Expanding access to HCV prevention, testing, and treatment in prisons: Recommendations from the INHSU 2022 Prisons Workshop

MARCH 21, 2023
4:30 pm ET

Co-convened by INHSU Prisons & the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination

Join us for two engaging panel discussions on addressing the key policy and financing roadblocks to expanding HCV care for persons who are incarcerated and what models of HCV testing and treatment are most effective in prison settings.

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PANELIST & MODERATOR BIO PACKET
PANELIST BIOS

Kathryn Barthe

Hepatitis C Elimination Program Data Analyst Manager for the Department of Corrections, Louisiana Office of Public Health STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program, United States

Kathryn Barthe joined the Louisiana Department of Health SHHP team in June of 2020 as the Hepatitis C Elimination Program Data Analyst Manager for the Department of Corrections. Over the last three years, she was instrumental in creating systems for tracking justice-involved persons living with a positive hepatitis C Virus diagnosis, from screening to post treatment labs. She is able to track these individuals even when they have been transferred or released from custody. When not at the office she can be found in the kitchen working on new and old recipes to share with family and friends.
Lee Christensen
National Prison HITT Manager, Hepatitis C Trust, England

Lee has over 8 years’ experience of working with people in the criminal justice system. Passionate about supporting people at risk of HCV, Lee joined the Hepatitis C Trust in 2019 and today is the National Prison HITT manager.

Lee has worked within the criminal justice system since 2014 when he began working for a charity that was set up and run by ex-offenders. Passionate about the rights and equality for people within criminal justice settings, he embedded prison and probation councils that were solution focused.

Lee joined the Hepatitis C Trust in 2019, implementing a national elimination goal for NHSE that consists of the planning and delivery of all the high intensity test and treat events (HITTs) held across the English prison estate, ensuring peer involvement is at the core. With over 40 HITTs delivered to date, Lee’s role is an integral part of the elimination of HCV in English prisons. Lee has lived experience of hepatitis C and the criminal justice system.
Luke Grant
Deputy Commissioner, Corrective Services New South Wales, Australia

Luke Grant joined Corrective Services NSW in January 1991 progressing through senior operational roles in prisoner education, programs, and classification. Mr Grant was appointed to the role of Assistant Commissioner Inmate Management in 2000, with primary responsibility for prisoner rehabilitation in NSW. Moving to Assistant Commissioner Corrections Strategy and Policy in December 2012, he was appointed to his current role of Deputy Commissioner for Corrective Services NSW in 2020. Luke has overhauled the agency’s suite of rehabilitation programs, removing those with no evidentiary base and introducing new programs that are founded on evidence of what works in reducing re-offending and improving outcomes for those imprisoned. Luke worked closely with universities and external stakeholders in this process. He has an extensive publication history largely in the interface between justice and health.

Luke has provided expert testimony before numerous parliamentary inquiries at the state and federal levels and has represented Australia in international forums as an expert on countering violent extremism, harm minimisation and the human rights of prisoners. He has championed partnerships and research collaborations between the corrections industry and universities for the last two decades and having embraced the principle of listening to people with lived experiences is firmly committed to desistance theory and its implications for change within and beyond the correctional system.
Sharon Hutchinson is a Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health at Glasgow Caledonian University. She leads a broad translational research programme on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses with particular focus on people who inject drugs. Her research has provided the key evidence to guide a public health response to hepatitis C in Scotland.
Dr. Risha Irvin
Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, United States

