HEPATITIS AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: PRISONS AND JAILS

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Hepatitis Education Project
Incarceration in the U.S.

- 2.3 million people in prisons and jails\(^1\)

- Highest per capita incarceration rate in the world 750/100k\(^2\)

- More than one in every 100 adults is now incarcerated\(^3\)

- 1 in 37 adults have been incarcerated\(^4\)

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# International Comparisons

The U.S. inmate population compared to the 26 largest European inmate populations (years vary).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inmates per 100,000 residents</th>
<th>Total inmates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 750 (2,245,189)</td>
<td>United States 2,245,189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian Fed. 628 (889,598)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belarus 436 (41,538)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia 401 (18,138)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ukraine 335 (160,046)</td>
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<td>Estonia 333 (4,463)</td>
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<td>Latvia 292 (6,676)</td>
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<td>Rep. of Moldova 247 (8,876)</td>
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<td>Poland 236 (89,805)</td>
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<td>Lithuania 236 (7,983)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan 202 (16,969)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Republic 186 (19,145)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary 156 (15,720)</td>
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<td>Slovakia 155 (8,380)</td>
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<td>Romania 150 (32,392)</td>
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<tr>
<td>England &amp; Wales 148 (80,229)</td>
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<td>Bulgaria 148 (11,436)</td>
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<td>Spain 147 (66,129)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland 142 (7,261)</td>
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<td>Albania 136 (4,300)</td>
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<td>Netherlands 128 (21,013)</td>
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<td>Portugal 120 (12,803)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serbia 117 (8,600)</td>
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<td>Turkey 112 (82,742)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria 108 (8,991)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armenia 104 (3,342)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany 93 (76,629)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia 93 (4,127)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece 91 (10,113)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium 91 (9,597)</td>
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<tr>
<td>France 85 (52,009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden 79 (7,175)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland 79 (5,888)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway 75 (3,533)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland 68 (3,595)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy 67 (39,348)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark 67 (3,626)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total resident populations**
- United States 299.4 million
- 26 countries 602.4 million


**NOTE:** Rates are for total number of residents, not just adults. Figures in this chart may not align with others due to differences in counting methods.
Incarceration in the U.S.

Lifetime chance of incarceration

- Black males  1 in 3
- Latino males 1 in 6
- White males  1 in 17
Who’s Behind Bars Right Now?

MEN

White men ages 18 or older 1 in 106

All men ages 18 or older 1 in 54

Hispanic men ages 18 or older 1 in 36

Black men ages 18 or older 1 in 15

Black men ages 20-34 1 in 9
Who’s Behind Bars Right Now? Women

- White women ages 35-39: 1 in 355
- Hispanic women ages 35-39: 1 in 297
- All women ages 35-39: 1 in 265
- Black women ages 35-39: 1 in 100
Who’s affected by HCV?

- Overall US prevalence – 1.6%
- Blacks – 3%
- Latinos – 2%
- Whites – 1.5%
- Prisoners – 15 – 40%
HCV Epidemiology in WA DOC, 2008-2011

- Opt-out testing program
- Overall Prevalence of +HCV Ab = 19%

![Bar Chart]

- Men: n = 3795, HCV Ab positive (%) = 18
- Women: n = 941, HCV Ab positive (%) = 25
Correctional Health is Public Health

- Low-income people of color are at disproportionate risk for incarceration
- Prisoners are at disproportionate risk for infectious diseases and other poor health outcomes
- More than 9 out of 10 prisoners are eventually released back to their communities
- Prison programs represents a unique opportunity to improve community health
Individuals with a History of Incarceration are:

- 9-10 times more likely to have Hepatitis C
- 8-10 times more likely to be living with HIV
- 5x more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS
- 4-17 times more likely to have active TB
Risk Behaviors Associated with Incarceration

- Tattoos done with unsterile equipment
- Needle sharing for injection drug use
- Unprotected sexual intercourse
Prevention in Correctional Settings

- Needles, bleach and condoms are contraband in most US prisons
- HCV education, testing and counseling policies in US prisons are inconsistent
- Poor medical care includes out-of-date treatment regimens and poor continuity of care after release
Prevention in Correctional Settings

