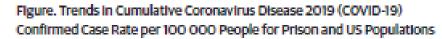
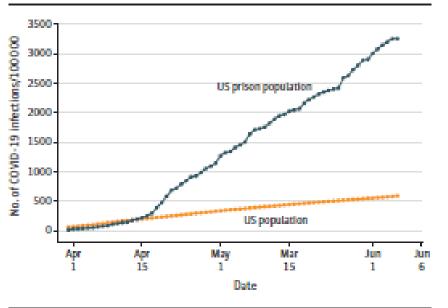
# COVID-19 in Prisons and Jails

Jaimie P. Meyer, MD, MS, FACP Yale School of Medicine

# Prisons, jails, and places of detention are COVID hotspots





Data are from the UCLA Law COVID-19 Behind Bars Data Project and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 3.4 The US population is 327 167 439 and the US prison population is 1 295 285.

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

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

23 Mar. 2020

15 Mar. 2020

CDC released Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities





#### Connecticut Prisons and Jails

#### **CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION**

**COVID-19 Tracker** 

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

Total number of DOC Staff who have contracted the COVID-19 virus

350

Total number of Inmates who have contracted the COVID-19 virus

450

Inmates Positive for COVID-19 Housed in Isolation Unit at Northern CI

116

Total number of Inmate COVID-19 related deaths

5

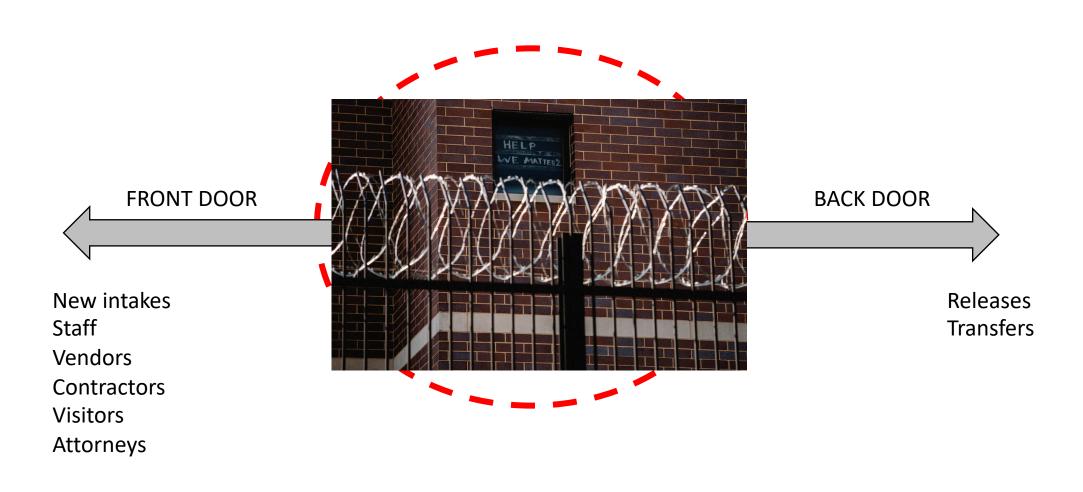
Staff Medically Cleared & Returned to Work

154

Number of Inmates medically cleared & returned to original facility after having contracted the COVID-19 virus

