

## OVERCROWDING

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Overcrowding in the prisons is usually considered to occur when there are more prisoners than proper housing to put them in. Which is why, in Florida, for example, state law limits the prisoner population to 95% of the available beds.

Sounds good, doesn't it?

You have at least 5% of the available bed space open for adjustments. Yet keep as many people as possible imprisoned.

(This does, of course, assume that all of those who are imprisoned need that level of supervision. The reality is - 50%, or more, of the prison population is made up of non-violent criminals. People who require some supervision - but not at the level of 24/7 lockup.)

The reality is that at 95% capacity SECURITY suffers.

Security suffers because the administration DOES NOT HAVE the ability to make adjustments quickly and easily.

At 95% capacity to move one (1) prisoner you have to move another prisoner.

Sometimes more than one.

Here is what occurs at 95% capacity.

The young are housed with the old.

The pacific are housed with the aggressive.

The low security risk is housed with the high security risk.

The short timer is housed with the lifer.

The rule violator (unless it is serious - such as an assault) - is not corrected. Because you have to let someone out of confinement before you can put someone into confinement.

All in one housing unit.

The result is a security nightmare.

For the staff are called upon to pay attention to everyone equally. There is no ability to segregate the lesser security

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risk from the higher security risk who require additional supervision.

With the result that the higher security risk prisoners are given the freedom to do almost whatever they please. Prison, for them, is just another neighborhood that they live in.

When you refuse to spend your money on crime prevention you are choosing to spend your money on ~~crime~~ promoting crime