



# SUICIDE WATCH OVERVIEW

# Suicide is a leading cause of death in America's jails

National Institute of Corrections

Inmate suicides are 3 times more likely than the general public

## SUICIDE PREVENTION IS SAVING LIVES

Suicides in Multnomah County's jails  
have **dropped**

---

From **1-2** suicides **every year**  
to only **1 in 4 YEARS**

# SUICIDE PREVENTION IS SAVING LIVES

## Why?

- ✓ Suicide prevention training
- ✓ Physical plant modifications

# **SUICIDE PREVENTION IS A TEAM EFFORT**

## **Suicide Screening Process**

**ALL** inmates assessed for suicide risk at:

- ✓ **Booking**
- ✓ **RECOG**
- ✓ **Classification**
- ✓ **Medical Intake**

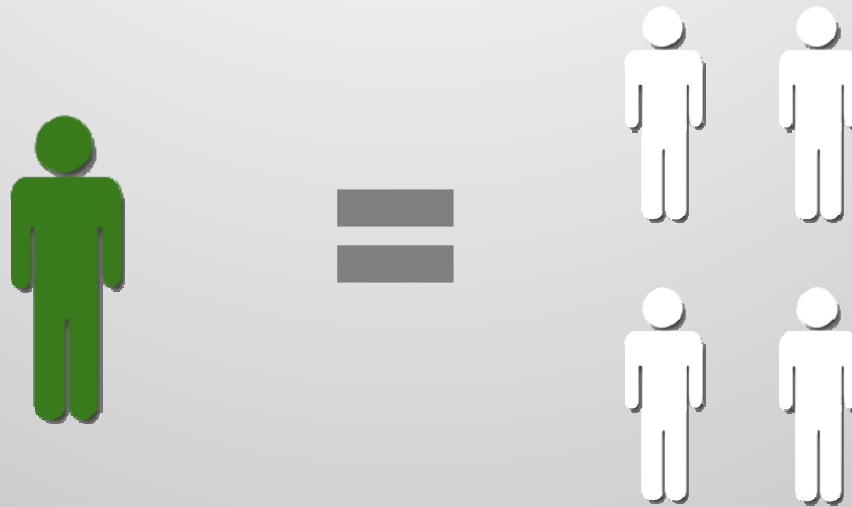
# NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES FOR SUICIDE WATCH

