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Hepatitis Testing and Treatment in State Prisons

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In the 2000 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities, 1,209 of the 1,584 State public and private adult correctional facilities reported that they tested inmates for hepatitis C between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000. These facilities housed about 94% of all State inmates for whom prison census data were reported on June 30, 2000. Of the 57,018 hepatitis C tests made in the 12 months before the census, 17,911 (31%) were positive.

Nearly 70% of all State adult correctional facilities (1,104) reported that they had a policy to treat inmates for hepatitis C. A total of 6,046 inmates were treated between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000.

At midyear 2000, 1,033 facilities also reported that, as a matter of policy, they provide hepatitis B vaccinations. During the 12-month period, 401 facilities actually administered the vaccination. In those facilities 13,655 inmates completed the 3-dose series vaccination for hepatitis B.

The census was an enumeration of all 84 Federal, 1,320 State, and 264 private facilities in operation on June 30, 2000. The census, for the first time, included information on testing and treatment for hepatitis C, as well as vaccination policies and administration for hepatitis B.

Highlights

Nearly all State inmates held in facilities that test for hepatitis C

Testing policy	Percent of —	
	Facilities	Inmates
Any	79%	94%
Broad coverage	9%	6%
Targeted group only	69%	88%
High risk	32	48
Upon inmate request	39	56
Clinical indication	65	87

- At midyear 2000, 1,113,035 inmates (94% of all inmates) were held in facilities that reported having a testing policy for hepatitis C.

- Forty-nine States and the District of Columbia reported having at least one facility that tested inmates for hepatitis C. Ten States reported that all of their facilities tested inmates.

Nearly a third of hepatitis C tests confirmed positive

Testing policy	Hepatitis C tests	
	Number	Percent positive
Any	57,018	31%
Broad coverage	9,165	27
Targeted group only	46,479	33
Other	1,374	4

- 33% of tests in facilities that tested only targeted groups were positive compared to 27% of those in facilities that conducted broad tests (random basis or all inmates).

- Of the 1,033 facilities that provide hepatitis B vaccinations, 680 (66%) had a policy to vaccinate inmates in high-risk groups. Thirty-six States and the District of Columbia completed at least one 3-dose series hepatitis B vaccination.

Overview of hepatitis B and hepatitis C

Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are viral diseases that attack the liver. The hepatitis B virus (HBV) and the hepatitis C virus (HCV) can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, cancer, liver failure, and death. Both viruses are spread through infected blood, most commonly in shared needles to inject illegal drugs, and through sexual contact.

Hepatitis B typically causes a limited infection that the body can fight off within a few months. Persons who resist the infection develop an immunity to the virus; those who do not become carriers of the virus. About 5-10% of those infected with

HBV develop chronic hepatitis B. Hepatitis B can be treated with immunization if diagnosed within 2 weeks of exposure.

About 80% of persons infected with HCV develop a chronic infection. However, the majority of those with chronic infection will not have severe liver damage. Chronic HCV can be treated with antiviral medications, with success rates of 30-40%. These medications may cause harsh side effects.

Sources: *The Merck Manual of Medical Information*, Merck Research Laboratories, NJ, 2003, and Centers for Disease Control, MMWR, January 24, 2003.

Table 1. Testing for hepatitis C in State prisons, July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000

Testing	Facilities		Inmates	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,584	100%	1,194,279	100%
Tests conducted	1,209	79.0%	1,113,035	94.3%
Broad coverage	132	8.6%	71,208	6.0%
All at some time	73	4.8	29,951	2.5
At admission	61	4.0	38,540	3.3
Random sample	27	1.8	29,117	2.5
Targeted group only	1,064	69.5%	1,033,862	87.6%
High risk	492	32.1	566,369	48.0
Upon inmate request	604	39.5	666,004	56.4
Clinical indication	1,000	65.3	1,023,368	86.7
Other	13	0.8%	7,965	0.7%
Do not conduct tests	322	21.0%	66,822	5.7%
Not reported	53		14,422	

Note. Detail may sum to more than total because facilities may report more than one policy.

