

# Why Health Care Matters for Criminal Justice: Opportunities to Improve Public Health and Public Safety

Steve Rosenberg, President  
Community Oriented Correctional Health Services  
August 1, 2014



# U.S. Correctional Populations

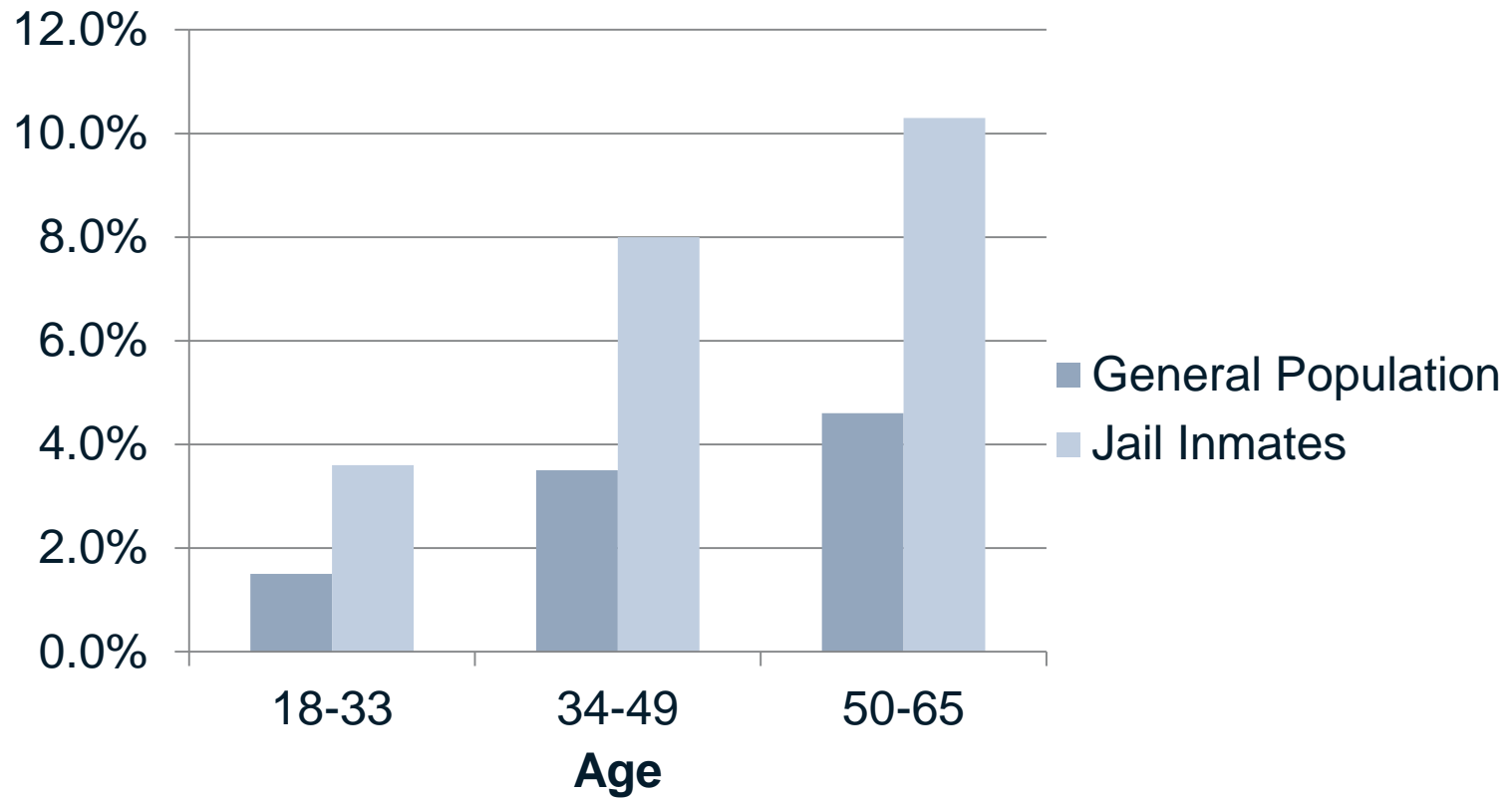
## Point-in-time snapshot:

- 1.5 Million people in prison
- 0.7 Million people in jail
- 3.9 Million people on probation
- 0.9 Million people on parole
- 7 Million people total under correctional supervision

## Year-long population flow:

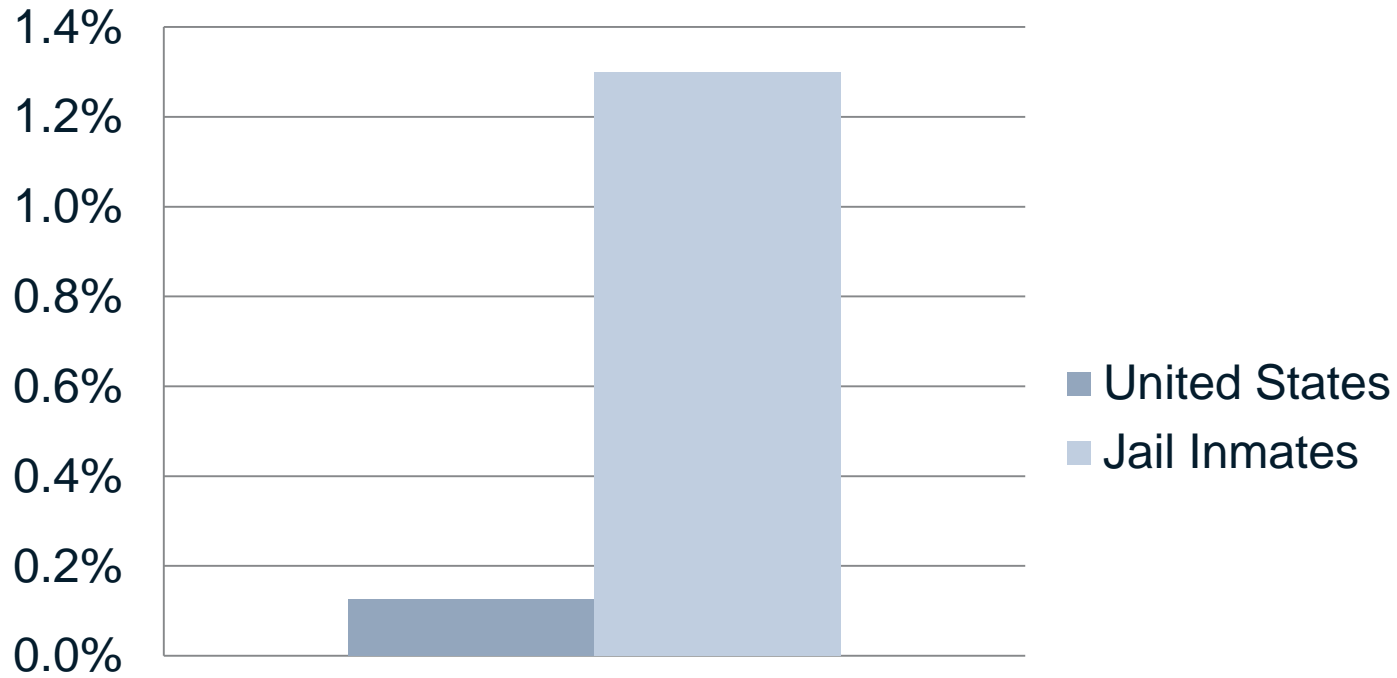
- 2.2 Million people spend time in prison
- **11.6 Million people spend time in jail, 96% of whom return to the community**

# Hepatitis



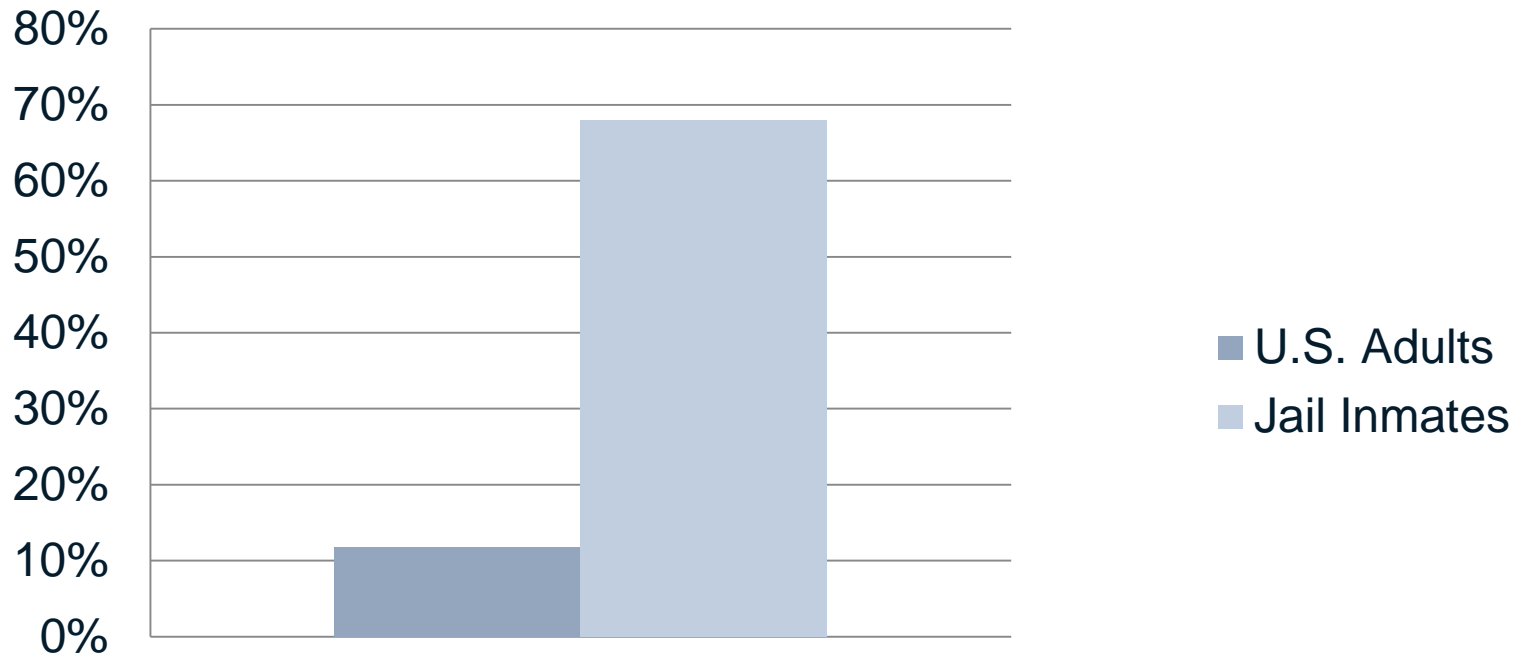
Source: A Binswanger, PM Krueger, JF Steiner, Prevalence of chronic medical conditions among jail and prison inmates in the USA compared with the general population, *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2009 Nov;63(11):912-9. doi: 10.1136/jech.2009.090662. Epub 2009 Jul 30.

# HIV



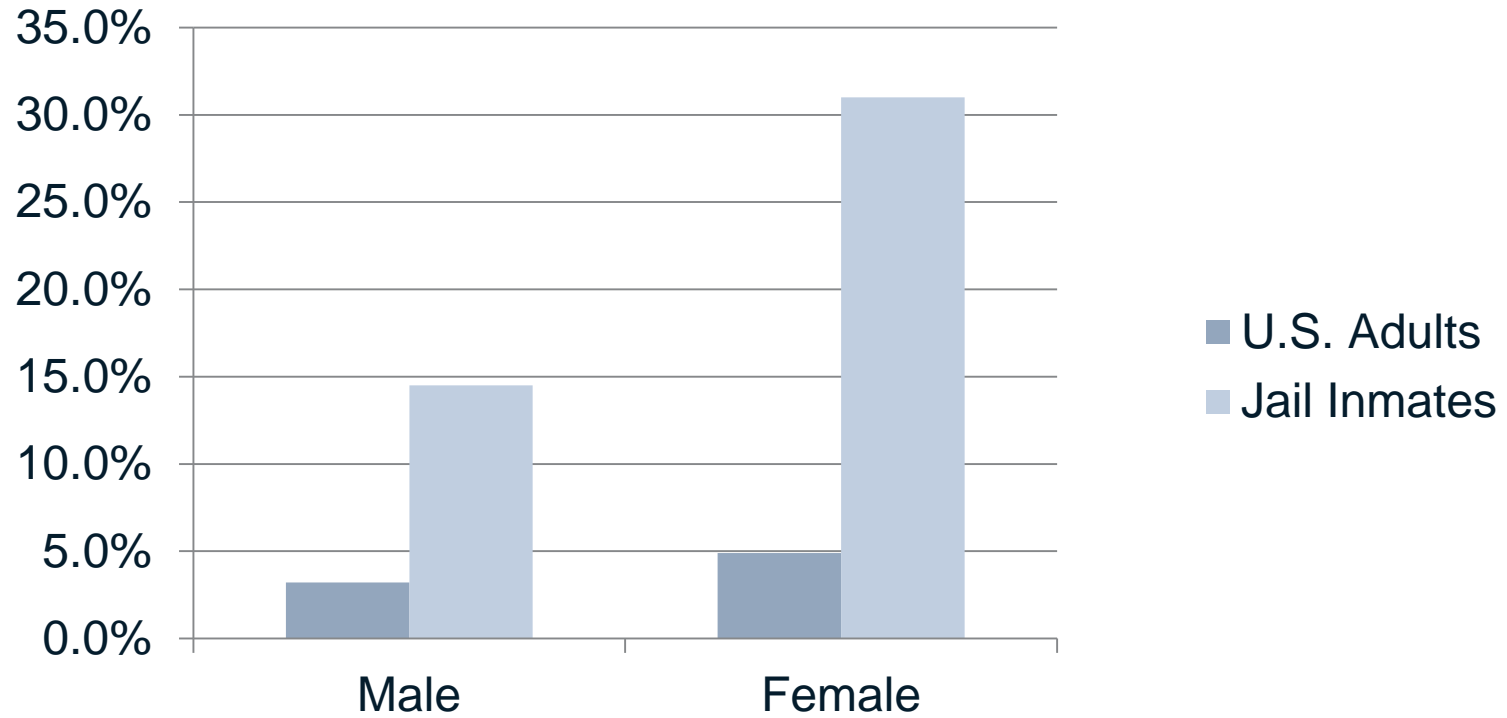
Sources: 2002 HIV Surveillance Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/statistics\\_2002\\_HIV\\_Surveillance\\_Report\\_vol\\_14.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/statistics_2002_HIV_Surveillance_Report_vol_14.pdf). HIV in Prison and Jails, 2002, Bureau of Justice Statistics, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/hivpj02.pdf>

# Substance Dependence or Abuse



Sources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2003). Results from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings (Office of Applied Studies, NHSDA Series H-22, DHHS Publication No. SMA 03-3836). Rockville, MD. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/sdatji02.pdf>.

# Serious Mental Illness



Sources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Mental Health Findings, NSDUH Series H-47, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4805. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Henry J. Steadman, Ph.D.; Fred C. Osher, M.D.; Pamela Clark Robbins, B.A.; Brian Case, B.A.; Steven Samuels, Ph.D., Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates, *Psychiatric Services* 2009; doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.60.6.761.

# Justice-Involved Individuals and Insurance Status

- Few justice-involved individuals have health insurance.
- One study showed that 90% of people have no health insurance upon release from jail.
- One study showed that 80% of individuals in jail with chronic medical conditions have not received treatment in the community prior to arrest.

# Washington State SUD Treatment Expansion: Criminal Justice System Benefits

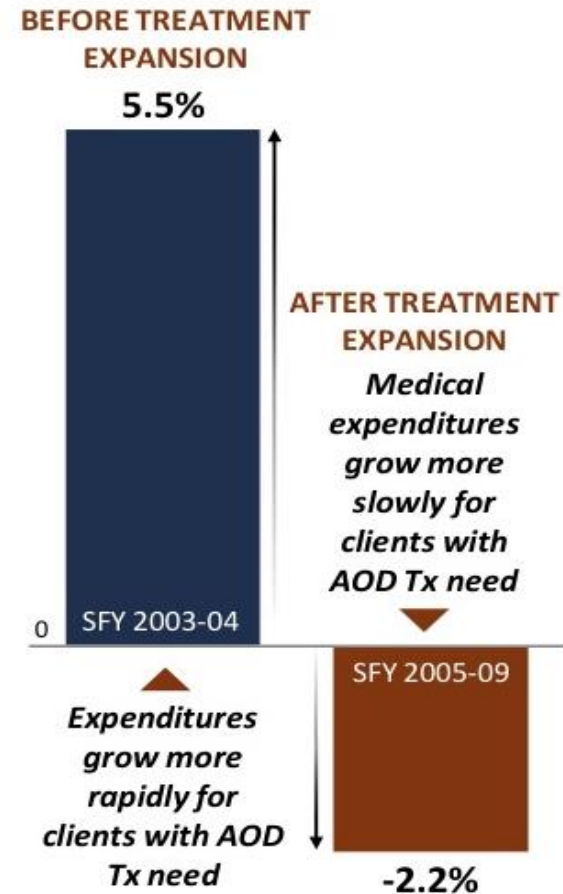
Decline in arrests relative to untreated comparison group	33%
Cost savings to criminal justice system per dollar of cost	\$1.16
Cost savings to crime victims and criminal justice system per dollar of cost	\$2.83

Source: Mancuso D, Felver B. Providing chemical dependency treatment to low-income adults results in significant public safety benefits, Washington State DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division, Report 11.130 (Feb 2009).



# Washington State: SUD Treatment and Medical Costs

**Growth in medical costs  
relative to coverage group:**



Source: Mancuso D, Felver B. Bending the Health Care Cost Curve by Expanding Alcohol/Drug Treatment, Washington State DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division, RDA Report 4.81 (Sept 2010).

# Considerations for Policymakers

1. Targeted outreach and enrollment is necessary. Jurisdictions and policymakers can support these efforts by facilitating criminal justice agencies' participation in Medicaid Administrative Claiming.
2. Increasing our understanding of the relationship between substance use disorders and criminal justice could allow health care providers in corrections and in the community to improve public health and public safety.
3. Advances in our understanding of criminogenic needs gives policymakers the opportunity to reconsider the definition of an Institution for Mental Diseases to reflect current best practices.
4. The opportunities created by health reform to improve public health and public safety would have the greatest potential impact if jurisdictions build partnerships between criminal justice agencies and community-based health care providers.

# Questions?

[www.cochs.org](http://www.cochs.org)

Twitter: @COCHSorg  
510-595-7360

Steve Rosenberg [srosenberg@cochs.org](mailto:srosenberg@cochs.org)