Aging in Prison
To David Hurley, Caleb Hurley, and Grace Hurley.
# Contents

List of Boxes, Figures, and Tables  xiii  
Acknowledgments  xvii  

## Chapter 1 · Why Study Long-Term and Elderly Prisoners?  
- Driving Forces for Long-Term and Elderly Increases in Prison Populations  
- Consequences of Long-Term Incarceration  
- Number of Incarcerated  
- The High Costs of Incarceration  
- The Elderly in Prison  
  - Questioning the Need to Incarcerate Elderly Inmates  
- Why Write This Book?  
- Purpose and Organization  
- Websites  
- References  

## Chapter 2 · Who Are the Long-Term Inmates? What Are the Costs?  
### What Are Their Needs?  
- Defining Long-Term Inmates  
- Snapshot: National Estimates of the Long-Term Offender Population  
- Minorities  
- Women  
- Costs of Incarceration for Long-Term Inmates  
- How Does Long-Term Incarceration Affect Male Prisoners?  
- How Does Long-Term Incarceration Affect Female Prisoners?  
- What Happens Upon Release?  
- Conclusions
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 3 · Who Are the Elderly Inmates? What Are the Costs?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What Are Their Needs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining Elderly, Senior or Older Citizens in the General Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapshot: National Estimates of the Elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges in Defining the Elderly Inmate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of Elderly Inmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profile of the Elderly Inmate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Elderly Prisoners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Needs of Elderly Inmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Websites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 4 · Medical Health Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why Focus on the Medical Issues of Long-Term and Elderly Inmates?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of Medical Care for the Elderly and Long-Term Prisoner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What and Who Is to Blame?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Problems among Inmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichomoniasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Illnesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 5 · Mental Health Needs

Why Focus on the Mental Health Needs of Long-Term and Elderly Inmates? 124
Characteristics of Mentally Disordered Prisoners 126
Age and Prisoner Mental Health Problems 128
Most Common Mental Illnesses among Inmates Aged 55 and Up 128
  Late Onset Schizophrenia 128
  Prevalence of Schizophrenia in Correctional Settings 131
Depression 132
  Prevalence of Depression in Correctional Settings 133
Dementia/Alzheimer’s 134
  Prevalence of Alzheimer’s in Correctional Settings 135
Anxiety Disorders 136
  Prevalence of Anxiety Disorders in Correctional Settings 136
Suicide 138
Prevalence of Suicide in Correctional Environments 138
Causes of Higher Suicide Rates in Correctional Contexts 140
  Long-Term Incarceration 140
  Lack of Social Support 141
  Interpersonal Conflict with Other Inmates 143
  High Rate of Medical and Mental Health Problems 143
Institutional Contextual Problems 144
Effective Approaches for Dealing with the Mental Health Problems of Long-Term and Elderly Prisoners 145
Conclusion 146
Websites 146
References 147

Chapter 6 · Victimization

Victimization Research Is Complicated 156
Defining Prisoner Victimization 156
Prevalence and Incidence of Victimization in Prison 158
Special Circumstance — Sexual Victimization 159
List of Boxes, Figures, and Tables

Chapter 1 · Why Study Long-Term and Elderly Prisoners?

Box 1-1.                                                                                                               3
Box 1-2. Driving Forces for Increases                                                                                   5
Table 1-1. Percent of Sentenced Prisoners under the Jurisdiction of Federal Correctional Authority                   7
Table 1-2. World Prison Population Changes 2000 Compared to 2015                                                      8
Figure 1-1. Countries with Highest Incarceration Rates as of October 2015                                               9
Figure 1-2. 20 Countries with the Lowest Incarceration Rates as of October 2015                                      10
Figure 1-3. 10 Countries with the Highest Prison Population                                                            11
Figure 1-4. Total U.S. Adult Population under Correctional Supervision 2000–2015                                      12
Table 1-3. Total Number of Sentenced Prisoners and Incarceration Rates 2000–2015                                       13
Table 1-4. The Punishment Rate                                                                                                                                                        14
Figure 1-5. Criminal Justice Spending, 1993–2012                                                                        16
Box 1-3. What Would Happen If We Shifted Half of Nonviolent Offenders from Prison?                                      17
Table 1-5. Costs and Benefits of Criminal Justice Policies                                                            18
Box 1-4. What Do The Elderly in Prison Deserve?                                                                        19

Chapter 2 · Who Are the Long-Term Inmates? What Are the Costs? What Are Their Needs?

Figure 2-1. Number of People Serving Life Sentences, 1984–2012                                                        30
Table 2-1. National Trends Average Time Served First Releases                                                         31
Table 2-2. States with the Highest Percent Increases in Time Served between 1990 and 2009 32
Table 2-3. Pennsylvania Long-Term Inmate Sentences 33
Table 2-4. Changes in Time Served by Offense Type and Total State Cost 1990–2009 34
Figure 2-2. Time Served All Federal Offenders 35
Figure 2-3. Lifetime Likelihood of Going to Prison 36
Figure 2-4. Rise in Women’s Incarceration 1980–2014 37
Table 2-5. Georgia Department of Corrections Long-Term Female Prisoners 37
Box 2-1. Pains of Imprisonment and Adaptations 40

