

Implementing Routine Hepatitis B Vaccination in the Incarcerated Setting

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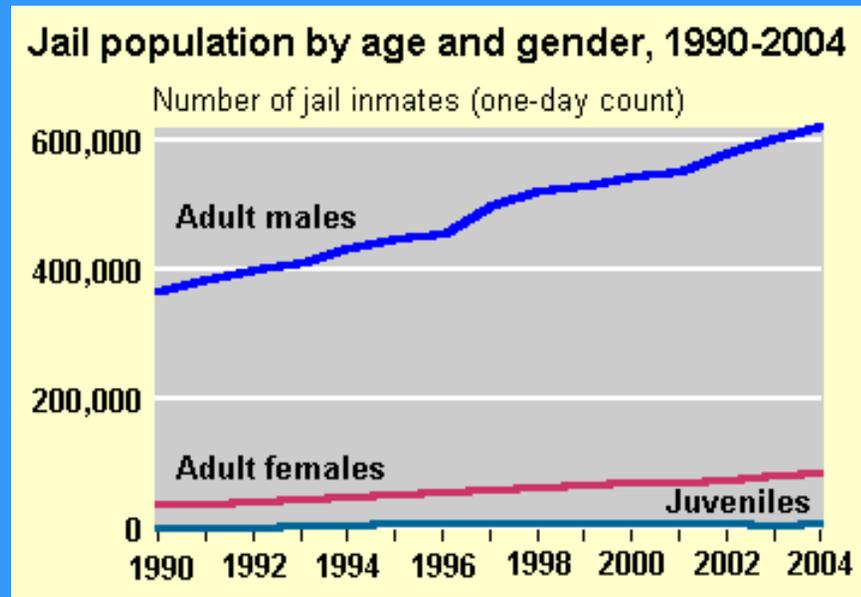
The Miriam Hospital, Brown University

