

Behavioral Health & Housing

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Overview

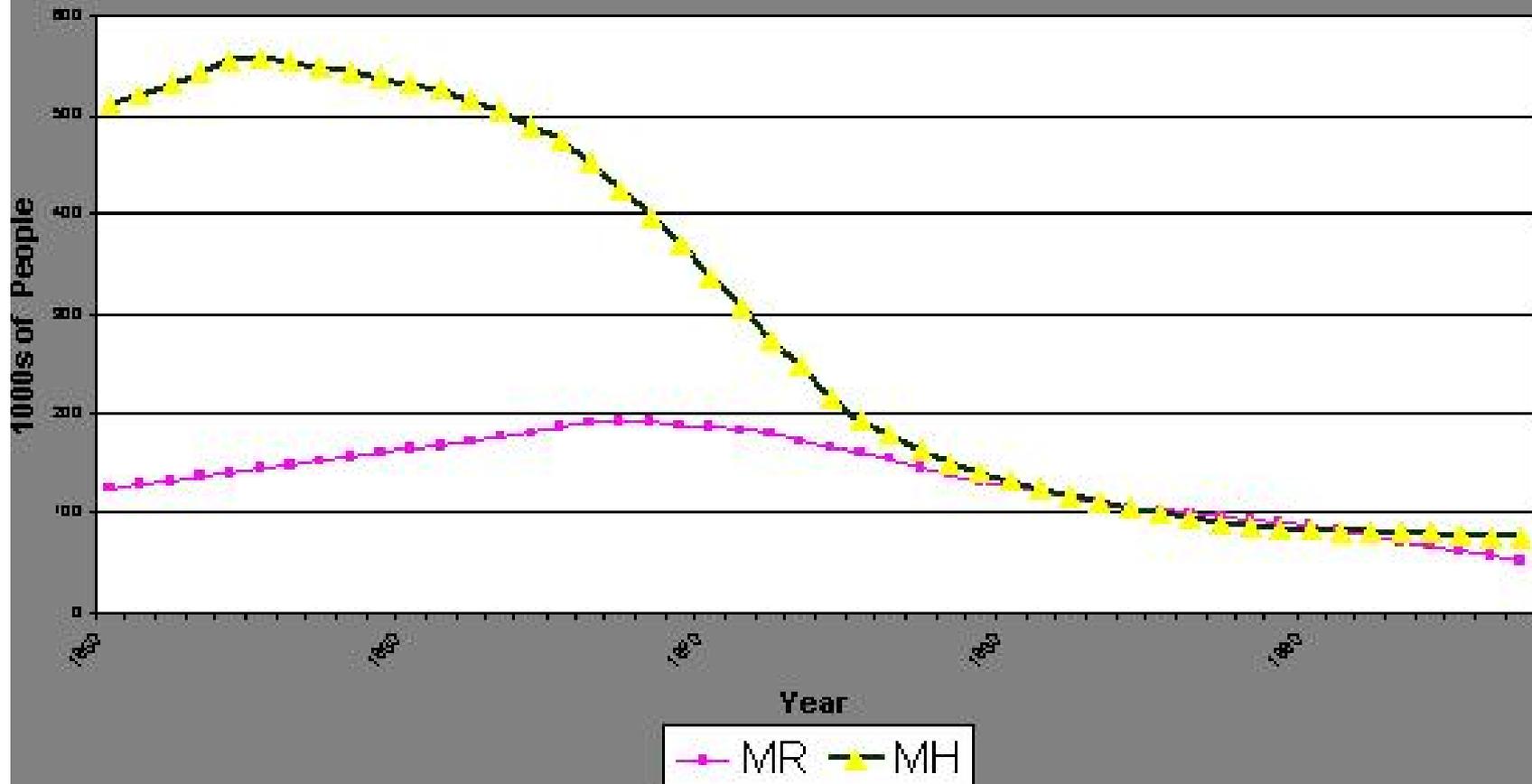
- About 20% of the US adult population experiences a diagnosable mental health condition each year and 6% experience a serious mental health issue
- 8% of the US population experiences a diagnosable substance use disorder
- Within Alameda County, an estimated 35,000 people living below 200% of the federal poverty level have a serious mental health issue
- On an annual basis, the county mental health system typically serves between 30-33,000 unique individuals and at least 5% of them experience an episode of homelessness during the year
- On an annual basis, the county substance use disorder treatment system serves between 7-8,000 individuals with at least 25% of them experiencing an episode of homelessness during the year
- EveryOne Home homeless count estimated 1,106 individuals with serious mental illness were homeless on a single night in January 2013; an estimated 1,289 had substance use disorders (overlap likely among these groups)

