Corrections, Hepatitis C, and Public Health: Why Now?

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HEP Launches National Hepatitis Corrections Network

On March 20th, HEP launched the National Hepatitis in Corrections Network. The inaugural meeting in Chicago brought together a diverse group of professionals who work on issues related to viral hepatitis in prisons and jails. Among the 15 attendees were correctional healthcare providers, legal and policy advocates, representatives from state agencies, and health educators. The goal of this new initiative is to create a space for collaboration and to streamline sharing of information and resources in order to increase our ability to advocate for viral hepatitis screening and care in our nation’s correctional institutions.
2nd Annual NHCN Meeting Brings Advocates Together

HEP held our 2nd annual National Hepatitis Corrections Network meeting on March 19th, 2014. We're proud to say that 39 partners joined us in 2014 compared to just 15 at last year's launch meeting.

We saw excellent presentations, networked with colleagues from across the country, and discussed strategies for increasing access to HCV testing, treatment, and linkage to care services in corrections.
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Reason One

We’ve got their attention!
Disease-a-Month®

Correctional Medicine Challenges & Opportunities

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Chan J. Hepatitis C. Dis Mon. 2014; 60:201-212.
Reason Two

Prison health is public health.
Public Prison Health
Reason Three

The HCV epidemic is tied to the epidemic of mass incarceration.
The Growth of Incarceration in the United States

Exploring Causes and Consequences

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Coming from some of the most disadvantaged segments of society, many of the incarcerated entered prison in unsound physical and mental health. The poor health status of the inmate population serves as a basic marker of its social disadvantage and underlines the contemporary importance of prisons as public health institutions. Incarceration is associated with overlapping afflictions of substance use, mental illness, and risk for infectious diseases (HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and others). This situation creates an enormous challenge for the provision of health care for inmates, although it also provides opportunities for screening, diagnosis, treatment, and linkage to treatment after release.
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Reason Four

HCV affects us all.
Recommendations for the Identification of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among Persons Born During 1945–1965
In addition to testing adults of all ages at risk* for HCV infection, CDC recommends:

- **Adults born during 1945–1965 should receive one-time testing for HCV** without prior ascertainment of HCV risk (Strong Recommendation, Moderate Quality of Evidence)
Reason Five

We must not fall victim to “price paralysis”
A pilot study of rapid hepatitis C virus testing in the Rhode Island Department of Corrections

Curt G. Beckwith¹, Ann E. Kurth², Lauri B. Bazerman³, Emily J. Patry³, Alice Cates⁴, Liem Tran³, Amanda Noska¹, Irene Kuo⁴

HEPATITIS C
Who is the real killer?

The "Myth":
It is commonly believed that cleaning your piercing/cutting/tattooing equipment can kill the Hep C virus.

The "Myth Buster" (The FACTS):
There is no guarantee that using any of the above cleaning techniques kills Hepatitis C!

For more information on Hepatitis C and other health information contact:

This poster is a product of the Myth Buster Series created by Centerforce Peer Health Educators.

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Inmates at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton receive certificates after a seminar with Rich Fetter of the Hepatitis Education Project.
KUOW PHOTO/PATRICIA MURPHY

Monthly Hepatitis C Provider Training

UNM SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | Project ECHO®
Reason Six

Time is running out.
“There’s a tsunami of death and disease that’s already starting to crash down on us, and will continue to in the decades ahead.”

...Dr. Josiah Rich
Reason Seven

Innovation means thinking big.
Commentary

Can hepatitis C be eradicated in the United States?
Corrections, Hepatitis C, and Public Health: Why Now?
Corrections, Hepatitis C, and Public Health: Why Now? Because the cost of waiting is too high.
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