

Justice and the Revolving Door



The Jacksonville Experience in Recidivism Intervention

We have a revolving door...



The Jacksonville Experience

- **A few people are arrested over and over again for the same offenses.**
- **Many are suffering from alcohol and drug abuse or mental illness.**
- **They spend much of the year in jail... a few days at a time.**
- **In-jail programs that can help last a minimum of 120 days *after* the person has been sentenced by a judge.**

Who is stuck in the door...



The Jacksonville Experience

- In 2002, **758 people** in Jacksonville were incarcerated an average of **111 days a year** with an average of **6.5 arrests** each.
 - Some are career criminals; some are mentally ill or severely addicted.
 - Some are homeless; many are not.
 - Those who are homeless rarely access available community services.

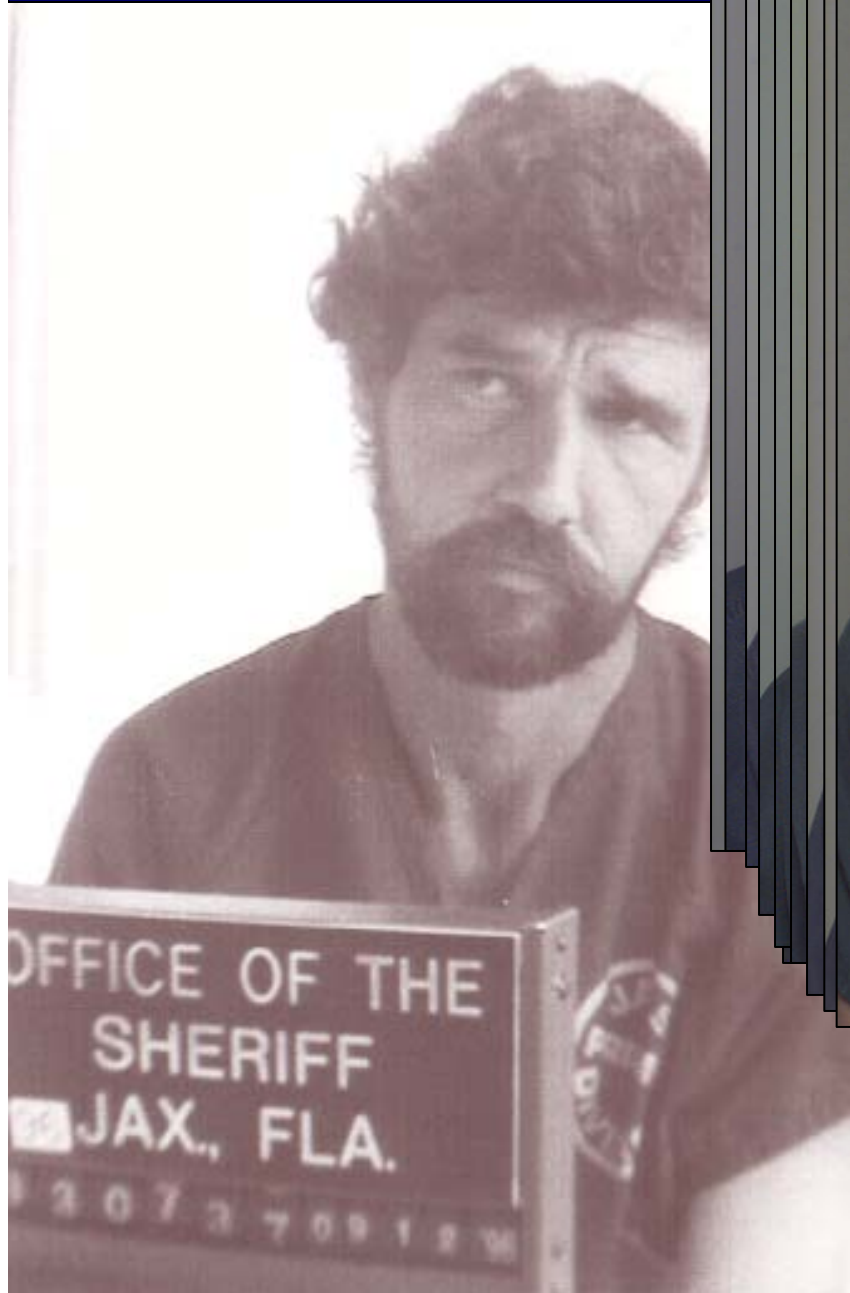
Who is stuck in the door...



