



Mental Health Services Quarterly Report

Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee Meeting – November 2, 2021

Cook County Health – Correctional Health Services / Cermak

Report Period: June 2021-August 2021

Item #: 21-5569

Presenter: Dr. David Kelner, Divisional Chief of Correctional Psychiatry



Cook County DEPT.
of
Public Health



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Mental Health Department at Cermak Health Services

Provides care for detainees remanded to Cook County Sheriff's custody at Cook County Jail.

YTD 2021 weekly average jail population- **5,681**

The average length of stay for patients on the mental health caseload exceeds that of patients in general population.

Cermak is the largest single site provider of Mental Health Services in Illinois.

100% of detainees are screened in Intake to identify emergently needed mental health services and chronic MH needs that require treatments (“preloading on the front end”).

Cermak provides emergent, urgent, and routine MH services across the continuum of care.

Cermak's EMR and services are integrated with CCH.

Cermak's primary focus is access to care and patient safety. Along the spectrum of MH care, from Intake to the point of release, detainees receive numerous suicide risk screenings and assessments.

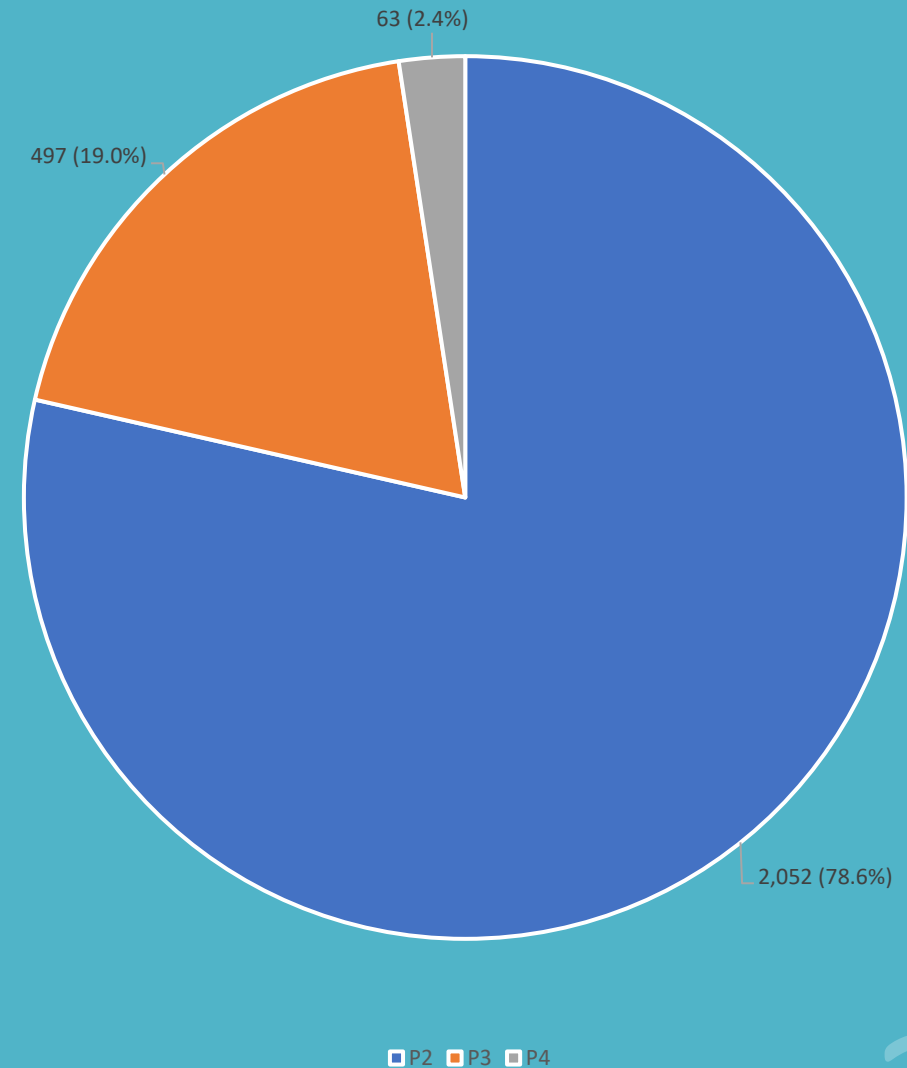
Cermak Health OTP Program is accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC)

