

Optimizing Health Outcomes for People with Criminal Justice Involvement



Who Am I?

Scholar, Educator, Epidemiologist, Mother, Patient

Black woman, both an immigrant and citizen by birth.

Director, Policy Core, UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS)



 @Harawa_PhD



Mass incarceration: 200,000 to 2.2 million

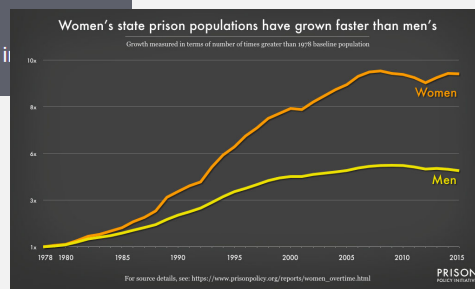
PUBLICATIONS

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People Serving Life Exceeds Entire Prison Population of 1970

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

In this report, we present a closer look at the rise in life sentences amidst the overall expansion.



Overview

- The UCLA Department of Medicine currently spearheads two research studies to **test the effectiveness of community-based interventions in improving health outcomes** among populations at-risk or currently living with HIV. A third observational study called **BARS**, involves one-time qualitative interviews.
- This consortium of studies includes:
 - **LINK2**
 - **MEPS**
 - **BARS**
- Both LINK2 and MEPS studies include **navigation principles and cash incentives to facilitate access to services upon release from jail or prison** in order to support, linkage, retention, stability, and harm reduction. LINK2 also works with people who have other risk factors for poor engagement in care.
- The findings from these studies seek to **build on current best practices using a collaborative approach** between the study team and direct service providers.



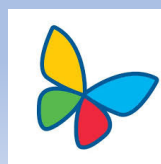
LINK2



PI: Harawa (UCLA), Belzer (CHLA)
 Collaboration between UCLA, CHLA, U Chicago and LAC DHS (Wolchok)
 NIH-funded
 08/08/2017 - 03/31/2023

GOALS:

- To adapt the LINK LA peer navigation intervention for adults **to create a *Youth Service Navigation (YSN) intervention to guide youth to needed services along the continuum of HIV care.*** This intervention combines medical, substance use and mental health care with comprehensive reentry support.
- To **test the effectiveness** of the new YSN intervention compared to standard of care services.



LINK2



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (Community Recruits):

- Diagnosed HIV+
- Ages 16-25
- Not assigned female at birth
- English language fluency
- Has experienced *any* of the following:
 - criminal-justice involvement in prior 12 months,
 - parents ever incarcerated,
 - involvement in child protective services ever,
 - current housing instability,
 - current food insecurity, OR
 - recent use of illegal substances.
- Resident of Southern California or State of Illinois



Enrollment goal: 142

Length of follow-up: 12 months

Compensation: Up to \$260

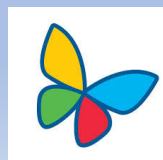
Contact: dahernandez@mednet.ucla.edu; 213-587-1525

LINK2



WHY DOES THIS STUDY MATTER?

- HIV prevalence among incarcerated youth living with HIV (YLWH) is **three times** that of the general population
- Less than half of **YWH** achieve **HIV viral load suppression** due to poor retention and adherence to anti-retroviral therapy (ART).
- Existing linkage and retention services are **insufficient to meet the needs** of criminal justice-involved (CJI) YLWH and those with other risk factors that may increase their risk of poor engagement in care.



MEPS



PI: Harawa (UCLA)

Collaboration between UCLA, L.A. CADA, CDU, Friends Research Institute

CHIRP funded

1/21/2019 - 4/30/2023

GOALS: To test the effectiveness of the *Mobile Enhanced Prevention Support (MEPS)* intervention:

1. To improve engagement in PrEP
2. To encourage regular screening for HIV, STIs, and hepatitis C
3. To encourage linkage to and retention in treatment for substance use disorders
4. To reduce recidivism



MEPS

MEPS





ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- HIV negative/unknown status
- 18-49 of age
- Transgender woman or cis-gender man
- Has sex with men
- Housed in LA County MCJ K6G unit OR living in the community less than 12 months post-release from incarceration
- Has sought help for substance use disorder
- Resident of LA County

Enrollment goal: 300

Length of follow-up: 9 months

Compensation: \$260 and up





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MEPS

MEPS

WHY DOES THIS STUDY MATTER?

- Many people are contracting HIV even though we have the tools to prevent it.
- Minoritized populations (race, sexuality, gender), people with substance use disorders, and people who have been incarcerated are at greater risk for HIV and other STIs.
- Reentry is a particularly risky time for substance use-related harms.
- Prevention case management and patient navigation are often not available for people at risk for HIV.

The BARS Study: Building Agent Based Models of
Racialized Justice System Study in Black MSM



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BARS Study (NIDA funded)

- **FOCUS: OPIOID USE AMONGST RECENTLY INCARCERATED BLACK MSM**
- The **primary goal** of this qualitative interview protocol is to examine institutional and social network contributors to opioid use (including prescription opioids, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl), opioid use disorder, and opioid-related harms among younger Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) who have been involved with the criminal justice/corrections system.
- Our approach is informed by the **risk environment framework** and a **life course perspective**. The risk environment framework recommends targeting an environment which creates risk for drug misuse and abuse, and then working with a community as a whole rather than with individuals.



SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR

DRUG USE RESEARCH STUDY

Are you

- kicking it with men?
- 18-34 years old?
- okay with sharing your story?

If YES, you might qualify for our one-time paid interview study! If you are eligible and complete the study, you will be reimbursed \$50 cash for your time.

**Call/text the BARS study team: 657-234-5768
or email barsoutreach@gmail.com**

UCLA/Charles Drew University
Investigator: Nina Harawa, PhD

Project Initiatives

- Book drive for Men's Central Jail
- Health talks at residential recovery facilities, led by UCLA MD/PhD student
- Activism – L.A. Regional Reentry Program
- Development of community staff members

