

HBV in Prison & HEP's Efforts

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Hepatitis Education Project

Who is HEP?

- **Hepatitis Education Project**
- Four programs:
 - Correctional Health
 - Hepatitis B
 - Medical Case Management (MCM)
 - Prevention and Outreach (POP)
- Advocacy
 - Global Consulting
 - Legal
 - Safe Consumption Sites, Vocal WA
- Syringe Services Program (SSP)
 - Needs based – up to 200/client
- Free HCV rapid and confirmatory testing
- Free HBV testing (limited but growing)
- Free Hep A & B vaccines

Incarceration in the USA (not cool)

- The US has almost 5x the global average of people incarcerated.
 - Global Average: 146 per 100 000
 - US Average: 716 per 100 000
 - Compared to 75 per 100 000 in 1970 (before some laws changed).
 - This means that on any given day there are around 2.2 million people in prison in the US, which is roughly 1% of the population.
 - 1 in 32 adults are under a type of criminal justice system.
- US has 22% of the world's prison population.
- Largely due to the War on Drugs and Prison Industrial Complex.
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Health Disparities in Prison

- HIV
 - 3x higher than average population.
 - More common in female prisons than male.
 - 1 in 6 people with HIV in the US have been through prison.
- HCV
 - National prevalence average of HCV + people in prison: 15.3%
 - Imprisoned MSM are 50% more likely to have been exposed to HCV than general population.
- HBV
 - Less than 5% of people in prison have chronic HBV (0.3% - 3.1%)
 - One study showed that 20% of people in prison had anti-HBc IgG (i.e. ever exposed).
 - Highest risk factors for new infections are sharing drug equipment and sexual transmission.
 - In WA DOC, less than 0.4% people are HBV chronic, compared to HIV which is 0.6%.

Communities in Prison at Higher Risk

- Who do we incarcerate?
 - People who do drugs (e.g. who inject drugs)
 - People engaged in sex work
 - People with lower-incomes
 - People of color
 - Only 7% of non-citizens in the US are black, they make up 20% of deportation cases based on criminal grounds.
- While incarcerated, communities are even further marginalized.
 - Estimates of infectious diseases are less frequently reported for MSM, sex workers, and transgender people.

HBV in Prison - Transmission

- The usual suspects:
 - Sexual Exposure
 - Sharing Drug Equipment
 - Sharing Tattoo Equipment
 - Sharing Hygiene Equipment
 - Just lots of sharing!
 - Violence
- People can get HBV before coming in to prison, during, after, and spread it throughout this continuum.
 - This is why...

HEP 101!

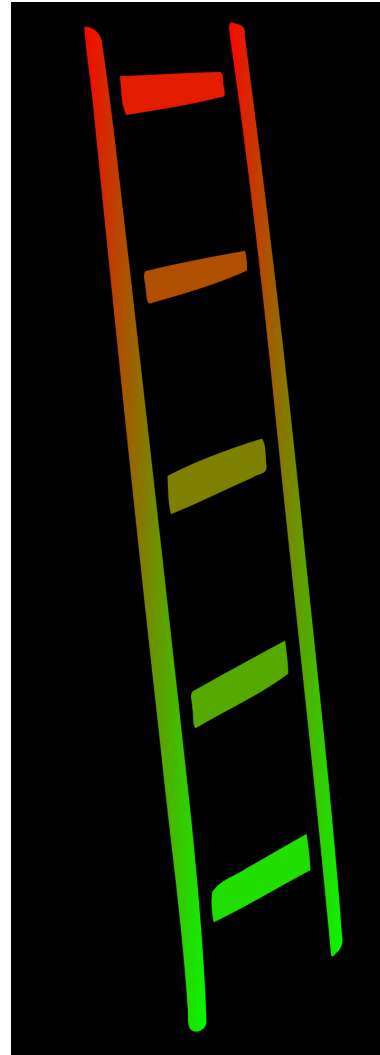
- Information on viral hepatitis A, B and C.
 - What they are
 - Transmission
 - Treatment
 - Prevention
 - Resources in Prison
 - Resources Outside of Prison
- We visit all 12 WA DOC facilities.
- Taught this class to 6200+ people in WA DOC.



SHIELD – *Self Help In Eliminating Life-threatening Diseases!*

- 12 hours of training.
 - 6 x 2 hour sessions (more like 3).
- Train cohorts of 4-12 individuals to become Peer Educators.
- Do this in a male (SCCC) and a female (WCCW) prison.
- Provide information about HIV, HBV and HCV.
- Conversations about harm reduction, stigma, compassion, respect, and different practices with...
 - Friends, Family, Children, Significant Other, People in Prison, Medical Provider, The Guards, Their Blog (maybe one of the coolest things)

HIV/HBV/HCV Sex Risks



ANAL SEX **WITHOUT** A CONDOM

VAGINAL SEX **WITHOUT** A CONDOM

VAGINAL OR ANAL SEX **WITH** A CONDOM

ORAL SEX **WITHOUT** A CONDOM OR BARRIER

ORAL SEX **WITH** A CONDOM OR BARRIER

TOUCHING PARTNER'S GENITALS WITH HANDS

NOT HAVING SEX



How Is This Valuable?

- Woody!

Numbers (yay!)

- We have trained 121 individuals.
 - Data based off of pre-tests and post-tests.
- Feel free to check out the Capstone Report of Emily Less.
- “What hepatitis topics have you talked about?” [last 30 days]
 - General information about viral hepatitis – from 57% to 86%
 - How viral hepatitis is transmitted - from 34% to 88%
 - Cleaning/not sharing works – from 20% to 81%
 - Hepatitis medication and treatment – from 34% to 70%
 - Getting tested for viral hepatitis (B and/or C) – from 26% to 78%
- Related to HIV “Using a condom/safer sex” [last 30 days]
 - From 10% to 78%

What Has Worked for Us

- Respect
 - Treating people how you would like to be treated.
 - People in prison are not stupid or bad people.
 - Some of that everywhere, and sometimes you don't have to look too far.
- Dignity
 - Don't use "inmate", "offender", or person's last name.
- Compassion
 - Remembering that everyone has regrets, and everyone feels pain.
 - What landed someone in prison does not define them, it's one story in their life.
- Relationships/Consistency
 - Building trust.
 - Offering genuine support.
 - Resources and data sharing.

Thank You!



Sources

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