Levels of Care

Patients' housing is determined by their Mental Health condition and treatment needs and is divided into Levels of Care:

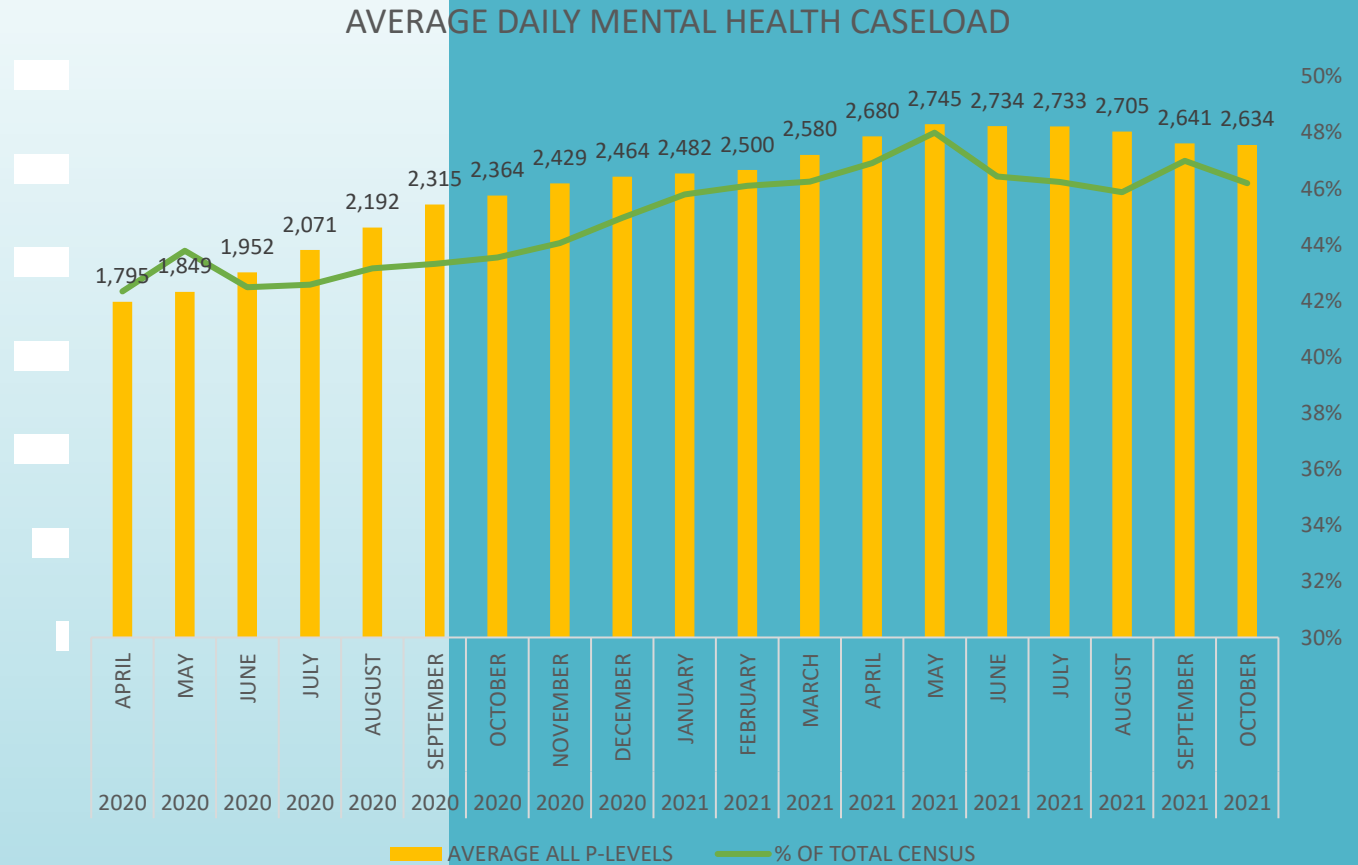
- P4- Psychiatric Special Care Units (comparable to inpatient psychiatric wards); these units house unstable and acutely ill patients
- P3- Residential Treatment Unit (houses patients with serious and enduring MH needs)
- P2- Outpatient Level of Care (houses detainees who can function adaptively and are compliant with treatments)