The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights

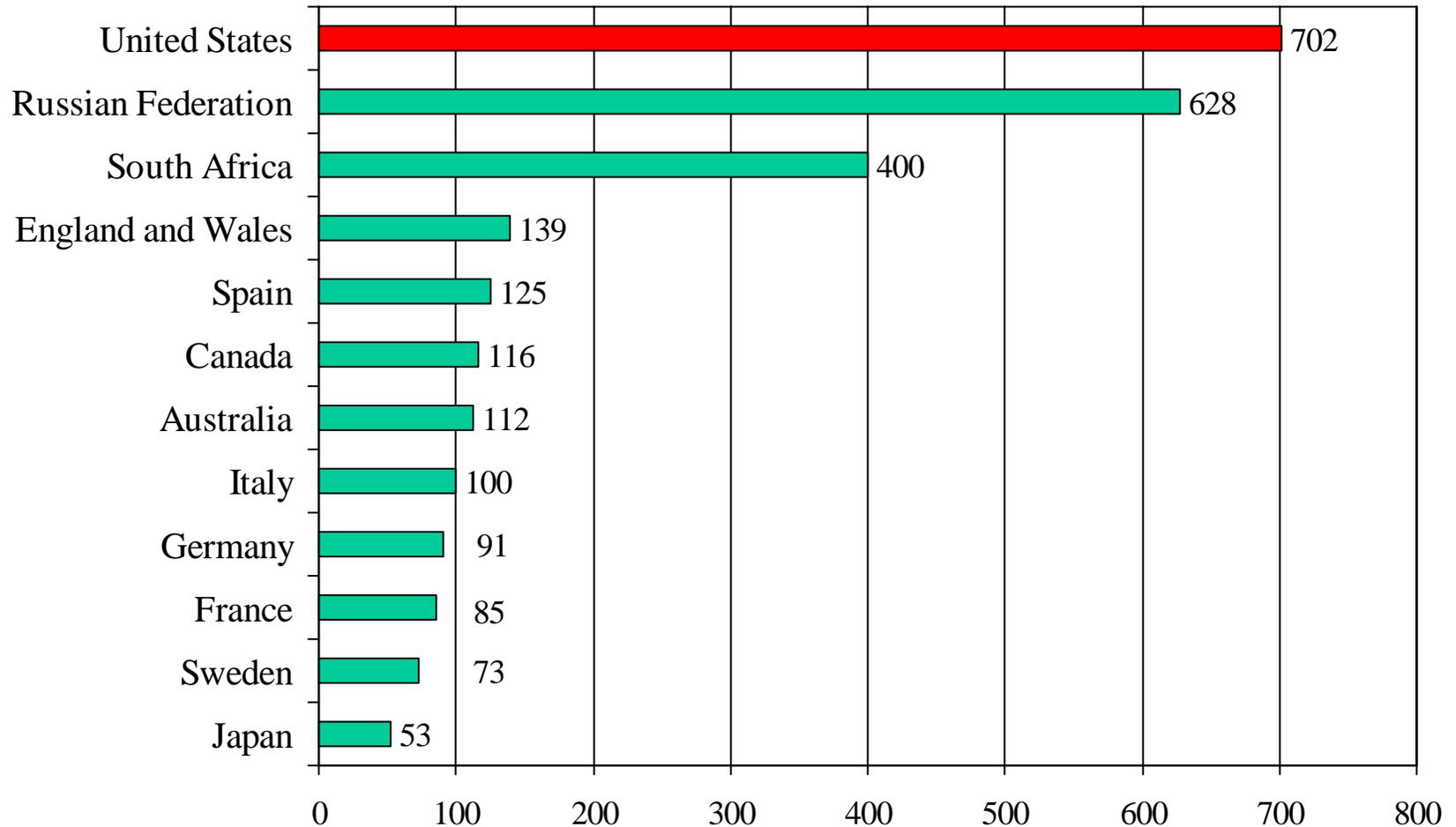
www.prisonerhealth.org

Incarceration in the United States

- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2004:
 - 1 in every 138 US residents was in prison or jail

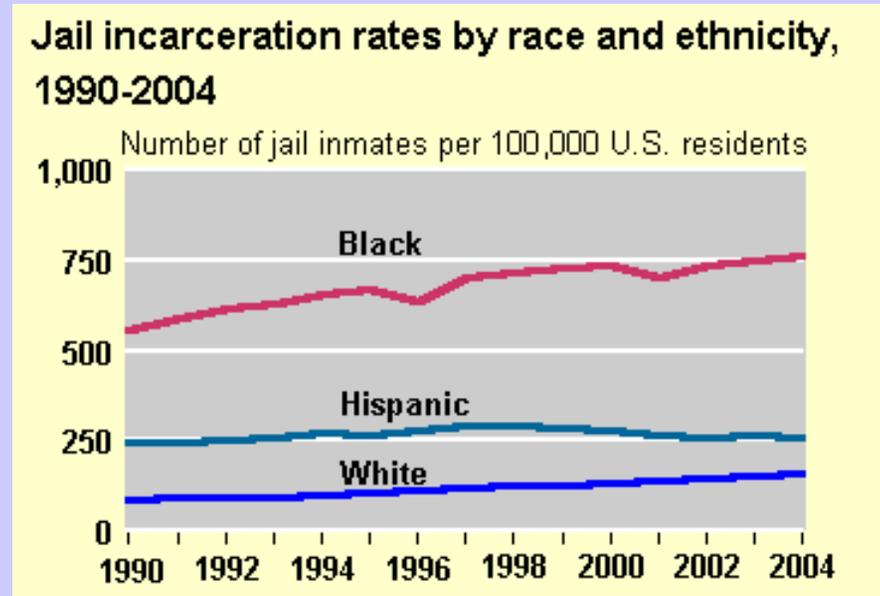


The U.S. imprisons more people per capita than any other country in the world. In the 1990s alone, our inmate population grew by 239%.



Minorities disproportionately incarcerated

- 60% of State and Federal inmates are black or Hispanic
- 8.4% of black males, age 25-29, were in prison



A photograph showing a person's arm and hand in a prison setting. The person is injecting a substance into their arm. In the background, there is a bed with a blue blanket and a white trash can. The overall scene is dimly lit and appears to be a prison cell.

Drugs Use and Incarceration

- Since 1980 the number of people incarcerated for drug offenses has grown from 40,000 to 450,000
- 57% of injection drug users have been incarcerated 5 times or more
- Less than 10% of inmates who could benefit from substance abuse treatment receive it

A photograph of a prison building. On the left is a tall brick tower with a balcony and a person visible on it. To the right is a chain-link fence with multiple strands of barbed wire. The sky is blue with some clouds.

The incarcerated population in the U.S. reached 2 million for the first time in 2002. Many of these inmates are imprisoned because of arrests related to using, possessing, or trafficking drugs.

This population has significantly higher rates of infection with HIV, hepatitis B and C, TB, STDs, and other diseases along with increased mental illness and substance use problems.

