HCV in Incarcerated Populations: An Overview of Barriers and Opportunities

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Prevalence of Hepatitis C in the United States

- HCV prevalence in the United States is estimated to be between 2.7-3.9% (3.5-5.5 million)
- 75% of those with chronic HCV are baby boomers (born 1945-1965)
- 20,000 deaths per year
Prevalence of Hepatitis C in US Prisons

- HCV prevalence in US prisons is estimated to be between 12-35%
- Correctional population represents 1/3 of US HCV population
- 90% of prisoners will be released
- 20-55% of prisoners report IDU
## Treatment of HCV in Prisoners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Treated</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.82-5.90</td>
<td>Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Maryland, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.46-1.48</td>
<td>Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kansas, Iowa, Wisconsin, New Jersey, and Vermont.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.14-0.45</td>
<td>Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Delaware.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.00-0.12</td>
<td>Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Florida.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No data</td>
<td>California, Idaho, South Dakota, Minnesota, Georgia, Virginia, Connecticut, and Maine.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Recent study indicates that less than 1% of HCV chronic prisoners are being treated.
- State prison systems bear disproportionate burden of cost of HCV treatment.
Medicaid Suspension for Incarcerated

- Reenrollment doesn’t always happen on release.
- Halfway houses are not enrolling.
- Medicaid backlog means sometimes coverage isn’t suspended; disincentive to notify
Priorities on Release?
Solutions?

• Section 1115 waivers for transitional programs?

• Correctional settings exempt from best price?

• ???
Bridging the Gap?
Transitions Clinic Network, established 2006
Transitions Clinic Network

24 sites in 10 states and Puerto Rico
Role of the Community Health Worker

Referrals & Advocacy:
- Housing, employment, job training, education and other social services.

Health Education:
- Educating patients about their chronic diseases especially new diagnoses.

Chronic Disease Self-Management:
- Education about self-reliance and chronic disease management.

Emotional Support & Mentorship

TCN CHWs in the community
Contact Us

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NHCN 7th Annual Meeting

• March 20, 2019
• Las Vegas, Nevada
• Scholarships Available
• Livestream?
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