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- A 1996 eye-opener
The Director of Jails and Prisons for Duval County meets Rodney
- The search for solutions
Worked with Senator Jim Horne to introduce 1997 legislation to address habitual misdemeanor offenders

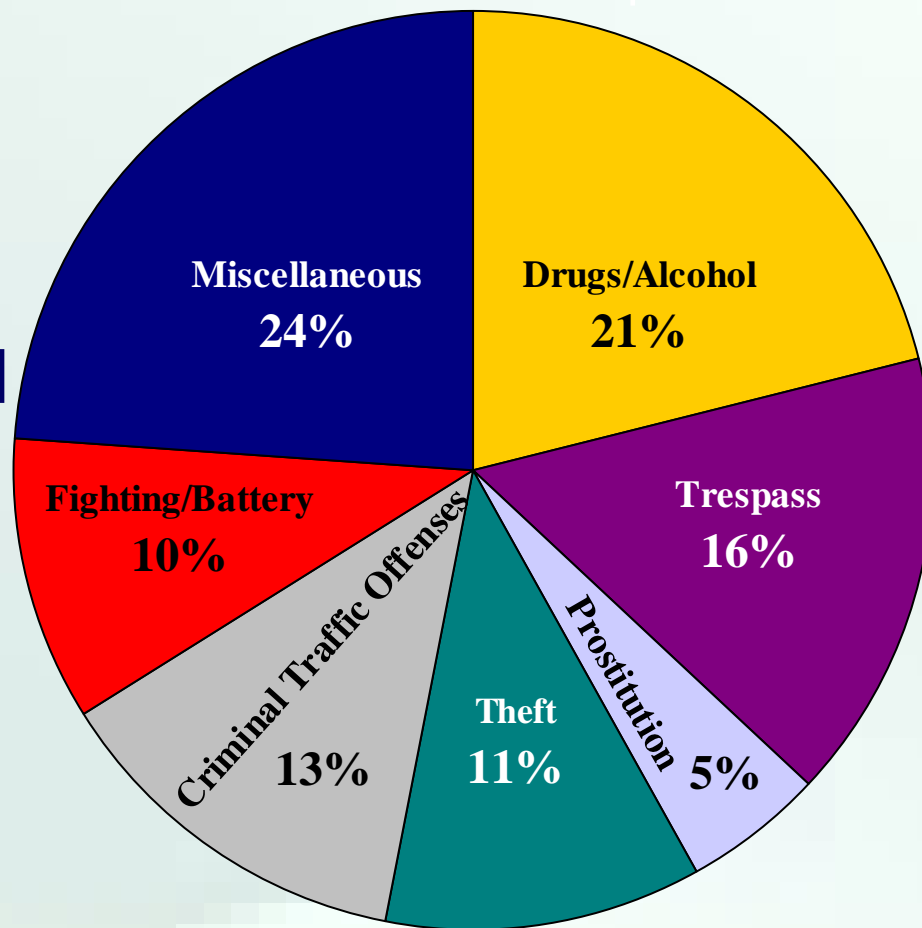
And still, people were stuck...



Type of Criminal Charges among Repeat Misdemeanants

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**Six
charges
accounted
for 76%
of all
recidivist
arrests**



- Drugs/Alcohol
- Trespass
- Criminal Traffic Offenses
- Theft
- Fighting/Battery
- Prostitution

Three Injustices in the Current System

To the Population

To the Taxpayer

To the Community



Injustice: Population

- **Individuals who are repeatedly incarcerated for misdemeanor crimes**
- **Three groups of habitual recidivists who are already sitting in jails**
 - Individuals with mental illnesses
 - Individuals who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs
 - Career criminals
- **\$\$\$ being used to house and feed the mentally ill and addicted ... not to treat them**



Injustice: Taxpayers

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- In 2003, paid for incarcerating individuals who are habitual misdemeanants more than 115 days a year in Duval County

- Paying medical bills

Next year, we will spend the same amount and more to achieve nothing.