Chapter 3 · Who Are the Elderly Inmates? What Are the Costs? What Are Their Needs? 51
Figure 3-1. Population 65 Years and Older by Size and Percent of Total Population: 1900 to 2010 55
Table 3-1. Projections of the Population by Selected Age Groups and Sex for the U.S.: 2010–2050 56
Figure 3-2. Sentenced State Prisoners by Age 59
Table 3-2. Sentenced State Prisoners by Age 60
Table 3-3. Imprisonment Rate of Sentenced State Prisoners per 100,000 U.S. Adults for Ages 50 and Older 61
Table 3-4. Sentence Length, Most Serious Offense, and Time Served for State Prisoners over Age 65 62
Table 3-5. Imprisonment Rate State Prisoners Aged 50 and Older by Race and Hispanic Origin in 2013 63
Table 3-6. Total Population of Sentenced State Prisoners Aged 50 and Older by Race and Hispanic Origin 64
Table 3-7. Imprisonment Rate Sentenced State Female Prisoners by Age 1993, 2003, and 2013 65
Table 3-8. Federal Female Prisoner Trends 2007–2010 66
Table 3-9. Federal Female Prisoners by Age and Sentence Length in 2010 66

Chapter 4 · Medical Health Issues 75
Box 4-1. Why Focus on Medical Issues? 76
Box 4-2. Specialized Care for Aging Prisoners 79
Box 4-3. Most Common Communicable Diseases Among Inmates 81
Table 4-1. Sexually Transmitted Diseases 83
Table 4-2. Primary and Secondary Syphilis by Reporting Source 2011 84
Table 4-3. Gonorrhea-Positivity by Age and Sex, Adult Correctional Facilities, 2011 85
Table 4-4. Chlamydia-Positivity by Age and Sex in Adult Corrections Facilities, 2011 86
Table 4-5. State and Federal Prisoners with HIV or AIDS by Jurisdiction, Yearend 2010, 2011, and 2012 88
Table 4-6. AIDS-Related Deaths among State Prison Inmates in Custody, 2001–2014 91
Table 4-7. Rate of HIV or AIDS Cases among State and Federal Prisoners, 2001–2012 92
Table 4-8. Prevalence of Ever Having a Chronic Condition or Infectious Disease among State and Federal Prisoners and the General Population 93
Box 4-4. Symptoms of Tuberculosis 95
Box 4-5. Chronic Illnesses 97
Box 4-6. Complications Associated with Diabetes 98
Table 4-10. Prevalence of Disabilities among State and Federal Prisoners by Demographics 2011–12 102
Figure 4-1. Prevalence of Disabilities among State and Federal Prisoners and Jail Inmates by Sex, 2011–12 103
Box 4-7. Differences between Cognitive Disabilities and Mental Health Disorders 103
Figure 4-2. State Prison Inmate Deaths in Custody, 2001–2014 104
Table 4-11. Mortality Rate per 100,000 State Prisoners by Cause of Death, 2001 and 2005–2014 105
Table 4-12. Percent of State Prisoner Deaths by Cause of Death, 2001 and 2005–2014 106

Chapter 5 · Mental Health Needs 123
Box 5-1. Why Focus on Mental Health Issues? 124
Table 5-1. Recent History and Symptoms of Mental Health Problems among Prison and Jail Inmates 127
Table 5-2. Prevalence of Mental Health Problems among Prison and Jail Inmates 128
Table 5-3. Mental Health Status and History of Mental Health Problems among Inmates, 2011–12 129
Box 5-2. Most Common Mental Illnesses among Inmates Aged 55 and Up 129
Table 5-4. Prison and Jail Inmates Who Had Mental Health Problems by Gender, Race, and Age 131
Table 5-5. Characteristics of Late Onset and Very Late Onset Schizophrenia 132
Box 5-3. Symptoms of Depression in Older Adults 133
Box 5-4. Dementia Defined 134
Box 5-5. Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s 135
Box 5-6. Anxiety Disorders 137
Box 5-7. Definitions of Self-Directed Violence 138
Table 5-6. Suicide Rates* among Persons Ages 65 Years and Older by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, United States, 2005–2009 139
Box 5-8. Causes of Higher Suicide Rates in Correctional Contexts 141

Chapter 6 · Victimization 155
Box 6-1. Types of Prisoner Victimization 157
Box 6-2. Prison Rape Definition 158
Table 6-1. Adult Prisoners Reporting Sexual Victimization by Incident, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12 161
Table 6-2. Prevalence of Sexual Victimization by Incident and Inmate Characteristics, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12 162
Table 6-3. Prevalence of Sexual Victimization by Type of Incident and Inmate Criminal Justice Status and History, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12 164
Table 6-4. Prevalence of Sexual Victimization by Type of Incident and Age of Inmate, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12 165
Box 6-3. Visitor Voices: Older Prisoner Reports 169

Chapter 7 · Programs and Sentencing Options 177
Box 7-1. Average Expenditures for Elderly Prisoners in Several States 179
Box 7-2. Solutions to the Elderly Prisoner Problem 179
Box 7-3. List of States with Geriatric Release Policies 183
Box 7-4. BOP Elderly Offender Home Detention Program Eligibility 185

Chapter 8 · An Ethic of Care 195
Box 8-1. Questions that Arise from Dimensions of the Ethic of Care 199
Acknowledgments

The path to writing this book began when the Illinois legislature decided that it was in the state’s best interest to examine what happened to long-term prisoners. Without their decision to take a holistic approach to the study of incarceration trends and the impact of prison on long-term prisoners, this book never would have been written.

This book could not have been written without the encouragement of David Hurley. Thank you for continued support of my scholarship.

I would like to acknowledge Beth Hall. Thanks for sticking with me through this process.

I have saved the most important for last—the long-term and elderly prisoners. Your experience of prison deserves far more attention than what can be included in this book. I hope that this edition continues to bring attention to your plight.