

When documenting a suicide attempt in the Ventura County Jail, sworn staff does not form an opinion or make a determination on whether the attempt was legitimate, an attempt at manipulation or a call for help. Therefore, regardless of the outcome, if the appearance is that of a suicide attempt, it is documented as such. Such attempts can involve an inmate found with a sheet, towel or clothing tied around their neck (regardless of impairing circulation); lacerations; banging the head against a solid object; or jumping from the upper housing tier. In some cases, the same inmate has made more than one attempt. In such a case, the inmate is housed in the medical housing area and may have some items restricted from their cell, such as providing thicker blankets as opposed to sheets.

Deputies assigned to the jail have received a suicide prevention block of training during their basic academy course and also receive suicide prevention training during their jail training immediately following the basic academy course. We are working towards training all of our detention services staff in CIT and intend to make that a section of the jail training for new deputies.

Inmates are medically screened at the time of booking and during that time, medical staff makes an attempt to determine if the inmate is at risk of self-harm. Inmates found to be at risk of self-harm, either at the time of booking or later in their custody stay, are evaluated by jail medical staff and placed on safety precautions where they receive wellness checks on a more frequent basis during that period of time.

There have been 80 suicide attempts between 2018 and 2021 and 5 resulting in death. Of the 5 completed suicides between 2018 and 2021, one inmate was classified as a psychiatric inmate and none were classified as Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST).

<b>INCIDENT</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021 TO DATE</b>
Suicide Death	0	2	3	0
Suicide Attempt	25	21	12	17
Total	25	23	15	17

The Ventura County Jail hosts a Jail Based Competency Treatment Program (JBCT). This program provides for certain inmates who have been declared by the Court to be IST the ability to start restorative treatment more expeditiously, as opposed to waiting (sometimes months) for a bed to open at a State Hospital facility. We have 8 beds designated for JBCT. This was the maximum number of beds we could designate for the program while still maintaining appropriate housing for the remainder of the inmate population. As part of the JBCT program, JBCT staff may involuntarily medicate inmates in compliance with the IST order made by the Court. Only inmates in the JBCT program may be involuntarily medicated, with the exception of those experiencing a psychiatric emergency.

As of May 2021, there were 151 inmates in custody with a psychiatric classification, which comprises about 12% of the inmate population.