COVID-19 in Prisons and Jails

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Prisons, jails, and places of detention are COVID hotspots

Adjusted death rate from COVID-19 in prisons is 3x higher than expected if age/sex distributions in US and prison populations were equal

JAMA Saloner 2020
Prisons are designed for public safety, not to deliver healthcare.

WHO released Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention

CDC released Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities
Nurse at Hudson County jail dies from coronavirus

Updated Apr 06, 2020; Posted Apr 05, 2020

New York's Rikers Island Jail Sees First Inmate Death From COVID-19

April 6, 2020
# Connecticut Prisons and Jails

## Coronavirus Information

**COVID-19 Tracker**

(as of 2:00 p.m. 05/04/2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of DOC* Staff who have contracted the COVID-19 virus</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Inmates who have contracted the COVID-19 virus</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inmates Positive for COVID-19 Housed in Isolation Unit at Northern CI</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Inmate COVID-19 related deaths</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Medically Cleared &amp; Returned to Work</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Inmates medically cleared &amp; returned to original facility after having contracted the COVID-19 virus</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prisons are (not really) closed settings.
Evidence-based COVID-19 prevention and containment strategies

- Screening
- Quarantining
- Testing
- Contact tracing
- PPE
- Isolating people who are ill
- Clinical care
- Staffing
Social distancing challenges

Housing

Meals

Rec

Common areas (TV rooms)

Group activities

Movement in and between facilities
Cleaning and disinfecting

BANNED

METERED

NOT FREE
ISOLATION
Medical vs. disciplinary

- Safety
- Availability of onsite medical care
- Availability of trained staff with PPE
- Provision of meals
- Provision of medications
- Deprivation
- Perception of punishment deters people from reporting and testing
Initial outbreak

Malloy et al. preprint medrxiv
A broader solution?

- Benefit to people released
- Benefit to staff
- Benefit to people remaining in facility
- CDC silent on this issue
  - Issue for the courts
- Evaluate for release people who are high-risk for COVID but low threat to public safety

Protect Public Health Through Decarceration
I. TRANSFER OF INMATES TO HOME CONFINEMENT WHERE APPROPRIATE TO DECREASE THE RISKS TO THEIR HEALTH

- The age and vulnerability of the inmate to COVID-19, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines;
High-risk conditions for severe COVID-19

- Older age
- Chronic lung disease
- Immunocompromised
- Obesity (BMI >30)
- Type II diabetes mellitus
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Serious heart conditions
- Sickle cell disease

- Pregnancy
- Neurologic conditions/dementia
- Current/former smoker
High risk populations

**TABLE 1**
Prevalence of ever having a chronic condition or infectious disease among state and federal prisoners and the general population (standardized), 2011–12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chronic condition/infectious disease</th>
<th>State and federal prisoners</th>
<th>General population&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Standard error</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ever had a chronic condition&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure/hypertension</td>
<td>30.2**</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke-related problems</td>
<td>1.8**</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes/high blood sugar</td>
<td>9.0**</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart-related problems&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>9.8**</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney-related problems</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis/rheumatism</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>14.9**</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirrhosis of the liver</td>
<td>1.8**</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ever had an infectious disease&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>6.0**</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STDs&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>6.0**</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>1.3**</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12% >55yo
40% obese
Now what?

How to find people?
How to prioritize them?
Thank you!