



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **New Hampshire Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report: Solitary Confinement in New Hampshire**

On May 17, 2021, the New Hampshire Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will host a web conference to share findings and recommendations documented in the Committee's recent report: "[Solitary Confinement in New Hampshire](#)."

**WHEN:** Monday, May 17, 2021 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m ET

**WHERE:** Audio and Video at: <https://bit.ly/2Q72Req>; Password: USCCR  
If only joining by phone only: 1-800-360-9505; Access code: 199 227 9165

This report focuses on solitary confinement use within the state and the related civil rights concerns for people with disabilities and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). The report was informed by public testimony presented at briefings on July 20, 2020; August 17, 2020; September 21, 2020; and December 9, 2020; and written testimony. Primary areas examined included solitary confinement use in New Hampshire along with the civil rights implications of restrictive housing settings for individuals with mental health concerns, particularly those who are housed in New Hampshire's Secure Psychiatric Unit without a criminal conviction. The Committee heard testimony urging policy makers to further study and legislate the use of solitary confinement in New Hampshire's prisons and psychiatric units to ensure practices are aligned with national standards, especially for those with severe mental health concerns.

The report includes recommendations directed to the Commission that highlight a need to (a) collect and report demographic data on those within restrictive housing settings to monitor for civil rights concerns; (b) transfer oversight of the Secure Psychiatric Unit from the Department of Corrections to the authority of the Department of Health and Human Services; (c) fund accreditation and correctional staffing efforts; and (d) fund a new psychiatric care unit overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services outside of the New Hampshire Prison for Men's campus.

Committee Chair JerriAnne Boggis said, "This study revealed that there are significant civil rights implications to the current use of solitary confinement in New Hampshire prisons, jails, and mental health facilities. The Committee is concerned that restrictive housing is being used for people with mental health disabilities. One of the most shocking discoveries is the impossibility of studying the potentially disparate impact of solitary confinement on BIPOC, because demographic data of those within restrictive housing settings specifically is not currently reported. Overall, this topic needs more research and attention."

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*