

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS- ATASCADERO**10333 El Camino Real  
Atascadero, CA 93423

## Department of State Hospitals – Atascadero Facility Fact Sheet



**History:** Department of State Hospitals (DSH) - Atascadero (also known as Atascadero State Hospital) is located on California's Central Coast and was established in 1954 as an all-male, maximum security, forensic facility serving the entire state of California. It is a completely self-contained psychiatric hospital constructed within a security perimeter. DSH - Atascadero was established by statute (See Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 4100, 7200, and 7230) to admit and treat patients who have a disability and pose a threat to others. The majority are remanded for treatment by the superior courts of the counties of California or by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) pursuant to various sections of the California Penal Code and the Welfare and Institutions Code. The hospital does not accept voluntary admissions.

**Patient Population:**

Total Licensed Bed Capacity: 1,275

Current Patient Census (as of January 2013):

- Mentally Disordered Offenders:	580
- Mentally Ill Inmates:	201
- Incompetent to Stand Trial:	160
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity:	122
- Conservatorship:	4
- Mentally Disordered Sex Offender	1
- Sexually Violent Predator Probable Cause Found:	4

*(For a description of commitment types at DSH facilities, please see the handout “State Hospital Population Commitment Codes,” from the DSH 2013-14 November Estimate.)*

**Hospital Staff:** A total of 1,920 employees work at DSH - Atascadero, including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, psychiatric technicians, registered nurses, and other clinical and administrative staff.

**Union Representation:** DSH - Atascadero staff are represented by the following employee union organizations:

- Service Employees International Union (SEIU):	755
- California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA):	125
- International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE):	59
- Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD):	58
- California Association of Psychiatric Technicians (CAPT):	735
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSMCE):	189
- Non-Represented Employees:	159

**Treatment Services and Programs:** DSH - Atascadero provides the following services and programs to our patients:

The Trial Competency Program – Patients admitted to the hospital under Penal Code (PC) 1370 as Incompetent to Stand Trial receive specialized programming targeted specifically at helping the patient gain the knowledge and skills necessary to return to court as competent to understand court proceedings and effectively participate in their defense.

Mentally Disordered Offender (MDO) Program – Patients are paroled to the hospital by authority of the Board of Paroles under provisions of PC 2962. Patients may be released to parole, placed in Conditional Release Programs or committed to civil commitment.

PC 2684 Program – The hospital provides mental health services to inmates from CDCR. Criteria for admission to DSH - Atascadero under this program includes an active Axis I major mental disorder. The focus of treatment is to stabilize symptoms so that the inmate/patient can function successfully in the Enhanced Outpatient Program at CDCR and/or in the community.