
Mass Incarceration and Health

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Center for Patient and
Provider Experience



Hennepin**Healthcare**
Research Institute

Disclosures

I have no disclosures to declare.

Goals

- **Provide an overview of the history of mass incarceration in the U.S.**
- **To help you better understand incarceration as a social determinant of health**
- **Discuss the health needs of individuals who are incarcerated**
- **To provide examples of approaches to care for patients with a history of incarceration**

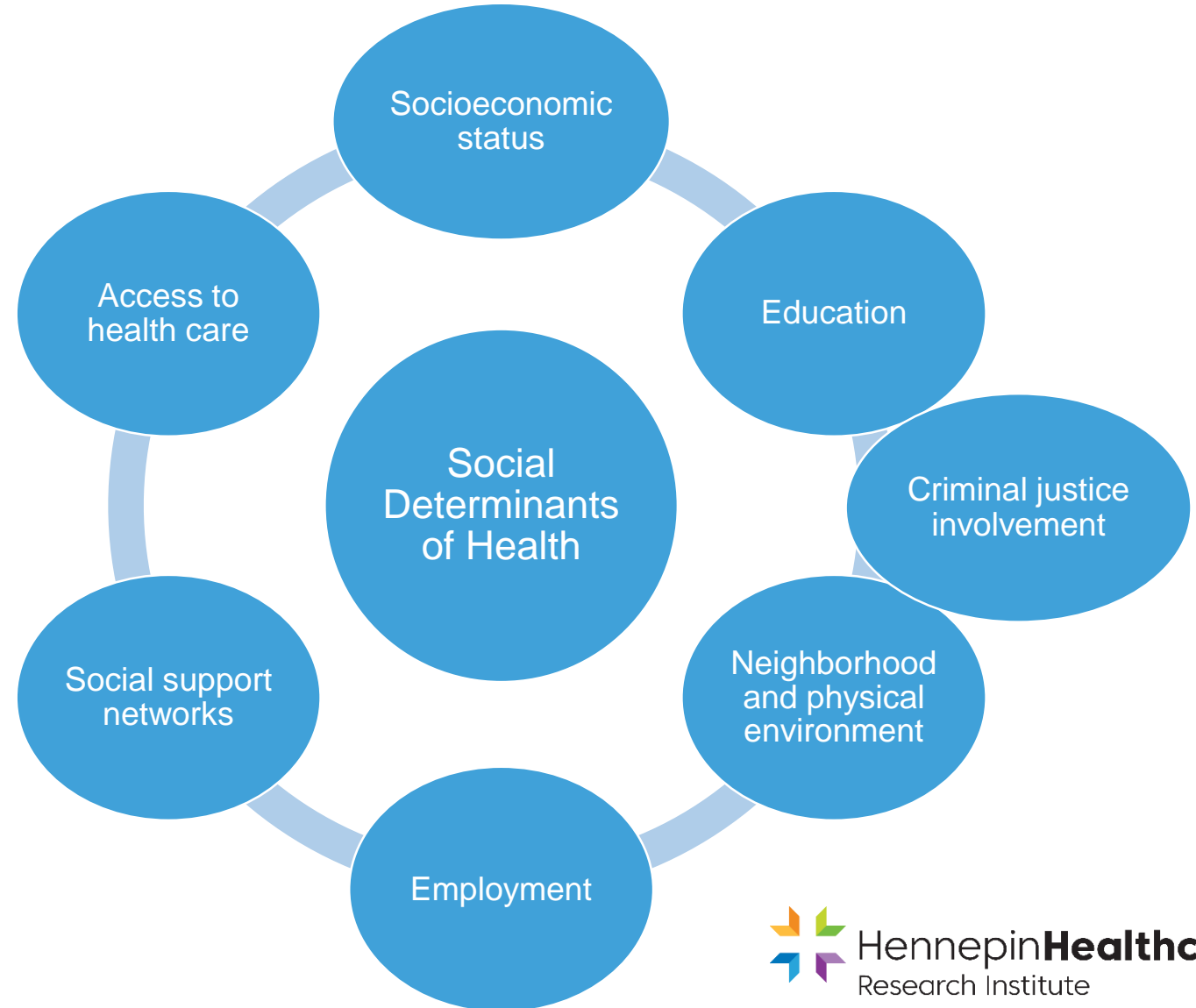
Person-first language

- **Highly stigmatized population**
- **Terms such as inmate, prisoner, criminal, convict, offender, and ex-con contribute to this stigma**
- **This presentation will use humanizing, person-first language:**
 - Individuals who are incarcerated
 - People on probation or parole
 - Patients with a history of incarceration

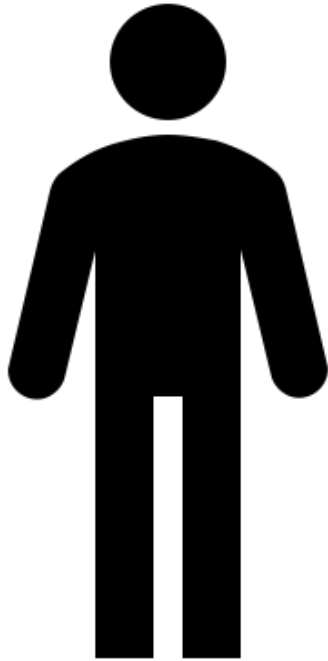
Incarceration as a Social Determinant of Health

“...the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.”

–World Health Organization



Case study—Mr. C



- Recently released from prison
- 42 years old
- Suffered a heart attack while incarcerated
- Kidney problems
- Does not have a copy of his medical records or his medications
- Homeless

Definitions

What does it mean to be “criminal-justice involved”?

Types of criminal-justice involvement

Types of incarceration

- Jail (short-term)
- Prison (long-term)

Types of community supervision

- Probation
- Parole

County oversight: Jails & Community Supervision

Hennepin County Jails

Adult Detention Center

Adult Corrections Facility

County oversight: Jails & Community Supervision

Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation

Probation	Parole	
Supervised Probation	Supervised Release	Intensive Supervised Release

State oversight: Prisons

Minnesota Department of Corrections

Faribault	Lino Lakes
Oak Park Heights	Red Wing
Rush City	Stillwater
St. Cloud	Willow River/Moose Lake
Togo	Shakopee (women's facility)