Table 2. Hepatitis C testing results in State prisons, by type of policy, July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000

Testing policy	Hepatitis C tests		Percent of those tested confirmed positive
	Number	Positive results	
Any	57,018	17,911	31.4%
Broad coverage	9,165	2,477	27.0
Targeted only	46,479	15,385	33.1
Other	1,374	49	3.6

Table 3. States testing 500 or more inmates for hepatitis C, July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000

State	Inmates in facilities reporting —			Percent positive of —	
	Data on results of tests	Number of tests	Positive test result	Inmates tested	All inmates
California	132,447	15,549	7,178	46.2%	5.4%
New York	51,078	5,278	367	7.0	0.7
Georgia	41,989	5,206	1,314	25.2	3.1
Virginia	27,202	2,046	782	38.2	2.9
Arizona	29,240	2,898	405	14.0	1.4
Idaho	2,820	2,565	68	2.7%	2.4%
Massachusetts	9,804	2,393	941	39.3	9.6
North Carolina	24,310	1,713	368	21.5	1.5
Illinois	42,614	1,753	190	10.8	0.4
Indiana	18,195	1,416	302	21.3	1.7
Oklahoma	19,217	1,271	276	21.7%	1.4%
New Mexico	3,107	1,213	498	41.1	16.0
Louisiana	8,874	897	347	38.7	3.9
Ohio	33,777	1,082	366	33.8	1.1
Missouri	27,963	1,112	354	31.8	1.3
Connecticut	11,795	1,029	725	70.5%	6.1%
Washington	14,682	971	409	42.1	2.8
New Jersey	19,876	699	324	46.4	1.6
Texas	19,304	858	324	37.8	1.7
Maryland	18,938	839	264	31.5	1.4
Wisconsin	10,141	732	417	57.0%	4.1%
Montana	2,080	682	199	29.2	9.6
Kentucky	12,378	611	178	29.1	1.4
All States	725,660	57,018	17,911	31.4%	2.5%

Nearly 8 in 10 State prison facilities reported testing inmates for hepatitis C

State prison facilities reported circumstances under which inmates were tested for hepatitis C, including testing all at some time, at admission, a random sample, high-risk inmates, upon inmate request, and upon clinical indication. Of the 1,584 State prison facilities reporting in the 2000 Census of Adult State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1,209 reported testing inmates for hepatitis C; 322 facilities reported no testing of inmates (table 1).

As of June 30, 2000, 94% of State inmates were held in facilities that tested inmates for hepatitis C: 88% in facilities that tested a targeted group (high risk, inmate request, or clinical indication) and 6% in facilities that tested a broad group (all at some time, at admission, or at random).

About 70% of facilities tested a targeted group, while 9% tested more broadly. The largest number of facilities tested inmates based on clinical indication of need (1,000), followed by inmate request (604), and high-risk indicators (492). The fewest facilities reported testing inmates at random (27) or at admission (61).

Only South Carolina reported having no facility that tested for hepatitis C. Excluding South Carolina, at least one reception, diagnostic, or medical facility in each State reported testing inmates.

Nearly a third of hepatitis C tests confirmed positive

Between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000, 57,018 hepatitis C tests were completed in State prisons (table 2). About 31% (17,911) of these tests were confirmed positive.

Among facilities that tested a targeted group only, a third of all hepatitis C tests were confirmed positive. Among facilities that tested more broadly, slightly more than a quarter of all tests were confirmed positive.

Hepatitis C tests concentrated in 23 States

Twenty-three States each reported testing more than 500 inmates between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000 (table 3). Of the 57,018 hepatitis C tests performed in State prisons, 52,813 (93%) were completed in those 23 States. California alone accounted for more than a quarter (27%) of all tests. Nearly all of the confirmed positive test results (93%) were in these 23 States.

In the 12-month period ending June 30, 2000, more than 2% of all inmates in State prisons tested positive for hepatitis C. Among States administering 500 or more hepatitis C tests, 5 reported that more than 5% of their inmates were confirmed positive: New Mexico (16.0%), Montana (9.6%), Massachusetts (9.6%), Connecticut (6.1%), and California (5.4%).

More than 6,000 inmates in State prisons treated for hepatitis C in the 12-month period before the census

Of the 1,584 State operated adult correctional facilities, 1,104 (70%) reported that they had a policy to treat inmates for hepatitis C. Facilities most commonly reported a policy to treat HCV-positive inmates for whom treatment was recommended.

Hepatitis C treatment policy	Number of facilities
Total	1,584
Any treatment policy*	1,104
All inmates confirmed HCV positive	155
HCV-positive inmates at greatest risk	489
HCV-positive inmates for whom treatment was recommended	631
Other inmates	345
No treatment policy	427
Not reported	53

*Detail may sum to more than total because facilities may report more than one policy.

Between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000, 19 facilities treated nearly three-quarters of all inmates receiving treatment for hepatitis C (table 4). These facilities in 9 States and the District of Columbia each reported treating at least 50 inmates for hepatitis C. Together these facilities treated 4,382 inmates.

Macon Correctional Institution in Georgia treated 1,300 inmates for hepatitis C, 22% of all inmates treated nationwide. Eight facilities in California treated 2,344 inmates; more than a third of all inmates treated.

