HArM Reduction Coalition (SHaRC)
www.stopchicopeejail.org

WE DEMAND: QUALITY SCHOOLS--not jails. HOUSING--not jails. JOBS--not jails. HEALTH CARE--not jails. MONEY FOR DRUG TREATMENT--not jails. A LIVING WAGE--not jails. AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION--not jails. AN END TO CORI--not jails!

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"Since PICS is created by criminal justice system policy and programming in our well intentioned but misguided attempt to stop crime, the epidemic can be prevented and public safety protected by changing the public policies that call for incarcerating more people, for longer periods of time, for less severe offenses, in more punitive environments that emphasize the use of solitary confinement, that eliminate or severely restrict prisoner access to educational, vocational, and rehabilitation programs while incarcerated."

"Post Incarceration Syndrome and Relapse", By Terence T. Gorski, (© Copyright, Terence T. Gorski, 2000)

The Post Incarceration Syndrome (PICS) is a serious problem that contributes to relapse in addicted and mentally ill offenders who are released from correctional institutions. Currently 60% of prisoners have been in prison before and there is growing evidence that the Post Incarceration Syndrome (PICS) is a contributing factor to this high rate of recidivism.

The concept of a post incarceration syndrome (PICS) has emerged from clinical consultation work with criminal justice system rehabilitation programs working with currently incarcerated prisoners and with addiction treatment programs and community mental health centers working with recently released prisoners.

This article will provide an operational definition of the Post Incarceration Syndrome (PICS), describe the common symptoms, recommend approaches to diagnosis and treatment, explore the implications of this serious new syndrome for community safety, and discuss the need for political action to reduce the number of prisoners and assure more humane treatment within our prisons, jails, and correctional institutions as a means of prevention.... <http://www.stopchicopeejail.org/PICS.html>



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