314

## Prisons are (not really) closed settings.



Evidencebased COVID-19 prevention and containment strategies

Screening

Quarantining

Testing

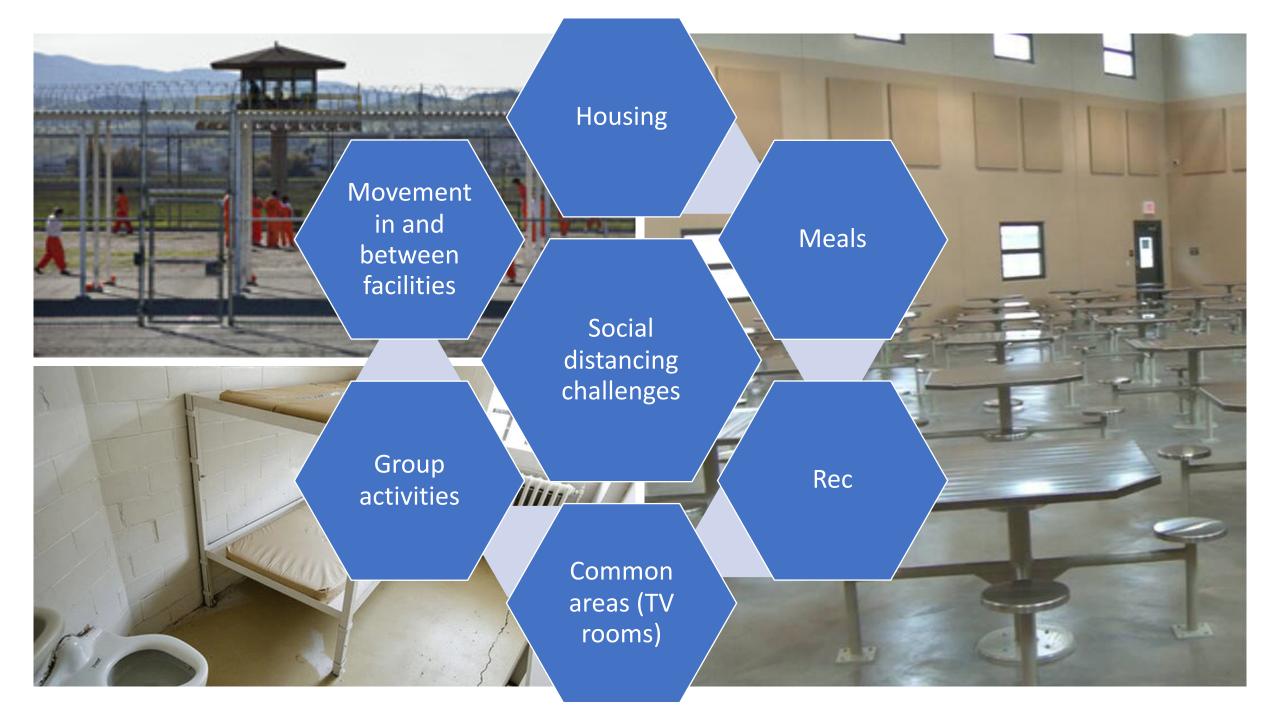
Contact tracing

PPE

Isolating people who are ill

Clinical care

Staffing

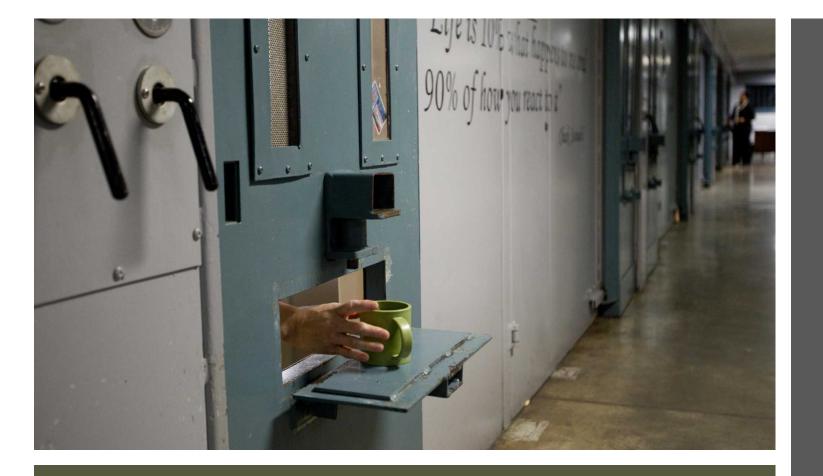


# Cleaning and disinfecting



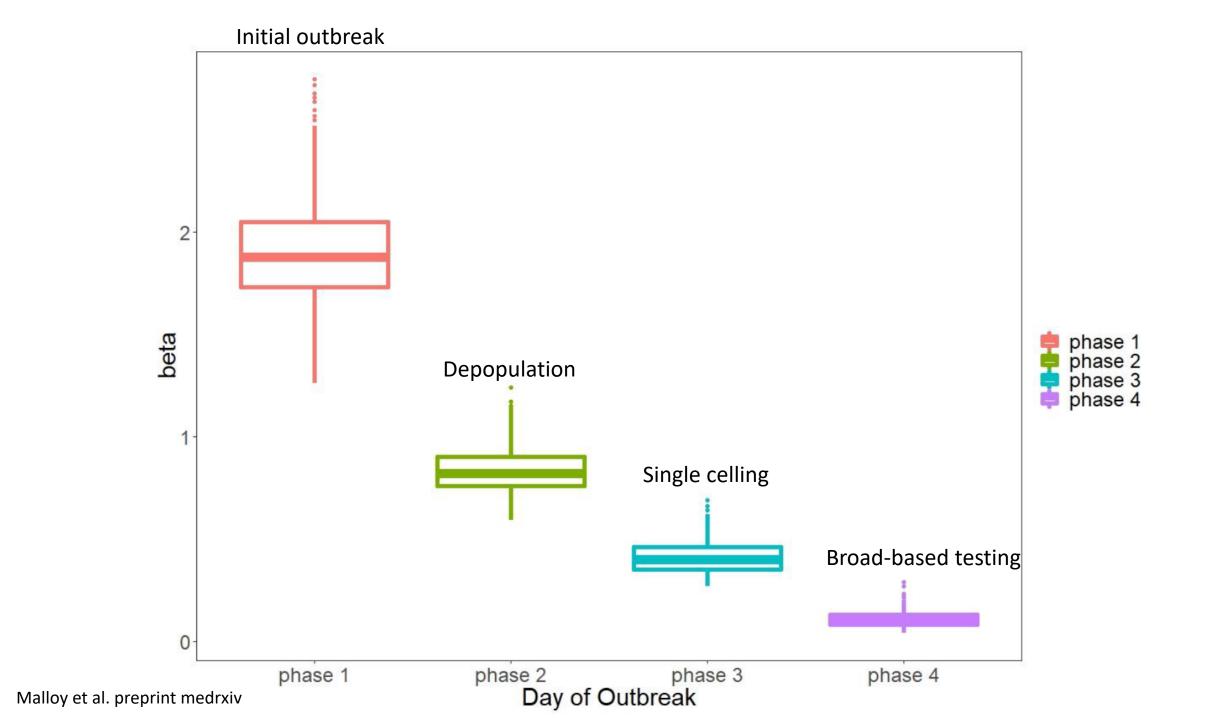






## ISOLATION Medical vs. disciplinary

- 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



### 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



#### Office of the Attorney General Washington, D. C. 20530

March 26, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF BUREAU PRISONS

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Prioritization of Home Confinement As Appropriate in Response to

COVID-19 Pandemic

#### I. <u>TRANSFER OF INMATES TO HOME CONFINEMENT WHERE</u> <u>APPROPRIATE TO DECREASE THE RISKS TO THEIR HEALTH</u>

 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