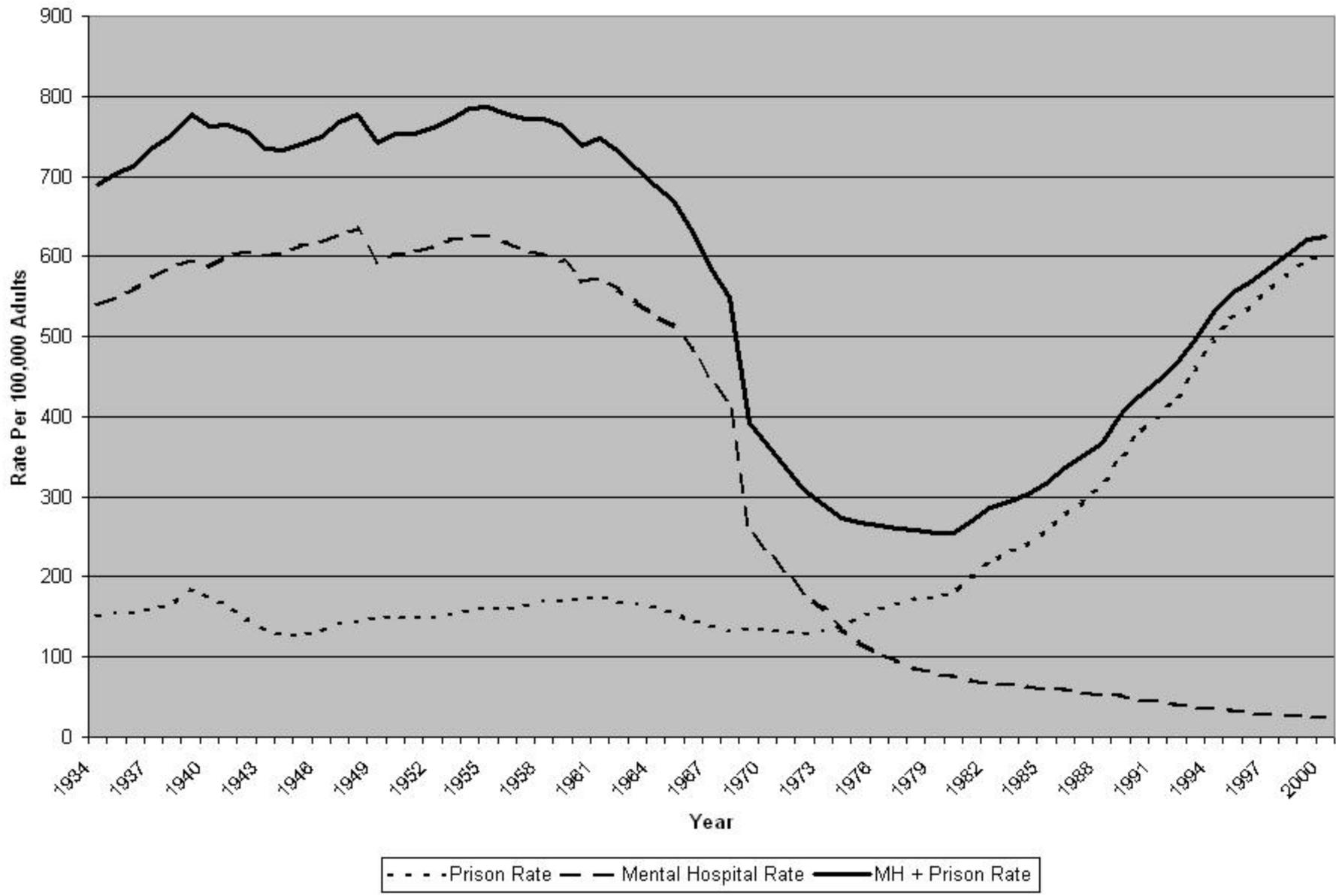
Why is housing so challenging to find, get, and keep for people with serious mental health issues?

- Behaviors can lead to lease violations, problems with roommates, family/friends
- Negative rental, credit, and criminal histories based on behavior
- Inadequate amounts of supportive services available to help people with finding and keeping their housing
- Lower income levels – disability checks are too low to cover typical rents
- Licensed board and cares are expensive to operate and more state funding goes to support homes serving people with developmental disabilities
- Available housing is difficult to find and requires significant persistence and expertise to obtain – no central information service about available housing
- Stigma and discrimination by housing providers

Deinstitutionalization

Deinstitutionalization in the United States:
Mental Retardation vs. Mental Health, 1950-1997





Licensed residential facilities working with people with a SMI (3/09)

- Adult residential facilities
236 facilities with 1,729 beds
21 facilities working with people with SMI, 295 beds
 - Residential care facilities for the elderly
379 facilities with 7,895 beds
66 accepting clients on SSI with 1,115 beds
- Total Beds (estimate) = 1,410**

Alameda County Affordable Housing (2007 estimates)

- 27,255 total vouchers/subsidies
- 32,474 total affordable housing units

Most of these units targeted to people with incomes below 50% of area median = \$31,250/year for an individual and not affordable for someone living on SSI (\$800-900/month) – about 37,000 people in Alameda County live on SSI

4,732 vouchers targeted to people with disabilities

1,861 affordable housing units targeted to people with disabilities

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (Housing Services Office)

- Created with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds in 2007 (2 staff members)
- Major projects – Housing Assistance Loans for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, MHSA housing creation - \$20 million, community living facilities projects, programs targeting homeless individuals; information and referral capacity, EveryOne Home sponsor – www.everyonehome.org

Housing Resources

- Eden Information and Referral – (2-1-1) or 1-888-886-9660 or www.edenir.org or www.achousingchoices.org
- BHCS Housing Services Office – www.acbhcs.org/Housing or (510) 777-2112; get on newsletter
- EveryOne Home – www.everyonehome.org
- East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) – www.ebho.org