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BY:.....

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Phone: **Date:** 11/10/02

Re: Stats & Info on Mentally Ill Prisoners **CC:**

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

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Sending papers given at recent seminar relevant to mentally ill prisoners. Professor Greenberg has latest research. Other papers attached are also significant and on topic.

<http://www.sane.org/> This web site gives a good overview of where mental health services are at and provides excellent material for looking at services and what needs to be done if services for the mentally ill are to be improved.

One last thing. I didn't get to say everything due to pressure of time. I would have liked to have spent a little more time explaining my concerns about drug dependence since I have spent most of professional life treating drug dependent people. I'll say it once more: Drug dependence is an illness sometimes requiring the administration of the drug of addiction in the first phase of treatment to stop the compulsive behaviour of stealing and other crimes. Once a person is stabilised with either drug therapy or detoxification, then psychiatric assessment can be completed and long-term treatment goals established. Some addicts, a few may require long term medication of drug of choice before any personality change for the better can be achieved. It is better to have sterile known dose medications delivered through pharmacies and hospitals than the present mess.

Harm reduction, as I said, is a desperate response by the medical professions to prohibition. How else do we stop infectious blood borne diseases spreading like wild fire through the community and save lives when overdose occurs? The policy of prohibition - allowing addicts to die from adulterated unknown dose substances has failed to stop illicit drug use spreading and with every generation increasing under prohibition. It is time to stop prohibition and allow the medical professions a chance to manage addiction. Medical science has much to offer the community in the treatment of mental illness and drug dependence if a real effort were put into funding and planning. We could see a real turn around in both areas.

Sadly, I fear another generation will be sacrificed to American foreign policy and the drug epidemic will flourish for another century.

Anthony York For Justice Action