

BREAKING NEWS ⚡

✕

Harper Lee dead at 89 (/news/local/harper-lee-to-kill-a-mockingbird-author-dead-at-89)



# Doctor says mental health care is struggling in Alabama

BY MELANIE YUILL | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH 2016



Doctor says mental health care is struggling in Alabama



Birmingham, Ala – Questions surrounding the state of mental health care in Alabama. After Wednesday's shooting in Hamilton the Marion County Sheriff said when it comes to mental health the state needs to "step up."

"Our problem in the state of Alabama is we have nowhere to put them. Our county jails are being flooded with mental patients," said Sheriff Kevin Williams.

status=http://abc3340.com/news/local/doctor-says-mental-health-care-is-struggling-in-alabama)

Thursday Dr. Jacqueline Feldman with the UAB Department of Psychiatry and Neurobiology said, "there are a lot of people who have a serious mental illness who need treatment and are finding it hard to access it in a timely fashion."

Dr. Feldman said three of four state mental hospitals have closed, the only one left is Bryce Hospital. And she said there are not enough psychiatrists treating people with serious mental illness. "Unfortunately a lot of patients with mental illness, not just in Alabama this is a nationwide tragedy, are getting their care in the criminal justice system and not in the mental health system because resources are limited."

In December the Alabama Department of Corrections Commissioner told ABC33/40 there are 3,000 inmates who receive some kind of mental health services.

in (https://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle?mini=true&url=http://abc3340.com/news/local/doctor-says-mental-health-care-is-struggling-in-alabama&title=&summary=&source=)

Dr. Feldman said she hopes that changes soon because a new task force has been created. The Department of Mental Health, and Department of Corrections are now working together to figure out how to spend the money available to them.

Dr. Feldman said training more police officers on how to deal with people who have mental illness and having more community resources available to the mentally ill would be a big help. She said then instead of being arrested and put in jail people with mental illness can get the help they need.

g+ (https://plus.google.com/... url=http://abc3340.com/news/local/doctor-says-mental-health-care-is-struggling-in-alabama)

MORE TO EXPLORE



Vestavia Hills removes signs at city parks... (http://abc3340.com/news/local/vestavia-hills-removes-signs-at-city-parks-prohibiting-firearms)



3 injured after car crashes into Subway... (http://abc3340.com/news/local/car-crashes-into-subway-in-birmingham)



1 dead, 3 injured in 2-vehicle... (http://abc3340.com/news/local/fatal-crash-on-cahaba-valley-rd-near-legacy-drive)

SPONSORED FROM AROUND THE WEB

(mailto:?  
subject=A%  
20link%  
20for%  
20you&body=You%  
20should%  
20read%  
20this!%  
0A%  
http://abc3340.com/news/local/doctor-  
says-  
mental-  
health-  
care-is-  
struggling-  
in-  
alabama)



Don't Get Stuck With a Lemon: 15...

Forbes  
(http://www3.forbes.com/business/15...  
new-cars-to-avoid/?  
utm\_campaign=cars-to-  
avoid&utm\_source=Outbrain&utm\_medium=referral&utm\_content=398565...)



Three-Row Vehicles That Are...

Kelley Blue Book  
(http://www.kbb.com/?  
psid=99988&siomid=Outbrain|||||200014646Rfid=200001944)



Black Princeton Professor...

The New York Times  
(http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/10/nyre...  
parking-ticket-arrest.html?  
WT.mc\_ev=click&ad-  
keywords=AUDDEVREMARK)

Recommended by

(http://www.outbrain.com/what-is/default/en)

ADVERTISEMENT

Protect Your Stuff From Theft & Loss

LEARN MORE

### TRENDING



Forestdale man confronts burglars, holds one at gunpoint

(/  
n

ews/local/forestdale-man-confronts-burglars-holds-one-at-gunpoint)



Sylacauga man jailed on DUI charge after fatal accident on Hwy. 280 in Talladega County

(/  
n

ews/local/sylacauga-man-jailed-on-dui-charge-after-fatal-accident-on-hwy-280-in-talladega-county)



Police: Woman charged in son's death kept body in car for 10 years

(/n

ews/nation-world/police-woman-charged-in-sons-death-kept-body-in-car-for-10-years)

ADVERTISEMENT



OFFBEAT NEWS



Video: Monkey armed with knife captured by firefighters

(/n

ews/offbeat/video-monkey-armed-with-knife-captured-by-firefighters)



Twitter users mock Ted Cruz over fake photo of Rubio and Obama

(/n

ews/offbeat/twitter-users-mock-ted-cruz-over-fake-photo-of-rubio-and-obama)



Police: Man shot mother's kitten 6 times

(/n

ews/offbeat/police-man-shot-mothers-kitten-6-times)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

(<https://twitter.com/abc3340>)

ADVERTISEMENT

QUICK LINKS

[News \(/\)](#)

[Weather \(/weather\)](#)

[Sports \(/sports\)](#)

WBMA INFORMATION

[Terms & Conditions \(/station/terms\)](#)

[Copyright Notices \(/station/copyright\)](#)

[Privacy Policy \(/station/privacy\)](#)

[EEO Public File Report \(/station/eo\)](#)

[FCC Info \(http://stations.fcc.gov/station-profile/wbma\)](http://stations.fcc.gov/station-profile/wbma)

[Contact \(/station/contact\)](#)

[News Team \(/station/people\)](#)

[Careers \(http://sbgi.net/sbgi-careers/\)](http://sbgi.net/sbgi-careers/)

STAY CONNECTED



(<http://www.facebook.com/abc3340>)  
(<https://twitter.com/abc3340>)  
(<https://www.instagram.com/abc3340>)



BIRMINGHAM, AL

© 2016 SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.

© 2016 WBMA | Portions are © 2016 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or distributed.

ABC 33/40 in Birmingham, Alabama offers news, sports, and weather reporting for the surrounding communities including Tuscaloosa, Anniston, Cullman, Gadsden, Talladega, Sylacauga, Carbon Hill, Jasper, Hoover, Bessemer, Vestavia Hills, Alabaster, Trussville and Homewood.