Mental Health Caseload 11/01/2021



Mental Health Caseload at Cermak

- Recently there has been a significant expansion of Mental Health caseload in relation to the overall Jail population.
- Over the past two years, MH population has grown in absolute numbers, and as a percentage of the total behind-the-walls population. It now constitutes nearly 46% of the Jail census.



Seriously Mentally Ill

The number of patients who require intensive services and high utilization of resources (Cermak-P3) has grown over time as well.

This group is linked to:

Self injury

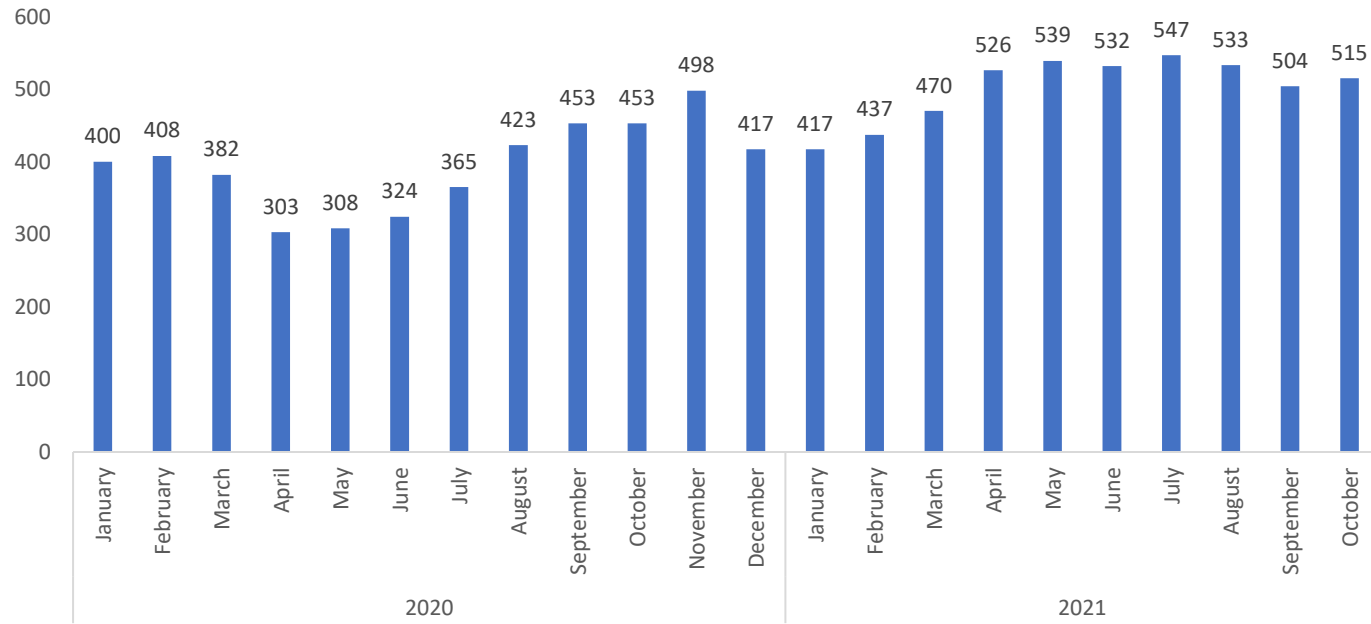
Increased length of stay

Difficulty with diversion

Need for dormitory style housing and direct supervision

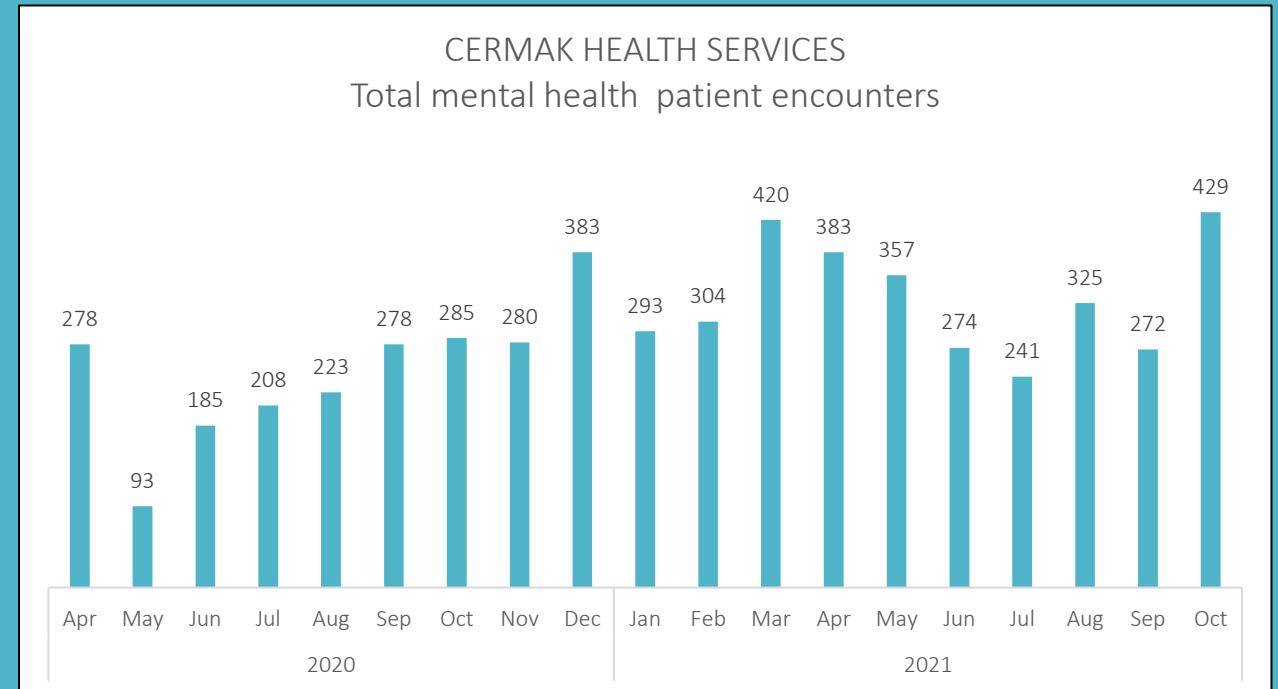
Opportunities exist for re-entry services (recidivism directly tied to access to community based mental health services)

CERMAK HEALTH SERVICES
Average daily P3's



Demand for services

- Jail Compound-wide COVID-19 response “depressed” clinical activities and interpersonal encounters. As a result, Cermak saw a decrease in direct contacts with patients. As the Delta surge has receded, MH health encounters are increasing as well.
- While the jail compound is returning to normalcy of operations, we are seeing a surging demand for MH services across the spectrum of care and in all clinical disciplines.
- Normalization of operations is addressed collaboratively with DOC leadership while Cermak MH remains clinically autonomous.



Successes, Challenges, Plan

Cermak Mental Health has continued to provide services to detainees throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The department adapted to the pandemic and did not allow any major disruptions in terms of access to care for our patients.

Cermak MH presently experiences higher than average attrition of credentialed staff. We seek acceleration of reposting of PID to promptly fill existing vacancies.

Cermak continues to work with CCDOC to meet housing challenges for the seriously mentally ill. The main Cermak building (housing the most acute seriously mentally ill) has capacity limitations and structural defects in terms of damage resistance.

Infection Control efforts have expanded the footprint of the jail requiring the Mental Health staff to have an expanded footprint across the compound and requiring adjustments in our staffing plan that now calls for less coverage in more housing and clinical areas.

As vacancies are filled, we will continue to increase the scope and breadth of services provided at Cook County Jail. For example, many of our patients would benefit from Trauma-Informed Care and greater Discharge/Linkage Services geared towards reducing recidivism.