Prison health care costs: An overview
Pew’s Prison Health Research

- Prison Health Care: Costs and Quality
- Pharmaceuticals in State Prisons
- State Prisons and the Delivery of Hospital Care
Pressing and universal priorities

- Meeting constitutional obligations
- Protecting public safety
- Strengthening public health
- Practicing fiscal prudence

Prison Health Care
Delivery systems (# of states)

- Contracted: 20
- Direct: 18
- Hybrid: 8
- State university: 3
Per-inmate health care spending
FY 2015; (N=49)

- California: $19,796
- Vermont: $13,747
- Wyoming: $11,798
- Massachusetts: $8,948
- 49-state median: $5,720
- Alabama: $3,234
- Louisiana: $2,173
Aging prison populations
1999-2015

Percentage change from 1999

Prisoners under 55
Prisoners 55 and older

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

264% increase
5% increase
Variation in aging prison populations
FY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Age 55+</th>
<th>Age 40-54</th>
<th>Age 18-39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
High disease prevalence
2011-12

- Ever had a chronic condition: 43.9% (State and federal prisoners), 31.0% (General population)
- Ever had an infectious disease: 21.0% (State and federal prisoners), 4.8% (General population)
- HIV/AIDS: 1.3% (State and federal prisoners), 0.4% (General population)

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics
Major costs
2007-2011

- Hospitalization: 20%
- Pharmaceuticals: 14%
- Substance abuse treatment: 5%
- Health care administration: 4%
- General medical care: 37%
- Mental health care: 14%
- Dental care: 4%
- Other: 1%
Off-site care for high cost individuals

Off-site health care for Virginia’s prison population, April 2015-March 2016

- 37,011 individuals (99.5%)
- 179 individuals (0.5%)
- Off-site health care spending:
  - $29.1 million (46.6%)
  - $33.3 million (53.4%)

Unique Number of Incarcerated Individuals
Prescription Drugs as a Cost Driver

“...[the] DOC’s greatest factor is our pharmaceutical costs.”

“...increasing unit costs for generic medications.”

“...[hepatitis C] costs have risen 487% over the last five fiscal years.”

“Accelerated new drug approvals, aggressive targeted therapies, lack of price controls on drugs, increase in limited distribution-specialty-single source drugs, drug manufacturer consolidation, lack of generic availability...”
Help navigating the health care maze
Key takeaway

The challenges of prison health care are real, but solutions are possible especially when states learn from each other and foster cross-agency collaboration.
Don’t miss out!

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