HIV in correctional settings

TABLE 3—Estimated Burden of Infectious Disease Among Inmates and Releasees: United States, 1997

Condition	Prevalence Among Inmates, %		No. of Inmates With Condition	No. of Releasees With Condition	Total in US Population With Condition	Releasees with Condition as % of Total in US Population With Condition
	Prisons	Jails				
AIDS	0.5	0.5	9 212	38 894	247 032 ^a	15.7
HIV infection (non-AIDS)	1.45-2.03	1.45-2.03	25 881-36 310	112 056-157 661	502 968	22.2-31.3
Total HIV/AIDS	35 093-45 522	150 950-196 555	750 000 ^b	20.1-26.2
HCV (anti-HCV+)	17-25	17-25	303 507-446 338	1 321 781-1 943 796	4 500 000 ^c	29.4-43.2
TB Disease	0.04	0.17	1 451	12 531	31 660 ^d	39.6

Note. HCV = hepatitis C virus.

^aData from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).³⁶

^bCDC estimate.

^cData based on prevalence estimate in McQuillan.³⁴

^dEstimated from CDC data.³⁵

(Hammett et al. AJP 2002; 92: 1789-94)

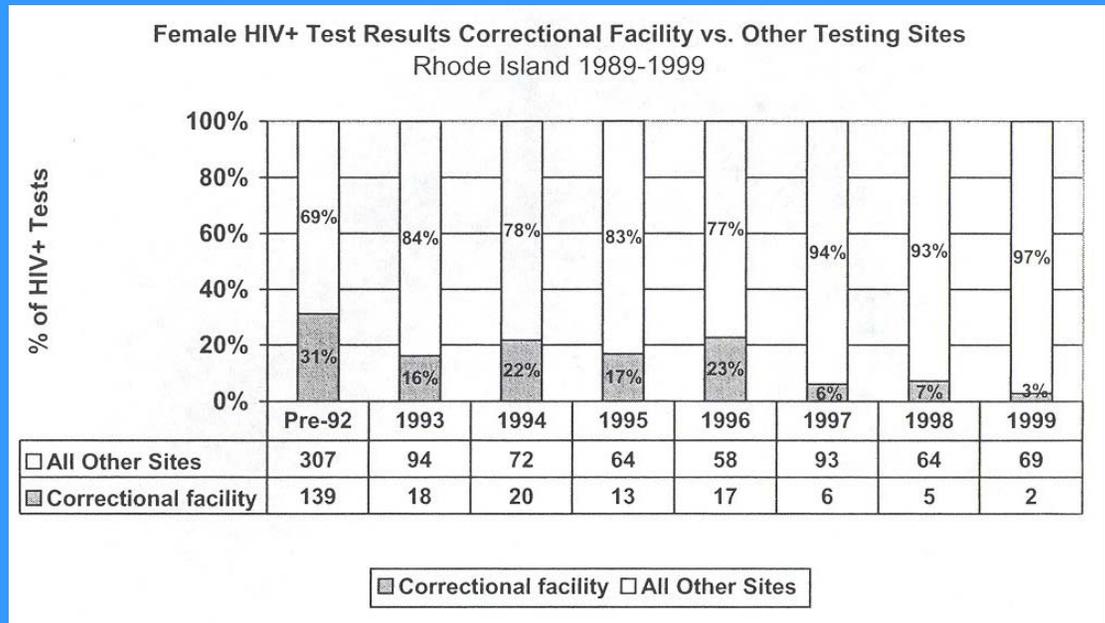
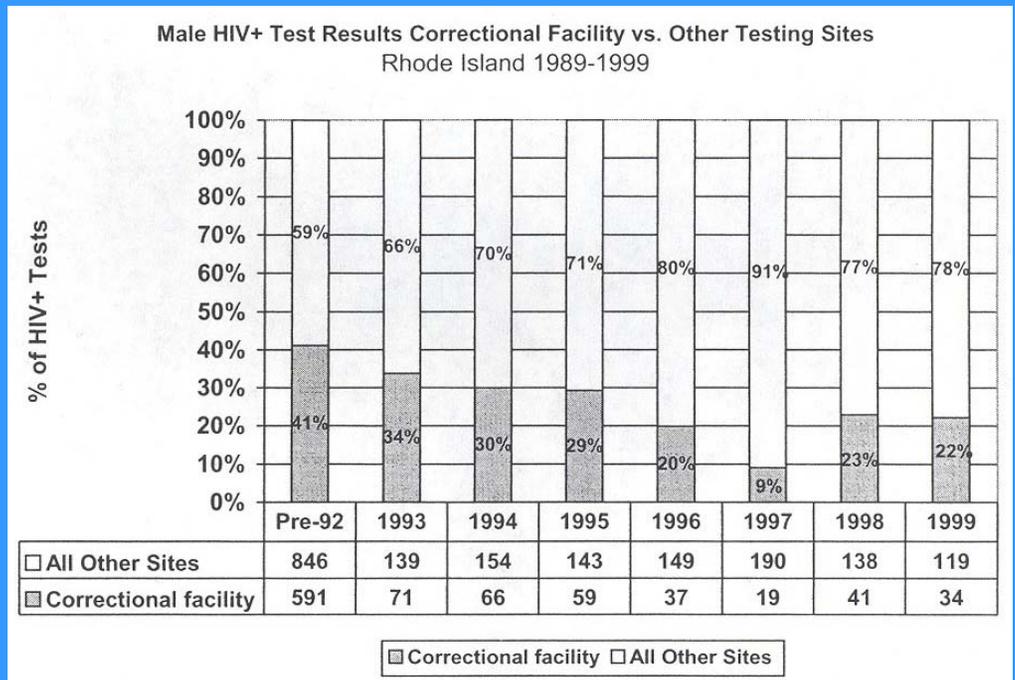
- Rhode Island Experience