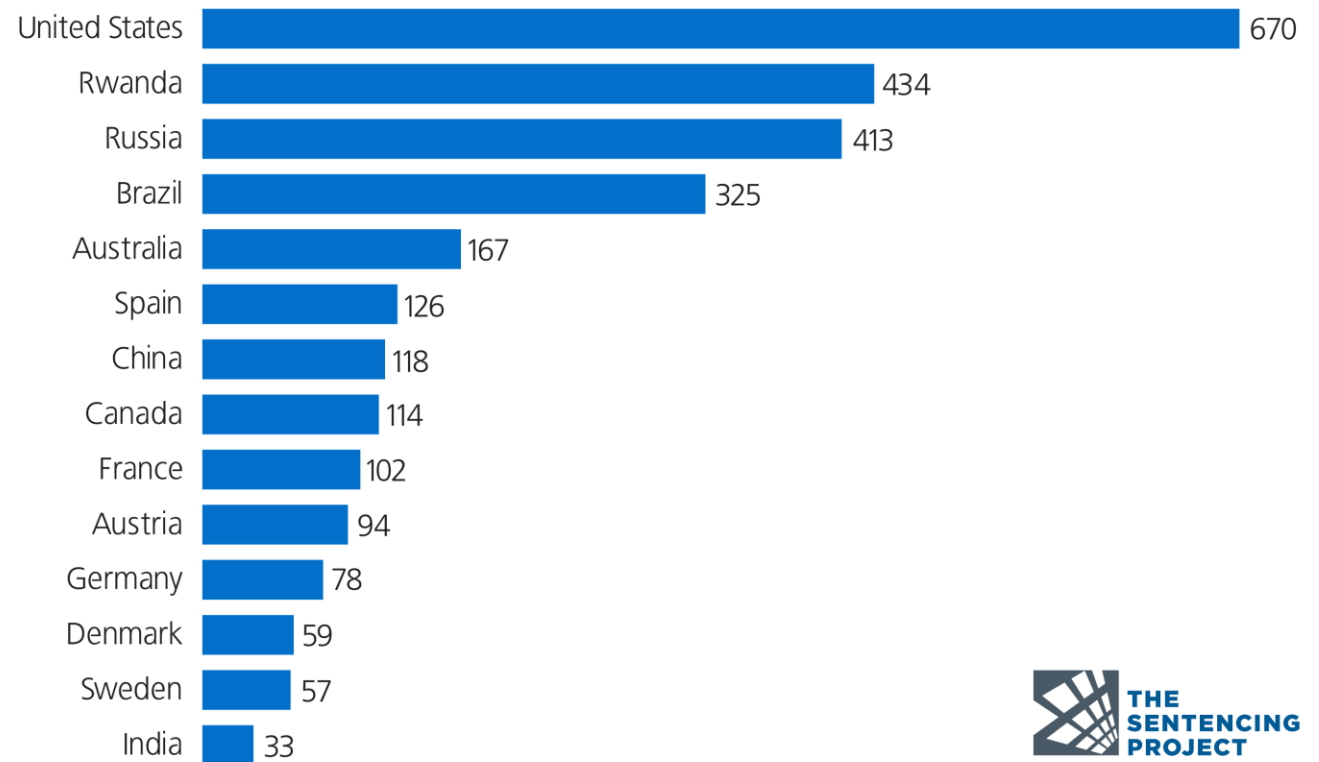
Incarceration in the U.S.

Statistics

How does the U.S. compare globally?

The U.S. incarcerates more people than any other country in the world.

International Rates of Incarceration per 100,000



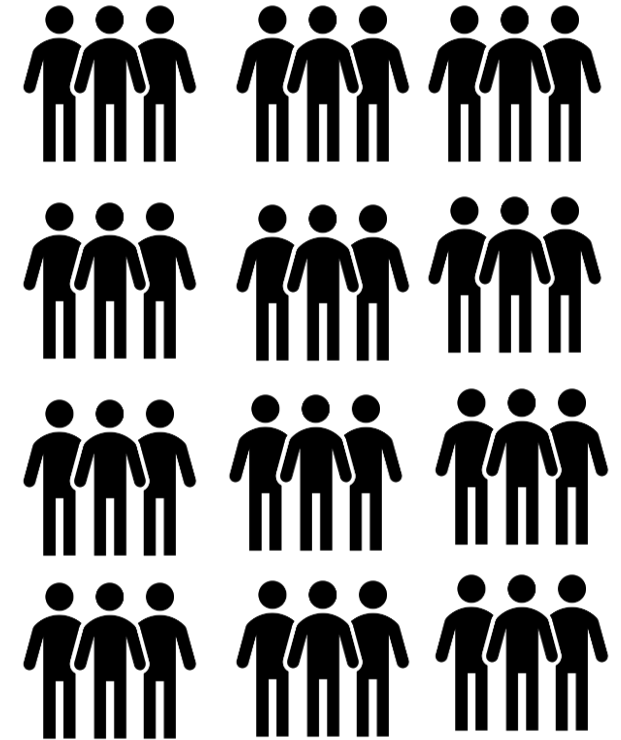
How many people are involved?