Dr. Risha Irvin is an associate professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases where she focuses her clinical care, research, and community engagement projects on improving the health of vulnerable populations impacted by HIV and/or hepatitis C virus. Dr. Irvin obtained her bachelor’s degree in biology from Spelman College and her medical degree and master’s in public health from Harvard Medical School/Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Irvin completed her residency training in internal medicine at the University of California San Francisco. She has served as an HIV Prevention Trials Network Scholar and a Presidential Leadership Scholar. Dr. Irvin also received the Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship from the Association of American Medical Colleges. At Johns Hopkins, she is Associate Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Department of Medicine and she is Director of the Baltimore HIV Collaboratory for the Center for AIDS Research where she leads pipeline programs. Her R01 focuses on HCV elimination in incarcerated persons in Louisiana and she has also established partnerships with Corrections in Maryland, Delaware, and Rhode Island.
Anthony James has worked in the field of HIV/STD prevention for over 15 years. He previously held the positions of Director of Client Services and Director of Prevention and Community Outreach at two AIDS services organizations (ASO) in Louisiana. He also held the position of Regional Prevention Coordinator Supervisor for the Louisiana Office of Public Health STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program (SHHP) where he directed the planning, monitoring, and coordination of STD/HIV/Hepatitis prevention activities throughout the State of Louisiana. He is currently the Deputy Director of Programs for SHHP. In his present role, he is responsible for the STD, HIV, and Hepatitis prevention and treatment programs within SHHP as well as grants management and research and evaluation activities conducted by the program, which are carried out by four of the 10 units within SHHP that he has administrative oversight. He has a master’s degree in Instructional Design and Technology from McNeese State University, a master’s in Management from Webster University, and a master’s in Healthcare Management/Administration from the University of New Orleans. He is presently working on his doctorate in Public Health from Tulane’s School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.
Dr. Lise Lafferty

Senior Research Fellow, The Kirby Institute and the Centre for Social Research in Health, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia

Dr Lise Lafferty is a Senior Research Fellow with a co-appointment across the Centre for Social Research in Health and Kirby Institute at UNSW. Using qualitative research methods, her research explores the social and behavioural components underpinning hepatitis C risk, transmission, prevention, testing and treatment uptake, and reinfection in the prison setting.
Nonso B.C. Maduka
Executive Director, Bensther Development Foundation, Nigeria

Nonso B.C Maduka is a pharmacist and the Executive Director of Bensther Development Foundation Nigeria. He is a member of the INHSU Prison Executive committee. A member of the National Technical Working Group on Harm Reduction Nigeria where he serves as Advocacy lead on Drug policy reform. He is also a member of the leadership committee National Technical Working Group on Alternative to Incarceration for persons with substance use disorder Nigeria and a member of the expert group on Alternative to Incarceration for persons with substance use disorder UNODC. He has worked within the criminal Justice sector carrying out health interventions in the prison for over 8 years.
Dr. Antons Mozalevskis

Technical Officer for Key Populations, Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI programme, World Health Organization

Antons Mozalevskis is the technical officer for key populations at the WHO Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI programme, based in Geneva, Switzerland. Antons is a medical doctor from Latvia trained in family medicine and infectious diseases epidemiology. His background includes 7 years of clinical experience followed by 10 years of public health policy and research. He also has extensive experience of engaging with human rights and HIV NGOs on national and international level. Prior joining the WHO Headquarters in 2022, Antons worked as a regional adviser for viral hepatitis, HIV prevention and key populations on the WHO Regional Office for Europe, focusing mainly on countries in eastern Europe and central Asia.
Jean Schexnayder
Corrections Coordinator, Louisiana Office of Public Health
STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program, United States

Jean Schexnayder began her work within the Louisiana State Correctional system in 2007 when she was asked to provide Medical Release Planning to individuals, living with HIV, who were being released from LA State Penitentiary (Angola). She realized the need to create a standard of care across the state, for those living with HIV who are being released from state prisons in LA. In Dec 2008, she joined the LA Office of Public Health-STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program (SHHP) as the Corrections Specialist. In addition to creating Medical Release Planning for individuals, she worked with the Louisiana Department of Corrections (LA DOC) on a program for individuals, living with HIV, to participate in Transitional Work Release Programs throughout the state of Louisiana. Since 2010, close to 300 individuals have been able to participate in this program. She has also worked with Louisiana’s AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and local jails to create a program that allows individuals, living with HIV, to access ADAP, while in custody of the local jail. This year alone over 400 individuals in custody of a parish(county) jail have been able to access needed medications. In September 2019 she became the Corrections Coordinator as she began her work overseeing the day to day activities of SHHP Staff working within corrections, which includes the current HCV Elimination Program. She is currently working with a team of 6, providing services to those who are Justice Involved across the State of Louisiana. When not at work you will find her working in her flower garden with her husband, dog and cats.
Julia Sheehan

National Women’s Criminal Justice Manager, Hepatitis C Trust, England

Julia has over 7 years’ experience of working with people at risk of viral hepatitis – people in prison, substance users, homeless and migrants.

