

## DISEASE PREVALENCE (1)

### Cardiovascular Disease

- Common cause of death for incarcerated individuals
  - Stress, depression
  - Psychotropic drug usage
  - Prison lifestyle/environment
- Monitor substance abuse
- Address mental health concerns
- Chronic disease management

### Liver Disease

- Hepatitis B and C are more common
- Explain risk factors and prevention strategies
  - Harm prevention and clean needles
  - Safe sex practices



## DISEASE PREVALENCE (2)

### Depression

- Suicide is the most common cause of death for jailed individuals
- PTSD prevalence is higher than the general population
- Research shows non-pharmacologic treatment of depression in this population should include exercise

### Sexually Transmitted Infections

- STI prevalence is higher than the general population
- Harm reduction strategies:
  - Education appropriate to reading level
  - Routine screening is recommended
    - Urine is recommended for men, vaginal swab for women (gonorrhea and chlamydia recommended screening by CDC)
  - Continuity of care with HIV/hepatitis

### Respiratory Infections

- High risk for transmission
- Vaccination education appropriate to reading level
- CDC has “Corrections Toolkits” for many communicable diseases that can serve as educational tools

## IMPROVING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION



### Contents:

Disease Prevalence  
Mental Health Implications  
Improving Perceptions  
Nursing Interventions

## MENTAL HEALTH

### Mental health and Incarceration

- Risk for suicide is higher than general population
- Evaluate what mental concerns could be contributing to physical concerns

### Effects of hospital policy on mental health

- Privacy is often impacted by the presence of a CO
- Sit at eye-level with the patient, centered to their view
- Escalate issues if you feel the patient's privacy is being affected



## IMPROVING PERCEPTIONS

### Examining internal bias

Many healthcare professionals have felt a struggle between feeling safe and secure and providing high-quality healthcare. It is important both to stay safe and examine internal bias.

- Before care, think about how your past experiences and upbringing could impact patient care
- Respect patient privacy and do not research any crime records

### Trauma-informed care

- Offer choices to empower the patient
- Remind yourself that trauma can impact every part of a person's life



## NURSING INTERVENTIONS



### Improving health education

- Prioritize thorough discharge instructions and explanations
- Encourage preventative healthcare (oral hygiene, exercise, abstaining from drugs)
- Use pictures and diagrams, when possible

### Building rapport

- Always explain role and goal of conversation
- "It sounds like you're feeling..."