- Security is top priority

- Curricula must meet institutional approval; programs can be suspended or shut down

- Challenge of maintaining trust of both prisoners and correctional staff

- Privacy and confidentiality often lacking for programs or health care
Hepatitis Education Project

HEP’s Programs

Patient Support
- Resource Center
- Screening and Vax
- Patient Navigation
- Linkage to Care
- Support Groups

Advocacy
- State and National Policy Leader

Educational Outreach
- Prisons and Jails
- Transitional Living
- Chemical Dependency
- Case-by-case
HEP’s Work in Corrections

- **Longstanding (10 years) contract with WA DOC**
  - 2-hour hepatitis 101
  - 13 Facilities
  - 52 Classes/fiscal year

- **King County Jail**
  - 4 Classes/month in rotating units

- **CDC SHIELD DEBI**
  - CDC peer educator training for HIV/HCV Risk Reduction
  - 4 Facilities in fall 2012

- **HCV Prison Project**
  - Advocacy coalition from 2000s
  - Informational website
  - Serves inmates/families case-by-case
  - Attempts to connect to resources/info

- **National Hepatitis Corrections Network**
  - [www.hcvinprison.org](http://www.hcvinprison.org)
Initial Identification of Needs

Prisoners and their families...

- Need *prison specific information*
  - Screening/treatment policies
  - Self- and liver care
  - Navigating prison health services
  - Understandable messages

- Need *prison specific resources*
  - Education (again: understandable)
  - Harm reduction resources when appropriate
  - Post-release/Re-entry assistance for medical needs

- Need *access*
  - Screening and counseling
  - Treatment or other appropriate medical care
  - Effective grievance mechanisms and advocacy when necessary

Advocates and agencies...

- Need *tools*
  - Fundable program models
  - Training materials
  - Ongoing training
  - Best practices
  - Money

- Need *up-to-date information*
  - Screening, treatment, and available resources
  - Surveillance

- Need *friends*
  - Supportive policies and systems
  - Connections to care
  - Quality providers
  - Decision-maker buy-in
  - Collaborators

- Need *money*
- Need *a voice*
Prisoners need:

- Better education and educational materials for prevention and self-care
- To be able to know and understand treatment and screening policies/protocols
- Fewer barriers to screening, counseling, and medical care
- An accessible and effective means for recourse when they believe they aren’t receiving adequate care
- Better linkage to care upon release
Welcome to the National Hepatitis Corrections Network

The Hepatitis Prison Coalition is now the National Hepatitis Corrections Network.

The National Hepatitis Corrections Network (NHCN) is an initiative of the Hepatitis Education Project, a nonprofit organization based in Seattle, WA. We are a network of agencies and individuals working together to address the critical problem that viral hepatitis, especially hepatitis C (HCV), has become in our correctional institutions.

Our mission is to make access to hepatitis education, screening, treatment and care available to all prisoners in the United States.

The NHCN acts as a bridge for connecting prisoners to hepatitis information, resources, advocacy, and support. We also bring together agencies who work to create greater access to screening and treatment for viral hepatitis in prisons and jails. Through collaboration, we hope to increase access to care for prisoners affected by hepatitis.

This website is being redesigned to include up to date information, including updates to testing and treatment information and recent news. Please check back regularly for updates. We hope to have a more comprehensive site online by late spring 2013 that will include a great deal of useful tools and information.

Prisoners and advocates can direct questions to rich@hepeducation.org

For viral hepatitis information, please visit the Hepatitis Education Project website. Other good sites include HepCRedefined, HCV Advocate, Hepatitis Central, and the CDC.

This website is managed by the Hepatitis Education Project.
Hepatitis Education Project

- Counseling and Support Services
- HCV Testing Services
- Hepatitis A/B Vaccination
- Prison and Jail Education
- Youth Outreach
- Chemical Dependency Treatment Center Education
- HCV Medical Navigation Services

- [www.hepeducation.org](http://www.hepeducation.org)
- 206-732-0311; 800-218-6932
- michael@hepeducation.org