Passionate about the rights of and equality for women affected by the criminal justice system, Julia joined the Hepatitis C Trust in 2018 as the Women’s Prison Peer support lead, in 2019 Julia took over the lead role and today is the Women’s National Criminal Justice Manager.

Diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2007, Julia cleared the virus in 2017 after taking DAAs.
MODERATOR BIOS

Dr. Matthew Akiyama

Associate Professor of Medicine and Clinician-Investigator Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center, United States

Dr. Akiyama is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Clinician-Investigator at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center. In addition to providing care and treatment to people living with HIV, HCV, and substance use disorders, Dr. Akiyama conducts research focusing on HCV among socioeconomically marginalized populations with particular emphasis on the intersection of HCV in the criminal justice system. Dr. Akiyama is the recipient of a K99/R00 award from NIDA to develop and test an innovative strategy to improve linkage to and retention in HCV treatment among individuals recently released from jail. He is also the recipient of an Avenir Award from NIDA focused on HCV Transmission Networks Among People Who Inject Drugs.
Dr. Nadine Kronfli
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Junior Clinician Scientist  McGill University Health Centre, Canada

Dr. Kronfli's research focuses on designing, deploying, and evaluating evidence-based models of care that aim to increase engagement along the hepatitis C virus care cascades for vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on incarcerated populations. The ultimate goal of her research is to support the development of evidence-based policies to improve population health with an emphasis on eliminating certain infectious diseases such as hepatitis C and SARS-CoV-2 among people in prison.
Dr. Andrew Lloyd
Chair  INHSU Prisons Network, Australia

Professor Andrew Lloyd, Infectious diseases physician and prisons hepatitis researcher, Kirby Institute, University of NSW, Sydney Australia, and Chair of INHSU Prisons.
Dr. John Ward

Director, Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination, Task Force for Global Health

Dr. John W. Ward created and directs the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task Force for Global Health. Modelled after other Task Force programs to eliminate disease, the Coalition is a community of practice strengthening the capacity of national and sub-national hepatitis elimination programs through funding, advocacy, technical assistance, operational research and monitoring progress toward hepatitis elimination in >190 countries. Globally, Dr. Ward is an advisor to the African Union Hepatitis Technical Working Group, and WHO including the PAHO technical advisory committee on disease elimination and the WPRO Hepatitis B Expert Resource Panel. Dr. Ward chairs the AASLD Task Force for Hepatitis Elimination. Over a 13-year tenure, Dr. Ward directed the US CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis with responsibilities for viral hepatitis surveillance, prevention, and research. At the national level, Dr. Ward developed recommendations for hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination, hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening, authored the first action plan for viral hepatitis prevention. Dr. Ward initiated the US Academies of Sciences recommendations for viral hepatitis elimination and guided the launch of pioneer HCV elimination programs. Earlier Dr. Ward was Editor of the CDC MMWR and assisted in the CDC response to large outbreaks including SARS and the anthrax attacks after 9/11. As a medical epidemiologist in the CDC HIV/AIDS program, Dr. Ward identified new routes of HIV transmission, evaluated the first HIV tests to protect the nation’s blood supply and led national HIV/AIDS surveillance. Dr. Ward has authored over 150 publications of scientific work in viral hepatitis and HIV and edited Silent Victories, a history of public health in the 20th Century published by Oxford University Press. Dr. Ward received his medical training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Washington, Seattle. Dr. Ward is a Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta.