The Future of Correctional Healthcare: A Literature Survey & Call to Action

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Objective
To highlight the current state of healthcare in correctional facilities in the United States and discusses how training for this setting may be incorporated into the modern era of medicine in efforts that those who are locked up or locked out of mainstream society are not forgotten.

Methods
A thorough survey of the literature was conducted using a methodological approach of consulting resources databases followed by editing and proofreading the information collected. Digital data collection using PubMed, GoogleScholar, and MEDLINE and manual data collection The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander were utilized. Data was analyzed by both authors.

Future Direction
Discuss the current gap in medical education and clinical training for correctional healthcare

Specifically define the knowledge and skill sets that encompass the field of Correctional Medicine

Incorporate correctional healthcare education into the era of modern medicine: existing medical educators, professional training courses, elective, fellowships

Continue working to remove health care disparities and discrimination in medicine

Mass Incarceration

"... a system that locks people not only behind actual bars in actual prisons, but also behind virtual bars and virtual walls—walls that are invisible to the naked eye but function nearly as effectively as Jim Crow laws once did at locking people of color into a permanent second-class citizenship.”

In the U.S. today...

- There are 2.3 million people in correctional facilities.
- There is a higher rate of incarceration than any country in the world.
- 4.5 million people are under state control outside of prisons, on probation or parole in the U.S.
- Over 70 million Americans (~25%) of the U.S. population have criminal records
- There are 101 justice-involved persons for every 100,000 adult residents age 18+
- The incarceration rate of women is rising faster than that of men.

Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Men</td>
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<td>White Men</td>
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<td>Black Men</td>
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<td>Latino Men</td>
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Clinical Care of Incarcerated Adults

- Medical care in correctional facilities in the U.S. is informed by the legal case of Dr. v. Georgia, 1976.
- There is a need for evidence-based guidelines and protocols.
- There is a lack of training for correctional healthcare providers.
- There is a need for research on the effectiveness of different models of care.

Discussion

Clinical Care

- The Medical Problems of State and Federal Prisoners and Jail Inmates special report issued by the Bureau of Justice Statistics used data from the 2011–12 National Inmate Survey (NIS-3) to describe the health status and the health services and treatment received by state and federal prisoners and local jail inmates. Data from the 2009–2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) were used to compare the incarcerated populations to the general population.
- Clinical care in the correctional setting involves treating chronic medical conditions, infectious diseases, substance abuse, and mental illness while prioritizing advocating for conditional medical release in efforts to promote decarceration.
- Prisons and jail inmates are more likely than the general population to report ever having a chronic condition or infectious disease.
- High blood pressure was the most common chronic condition reported by prisoners and jail inmates.
- There must be special consideration for the aging prison population, with a national sample of state and federal prisoners in the Survey of Prison Inmates, 2011-12.

Mental Health

- The Indicators of Mental Health Problems Reported by Prisoners and Jail Inmates, 2011-12 was a special report issued by the Bureau of Justice Statistics analyzing interviews with a national sample of state and federal prisoners in the Survey of Prison Inmates.
- The most common mental illness in state prisoners is major depressive disorder, followed by bipolar and anxiety disorders.
- About 43% of state and 23% of federal prisoners had a history of a mental health problem.

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