- Single state correctional facility (jail & prison)
- 17,000 admissions/year
 - Average length of stay 14 days

- RIDOC HIV testing policy:

- “Routine” HIV testing upon jail entrance since 1991

(Desai et al. AIDS Educ Prev 2002; 14: 45-52)



Blood Borne Pathogens

- Incidence in women at RI DOC (1996-7)
 - blinded study of discarded serum
 - serum drawn at intake, redrawn if inmate reincarcerated
- Incidence among reincarcerated women
- HBV 12.2 per 100 person-years
- HCV 18 per 100 person-years
- HIV 0.06 per 100 person-years

A photograph of a person sitting on a toilet in a prison cell. The person's arms are crossed, and they are wearing a blue shirt. The background shows a white toilet and a window with bars. The text is overlaid on the image.

Incarceration and Disease an Opportunity to

- Diagnose
- Treat (including linkage to treatment in the community after release)
- Prevent (education , risk reduction and vaccination)

Vaccinating for HBV at RI DOC

- Successes
 - Achieved buy-in from staff
 - Integrated HBV vaccination into intake process
 - Secured ongoing 317 funding for vaccine for women
 - Developed partnership with clinic in community to provide follow-up vaccine doses after release

National survey

- Conducted in 2000
- National survey of State Prison Medical Directors
 - 36 respondents
 - 70% response rate
 - accounts for 77% of all inmates in federal or state prisons and jails

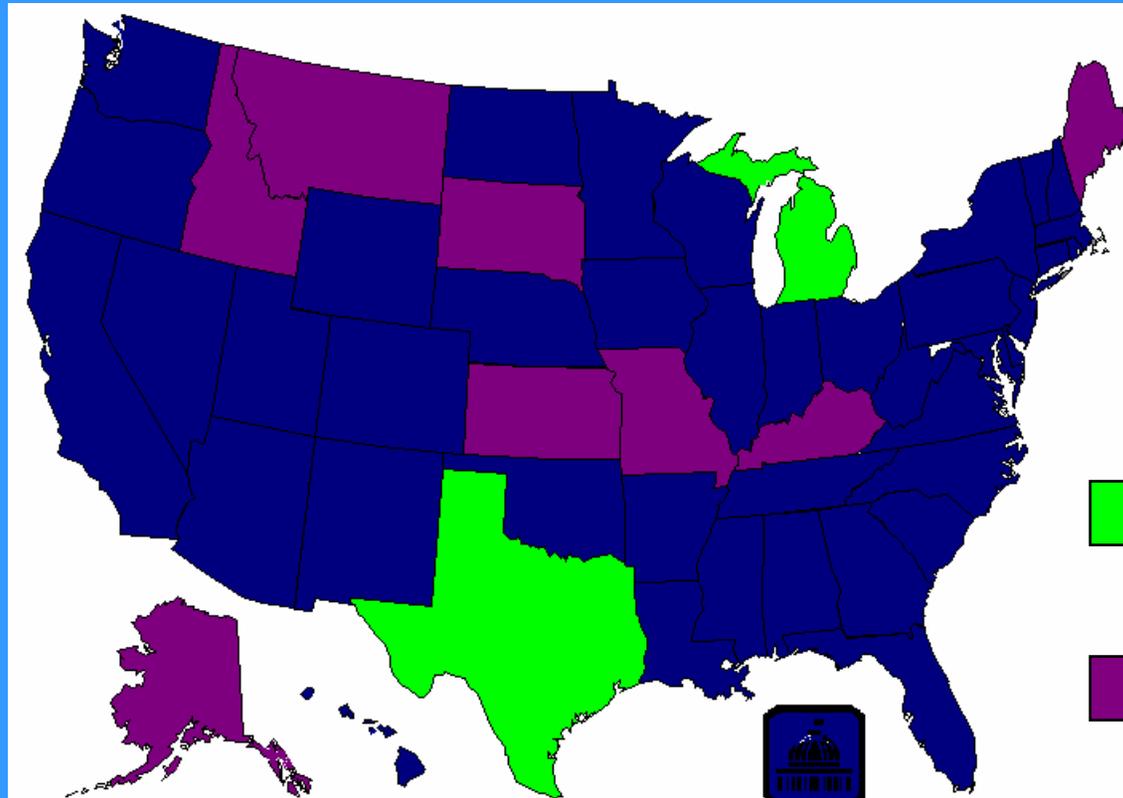
National survey: findings

- Only 2 state prison systems routinely vaccinate for HBV
- 9 offer no HBV vaccination
 - Cost prohibitive (1)
 - ‘Medically unnecessary’ (2)
- 26 states and the Federal Bureau of prisons offer vaccination in limited circumstances:
 - When ordered by physician (15)
 - When inmate considered ‘at risk’ (11)
 - When inmate HIV+ (10)

National survey: findings

- 25 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons responded that they would routinely vaccinate inmates if funds were available
- This represents 927,615 inmates
- Of the 25 states that would routinely vaccinate, 14 do not use the VFC program

Correctional facilities' vaccination practices



-  Routinely vaccinate inmates
-  Do not vaccinate inmates
-  Vaccinate under limited circumstances

Update

- Several additional state correctional facilities have begun to offer routine hepatitis B vaccination:
 - Pennsylvania Indiana Wisconsin
 - Arizona Hawaii Rhode Island
- Other facilities that offer routine vaccination:
 - Hampden County Jail (MA)
 - Denver County Jail
 - ??
- Texas's program on hold due to funding problems

Hepatitis in State Prisons Bureau of

Justice Statistics April, 2004

- In 2000, 67.4% (1033/1320) State Correctional Facilities had policies to vaccinate inmates (12.4% all, 44.4% High Risk)
- 25.1% of Facilities actually vaccinated inmates
- 13,655 inmates (1.1%) received 3 doses in the previous year

Vaccinating at RI DOC

- Started at Women's March 2002
 - Performed at intake
 - Mostly jailed population
- Started at men's February 2003
 - Performed at medical processing weeks after incarceration
 - Mostly sentenced population

Vaccinating at RI DOC

- Institutional barriers
 - Funding for vaccine
 - Structure of intake process
- Day-to-day barriers
 - Resistance to change
 - Computerphobia
 - Knowledge about HBV among staff/inmates

Vaccinating at RI DOC

- Successes at women's
 - Achieved buy-in from staff
 - Integrated HBV vaccination into intake process
 - Secured ongoing 317 funding for vaccine
 - Developed partnership with clinic in community to provide follow-up vaccine doses after release

Results

- In the first 30 months in Women's Division
 - 871 women vaccinated
 - 58% acceptance rate
 - Reasons not accepted:
 - 83% didn't want it
 - 17% other including “too sleepy”, prefer personal MD, being unsure

Results

- In the first 19 months in Men's Division (mostly sentenced)
 - 1,408 vaccinated
 - 96% acceptance rate
 - Reasons not accepted:
 - 85% didn't want it
 - 15% other including mistrust of the system, prefer personal MD, aversion to needles

Conclusion

- If vaccine costs are covered, routine vaccination is possible in the incarcerated setting with high acceptance rates and minimal procedural disruption.
- It takes time and effort to incorporate routine vaccination into the “culture” of corrections.



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- Prevent (education , risk reduction and vaccination)