## Constant Suicide Watch



# NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES FOR SUICIDE WATCH

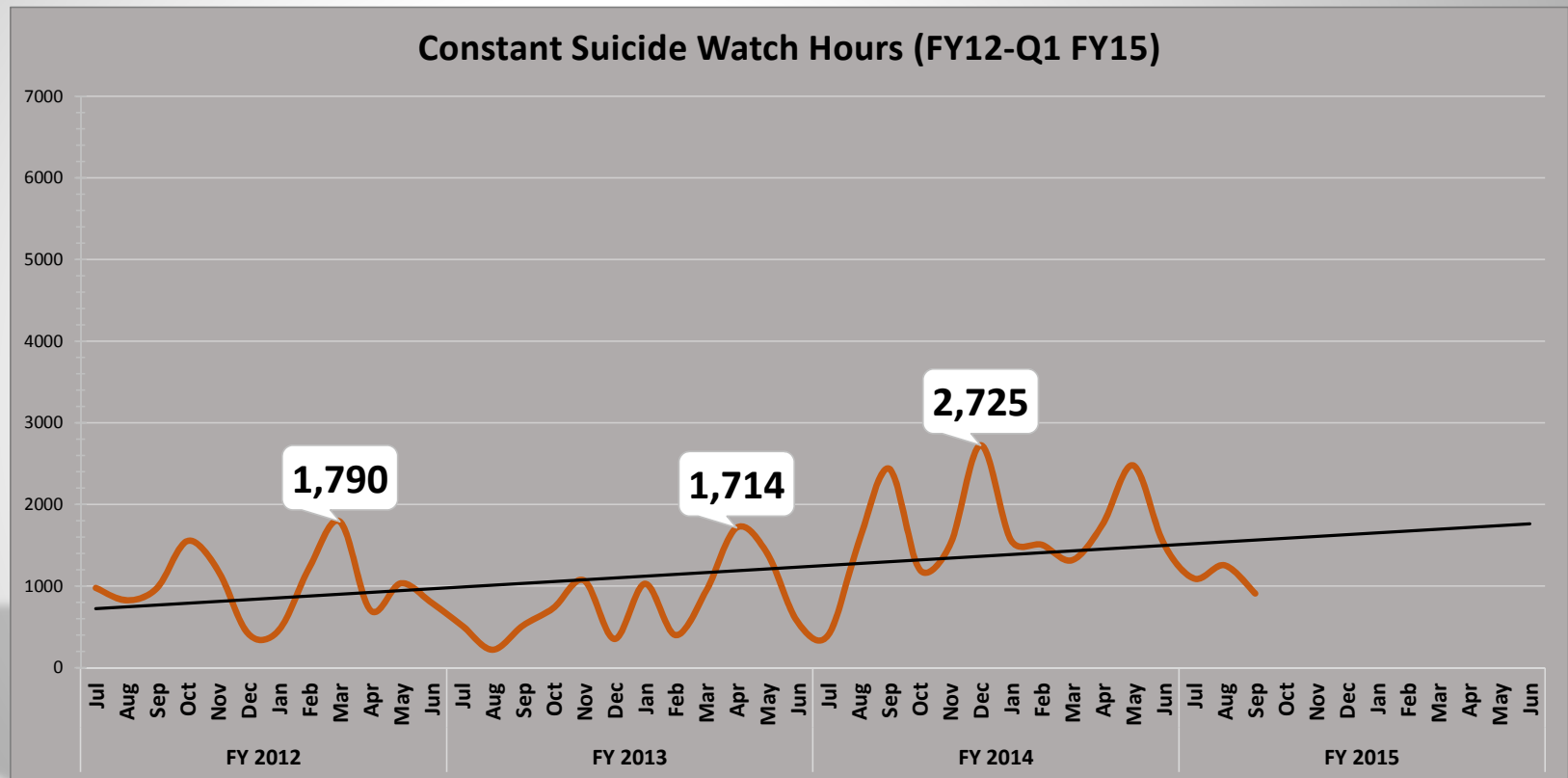
## Active Suicide Watch



# SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

## Watch Hours

■ Constant

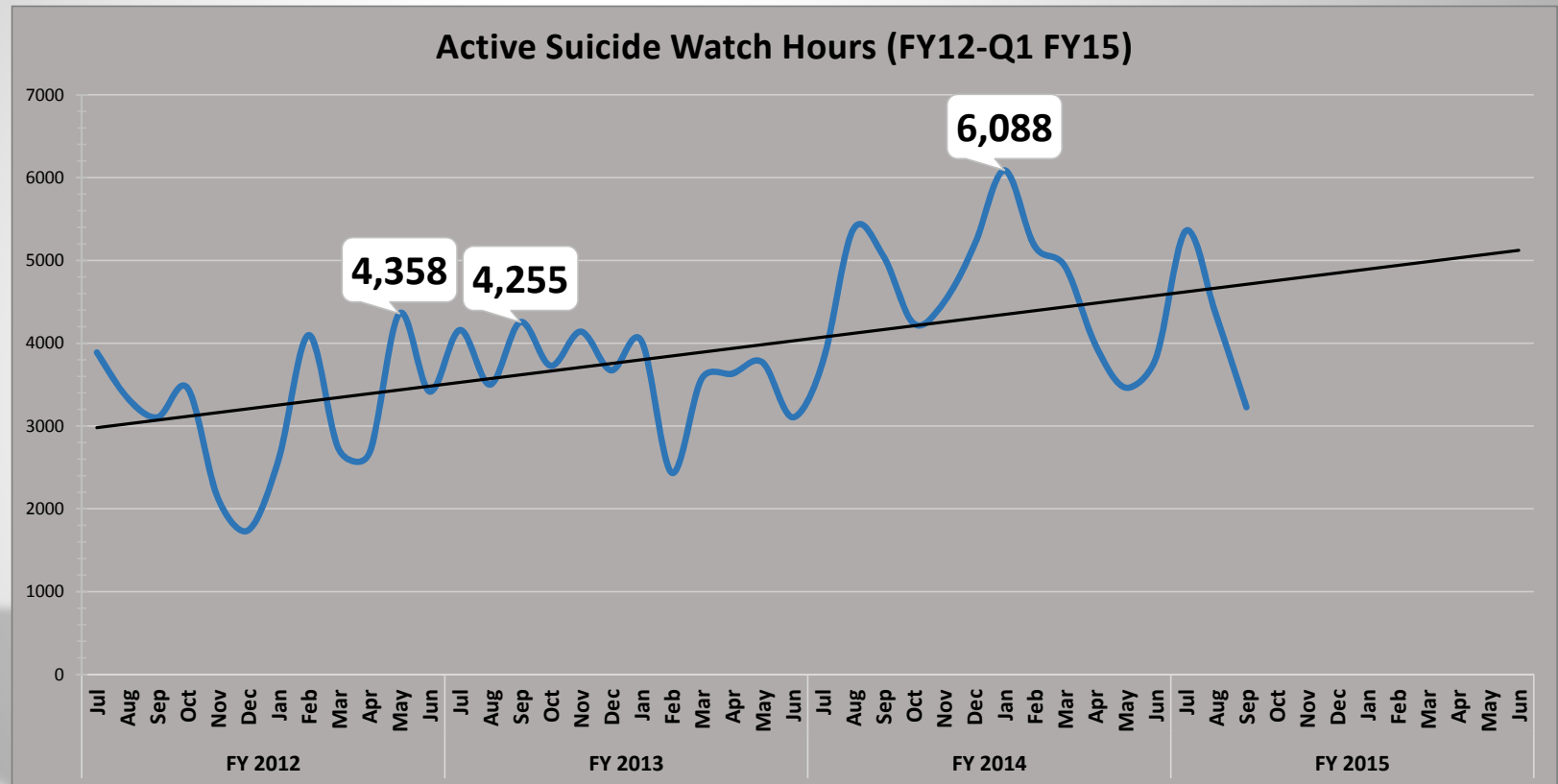




# SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

## Watch Hours

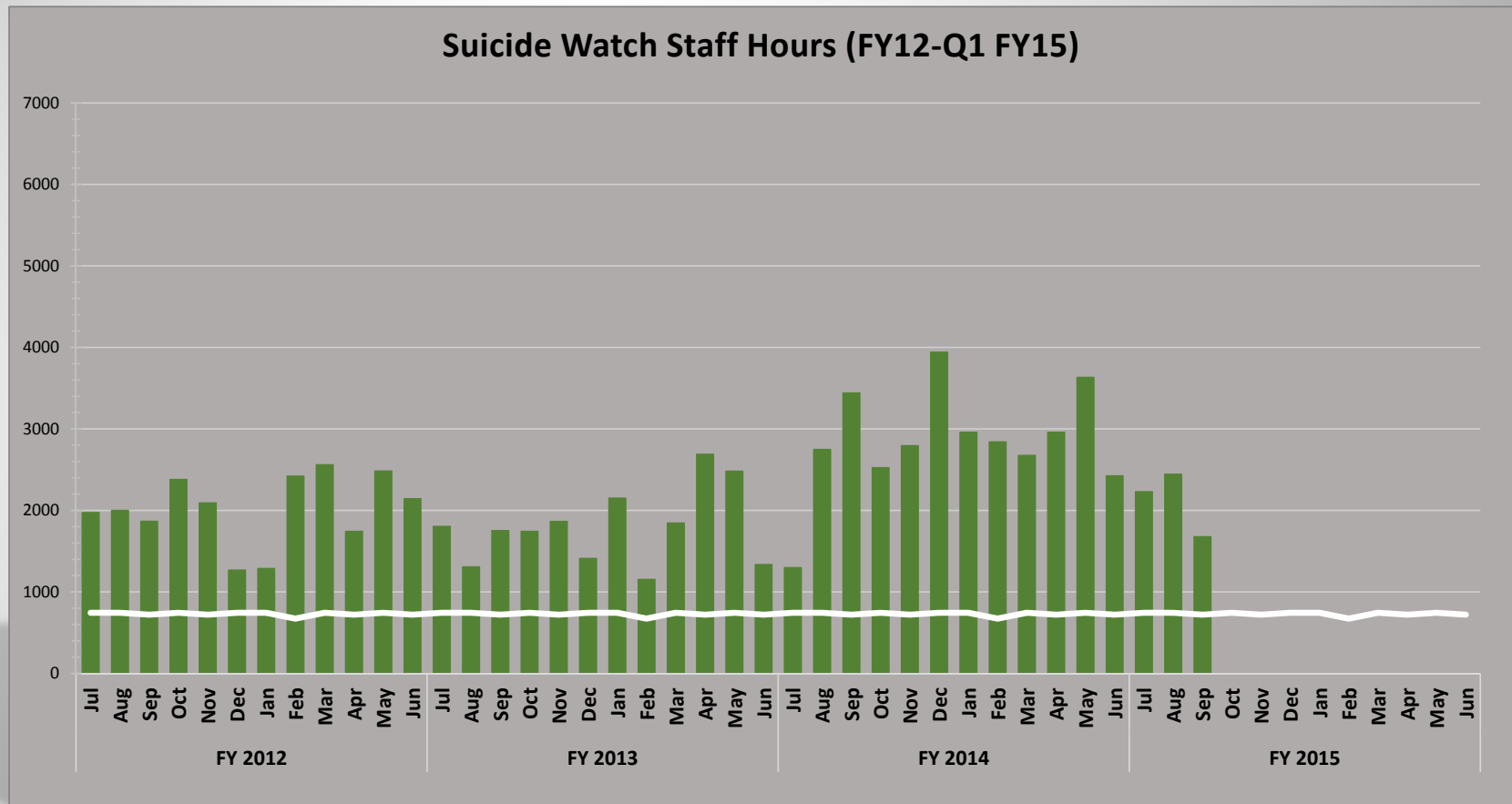
■ Active



# SUICIDE WATCH TRENDS

## Staff Hours

- Total Hours
- Budgeted



## SUICIDE WATCH DURATIONS

**< 48 Hours**

**79% of Active Watches**

**54% of Constant Watches**

## SUICIDE WATCH DURATIONS

**> 10 Days**

**1% of Active Watches**

**7% of Constant Watches**

---

**\* Top 3 inmates in FY14 used 9,521 hours  
costing an estimated \$558,000**

## COST REDUCTION EFFORTS

- ✓ **Alternate staffing models**
- ✓ **Increased mental health staff**
  - continued analysis will show the impact*

## NEXT STEPS...

- ✓ Explore jail alternative programming
- ✓ Continue to explore prosecution alternatives
- ✓ Continue progress toward less costly staffing of suicide watch
- ✓ Collect data to ensure mental health funding has the intended impact on jail cost