Two-thirds of facilities had a policy to vaccinate inmates for hepatitis B

On June 30, 2000, 1,033 State prison facilities reported having a policy to vaccinate inmates for hepatitis B (table 5). These facilities held 84% of all inmates in State prisons. About 1 in 8 facilities reported having a policy to vaccinate all inmates. State prison facilities were most likely to report a policy to vaccinate high-risk inmates (680) and were least likely to report a policy to vaccinate inmates with sexually transmitted diseases (17). About a third of all facilities reported having no hepatitis B vaccination.

In the 12 months before the census, 13,655 inmates completed a 3-dose series vaccination for hepatitis B

More than a third of State facilities (401) that reported having a hepatitis B vaccination policy, completed at least one hepatitis B 3-dose series vaccination (table 6). A total of 13,655 inmates were reported to have completed a 3-dose series vaccination for hepatitis B in the 12-month period ending June 30, 2000.

Of the facilities that reported actually completing at least one 3-dose series vaccination, 328 had a policy to vaccinate high-risk groups, 76 had a policy to vaccinate upon inmate request, and 37 had a policy to vaccinate all inmates.

Table 4. Facilities treating 50 or more inmates for hepatitis C, July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000

Facility	State	Number of inmates	
		In facility	Treated for hepatitis C
Total in all facilities		809,371	6,046
Macon Correctional Institution	GA	1,362	1,300
California State Prison, Sacramento	CA	2,975	858
Centinela State Prison	CA	4,569	345
Central Facility	DC	1,981	320
California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison	CA	6,284	184
R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility-Rock Mountain	CA	4,625	180
Mule Creek State Prison	CA	3,566	176
Auburn Correctional Facility	NY	1,694	147
Fishkill Correctional Facility	NY	2,237	145
Pelican Bay State Prison	CA	3,299	136
Augusta Medical Correctional Institution	GA	1,136	100
Correctional Training Facility	CA	7,223	85
State Correctional Institution -Graterford	PA	3,186	74
Western Correctional Institution	MD	1,698	60
Pleasant Valley State Prison	CA	4,656	60
Corrections Medical Center	OH	148	58
Crossroads Correctional Center	MO	1,476	54
Mack Alford Correctional Center	OK	817	50
Mecklenburg Correctional Center	VA	712	50

Table 5. Hepatitis B vaccination policies in State prisons, June 30, 2000

Vaccination policy	Facilities		Inmates	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,584	100%	1,194,279	100%
Any criterion	1,033	67.4%	988,809	83.9
All inmates	190	12.4	203,321	17.2
Inmates with sexually transmitted disease	17	1.1	15,245	1.3
Inmates under age 18, VFC	57	3.7	59,555	5.1
Inmate request	190	12.4	166,551	14.1
High risk	680	44.4	665,679	56.5
Other	117	7.6	95,221	8.1
No vaccination policy	499	32.6%	190,012	16.1%
Not reported	52		15,458	

Note. Detail may sum to more than total because facilities may report more than one policy.

Table 6. Vaccinations administered for hepatitis B, July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000

Vaccination policy	Number of —		Completed 3-dose series vaccinations
	Facilities	Inmates	
Any criterion	401	427,324	13,655
All inmates	37	29,465	6,115
Inmates with sexually transmitted disease	7	7,262	319
Inmates under age 18, VFC	28	23,799	523
Inmate request	76	88,765	2,894
High risk	328	369,592	6,905
Other	36	36,765	1,810

Note. Detail may sum to more than total because facilities may report more than one policy.

Methodology

The 2000 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities was the sixth enumeration of State institutions conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Earlier censuses were completed in 1974, 1979, 1984, 1990, and 1995.

The facility universe was developed from the 1995 census. Each department of corrections was contacted to identify new facilities and facilities that

had been closed since June 30, 1995. Data were collected from all facilities, resulting in a final response rate of 100%.

Facilities were included in the census if they had separate staffs; housed primarily State or Federal prisoners; were physically, functionally, and administratively separate; and operational on June 30, 2000. Overall, the census identified 84 Federal facilities, 1,295 State facilities, 22 facilities under State and local authority, 3 facilities

operated by the District of Columbia, and 264 privately operated facilities.

All Federal facilities and 26 privately operated facilities that held at least 50% of their inmates for Federal authorities were excluded from this report. Data on testing and treatment for hepatitis C and vaccination policies and administration for hepatitis B were not reported for these facilities.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is the director.

Allen J. Beck and Laura M. Maruschak wrote this report. Jennifer C. Karberg provided statistical assistance and verification. Tom Hester edited the report. Jayne Robinson administered final production.

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This report in portable document format and in ASCII, its tables, and related statistical data are available at the BJS World Wide Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>