



Challenges in delivering mental health services to HIV detainees in custodial settings

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Introduction

- Higher rate of psychiatric illness and HIV in the prison than in the general population
- HIV infection has been a risk factor for psychiatric illness
- HIV spreading to the brain can also affect central nervous system
- Also via psychosocial adversity
- Pharmacologically, anti-retroviral side effects can also present as psychiatric illness
- However, the accessibility to healthcare service is very limited
- HIV infected prisoners were less likely to be incarcerated for violent offenses
- Stayed longer in the prison
- Also more likely to have substance use disorders including polysubstance users
- In developing countries, more likely to be IVDU

Bivariate and Adjusted Logistic Regression Results for Psychiatric illnesses Stratified by HIV Status

- Any non-substance-Induced psychiatric disorder (139)
HIV+(200) = 73 (36.5)
HIV-(200) = 66 (33.0)
Odds Ratio (95%CI) = 1.17 (0.77-1.76)
Adjusted Odds Ratio (95%CI)
- It is important to address mental illness in the prison
- Otherwise, it will lead to social and public health problems for the future
- Ideally, it should be a clear policy to divert the most mentally ill away from prisons
- Health services in the prison need to be enhanced from screening, diagnosis and optimal treatment particularly for mental illness including addiction and also, infectious diseases such as HIV, Hep C

What are public health issues in relation to drug use

- Drug dependence-implementation of opioid substitution therapy (Through reducing HIV risk behaviors) in community settings independently reduces morbidity and mortality.
- Methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) is effective for both relapse prevention and facilitating access to and retention in care in community settings.

What are public health issues in relation to drug abuse

- HIV infection – treatment for HIV (though reductions in HIV-1 RNA levels)
- Hepatitis C- in prison 20 times higher than in than in the community
- This is closely related to IVDU



- IDU-IVDU inmates are 8 times more likely to get HCV in prison
- IDU inmates are 24 times more likely to have HCV than non-IVDU inmates
- TB
- Recidivism also high among drug-related offences
- Opportunities for prison to provide intervention program for those who have high risk behavior

Structural barriers

- IDU registries, with names of those seeking treatment given to police
- Police harassment of patients and providers
- Provider harassment
 - Arrests and fear chill (Ukraine), pain prescription (all countries), and open discussion (Russia)
- Incarceration and tx interruptions
 - No OST (or ARV) in pre-trial detention
 - No OST and little ARV in prison
 - Ukraine: 1 in 10 HIV+ prisoners treated
 - Malaysia: 1 in 15 HIV+ prisoners treated
 - Russia: food shortages, medication shortages unsanitary conditions
- Drug detention in name of treatment
 - No medical evaluation
 - No right of appeal
 - Forced labor
 - No treatment
 - No effectiveness

Challenges

- Perception of the place as detention centers
- Assumption of the people with low “moral” weakness has lesser “humane value” – Patients vs prisoners
- Perception – “Punishment not only in term of restriction of individual freedom and physical suffering but also should be deprived from comprehensive healthcare service”
- Knowledge on medical related issues – e.g. addition mental health, epilepsy, infectious diseases
- Assumption prisoners just made up reason/ behaviour to escape from serving punishment
- Lack of source of funding-lower financial allocation
- Lack of trained medical personnel
- Now moving towards rehabilitation where elements of healthcare will facilitate any forms of rehabilitation
- Some of them does not have home to stay
- Family rejection upon release
- Police custody-not informing us so subject left untreated

Conclusion

- Good prison health is important for the public health in the community



- Closer collaboration with or incorporation into the key healthcare provider in improve the quality of health provided to prisoners
- Social support networks, in addition to comprehensive healthcare service are important in maintaining ex-prisoners in the community
- Prison staff need to be made aware of the importance of health issues among prisoners