... during time in jail or prison

- Tax dollars are being spent and no one is getting any better



Cost of Incarceration Habitual Misdemeanors

\$10.3 million

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- 2002 Total Arrests x Days = Length of Stay
 $4,738 \times 17.86 = 84,620 \text{ Days}$
- Annual LOS x State Daily Cost = Incarceration \$\$
 $84,620 \times \$80 = \6.7 million
- Total Arrests x Cost to Book = Booking \$\$
 $4,738 \times \$764.04 = \3.6 million



Injustice: Community

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- *Neighborhoods at the Tipping Point*

Study conducted in 2003 by the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (JCCI) that defined neighborhood challenges and suggested actions

- **Neighborhoods deteriorate unless we pay attention to the small signs of stress.**
- **We can break the cycle of neighborhood decline.**



Breaking the Cycle with Habitual Misdemeanants

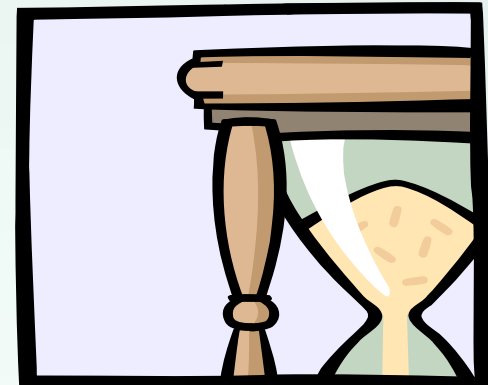
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Two ways to stop the revolving door...

- Commit a serious felony
 - 29 charged with weapons and firearms violations
 - 5 charged with sexual battery
 - 3 charged with homicide
 - Behavior gets worse not better without intervention and treatment
- Change what we have been doing...
 - Address the real problem.

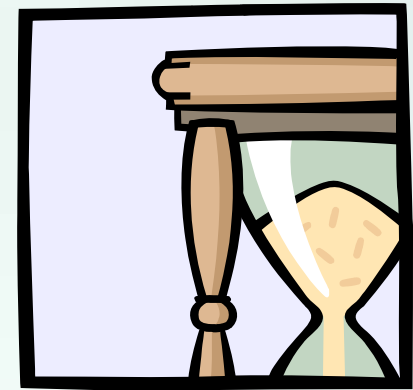
First Step: Legislation

- The Governor signed legislation on June 23, 2004, that will stop the revolving door and make intervention and treatment a possibility.
- A fifth conviction for a specified misdemeanor in a 365 day period will classify an adult defendant as a “habitual misdemeanor offender” and require an individual assessment.
- Provides a minimum mandatory sentence of six months with a maximum sentence of one year.



First Step: Legislation

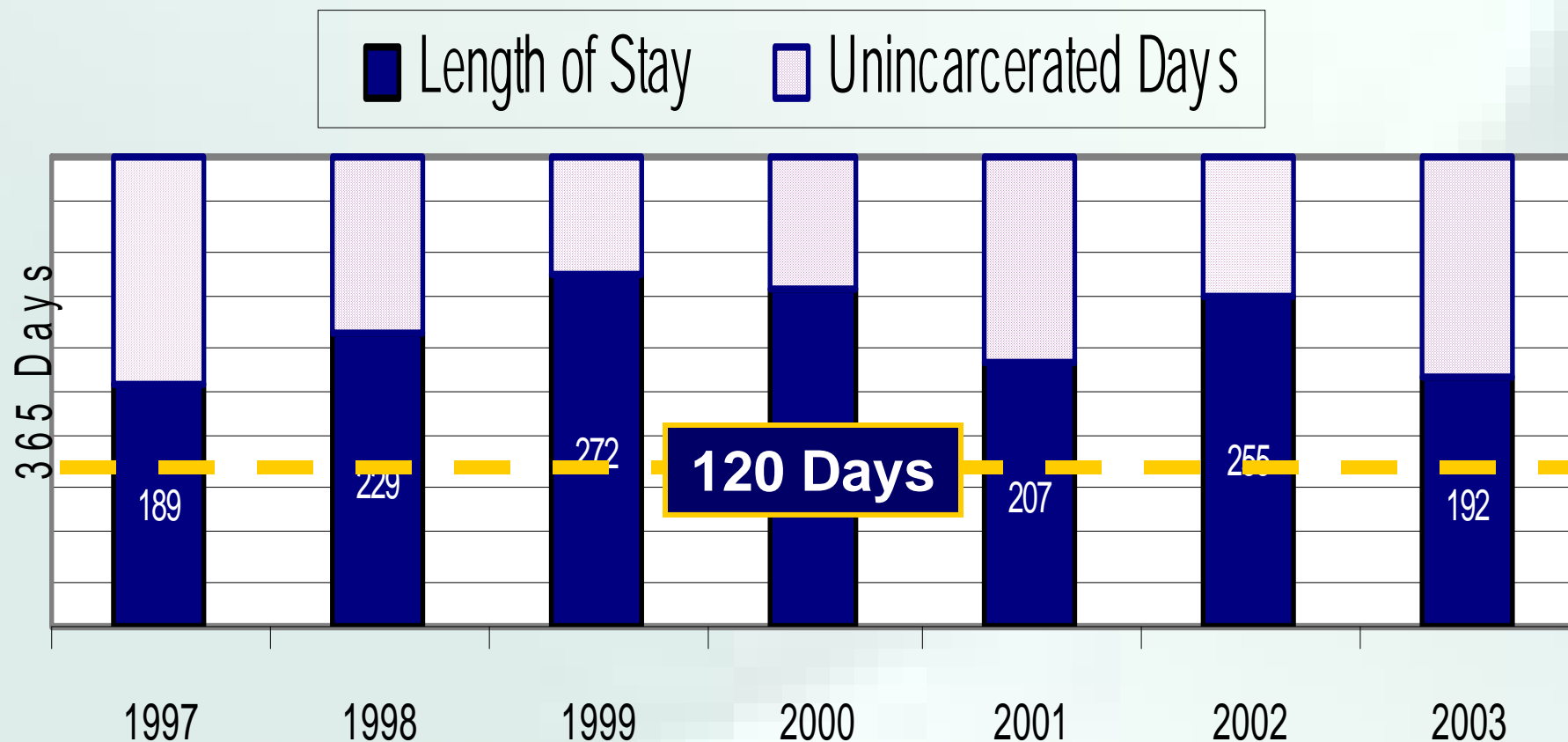
- Sentence to be served in one or a combination of three ways
 - Incarceration
 - In a residential or community-based treatment program
 - Home detention with day treatment