Chronic condition/infectious disease	State and federal prisoners		General population*a		
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	
Ever had a chronic condition <sup>b</sup>	43.9%**	1.5%	31.0%	0.3%	
Cancer	3.5	0.4	/	:	
High blood pressure/hypertension	30.2**	1.2	18.1	0.3	12% >55yo
Stroke-related problems	1.8**	0.3	0.7	0.1	,
Diabetes/high blood sugar	9.0**	0.8	6.5	0.2	40% obese
Heart-related problems <sup>c</sup>	9.8**	1.0	2.9	0.1	
Kidney-related problems	6.1	0.7	/	:	
Arthritis/rheumatism	15.0	0.9	/	:	
Asthma	14.9**	0.9	10.2	0.2	
Cirrhosis of the liver	1.8**	0.3	0.2		
Ever had an infectious diseased	21.0%**	1.3%	4.8%	0.2%	
Tuberculosis	6.0**	0.6	0.5	0.1	
Hepatitis <sup>e</sup>	10.9**	1.0	1.1	0.1	
Hepatitis B	2.7	0.4	/	:	
Hepatitis C	9.8	1.0	/	:	
STDs <sup>f</sup>	6.0**	0.5	3.4	0.1	
HIV/AIDS	1.3%**	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	

BJS, NCJ 248491

## Now what?



# Thank you!