Current Length of Stay in Jail

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One Misdemeanant During Seven Years



LOS Source: Office of the Sheriff, Department of Services, Support Services Division, Records Section, Jacksonville, FL

Next: Implementation

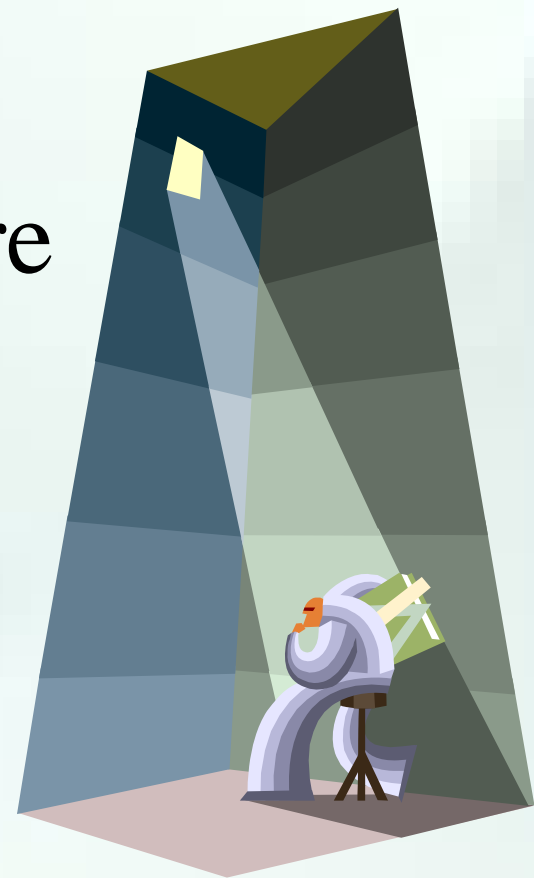
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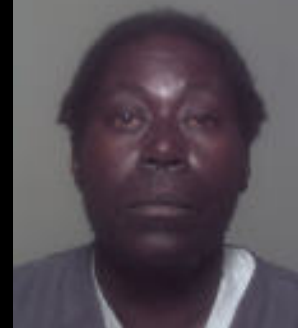
- The cost of incarceration in Florida
 - \$80.00 per day (\$29,200 per year)
- Options for intervention or treatment
 - Drug testing
 - Out-patient or day treatment
 - In-Jail Treatment Program
 - Other

Next: Implementation

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- Planning for the future
- From the known to the unknown





Where will they be in 2005?

For additional information:



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