Nationally

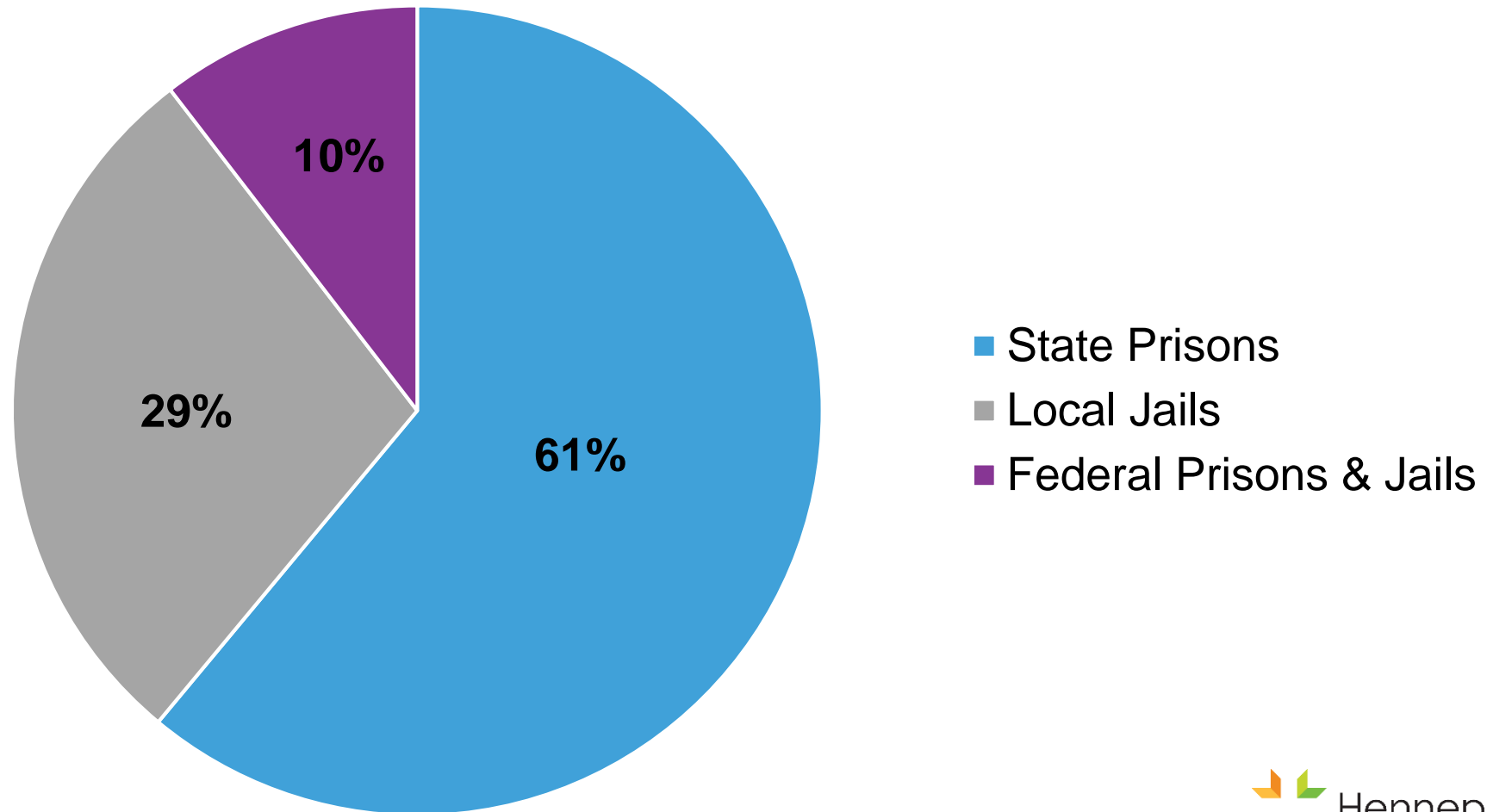
- 2.2 million people are incarcerated in our nation's prisons and jails
- 4.54 million people are on either probation or parole

Minnesota

- 16,300 people incarcerated in prison or jail
- 103,900 people on either probation or parole



Where are people held?

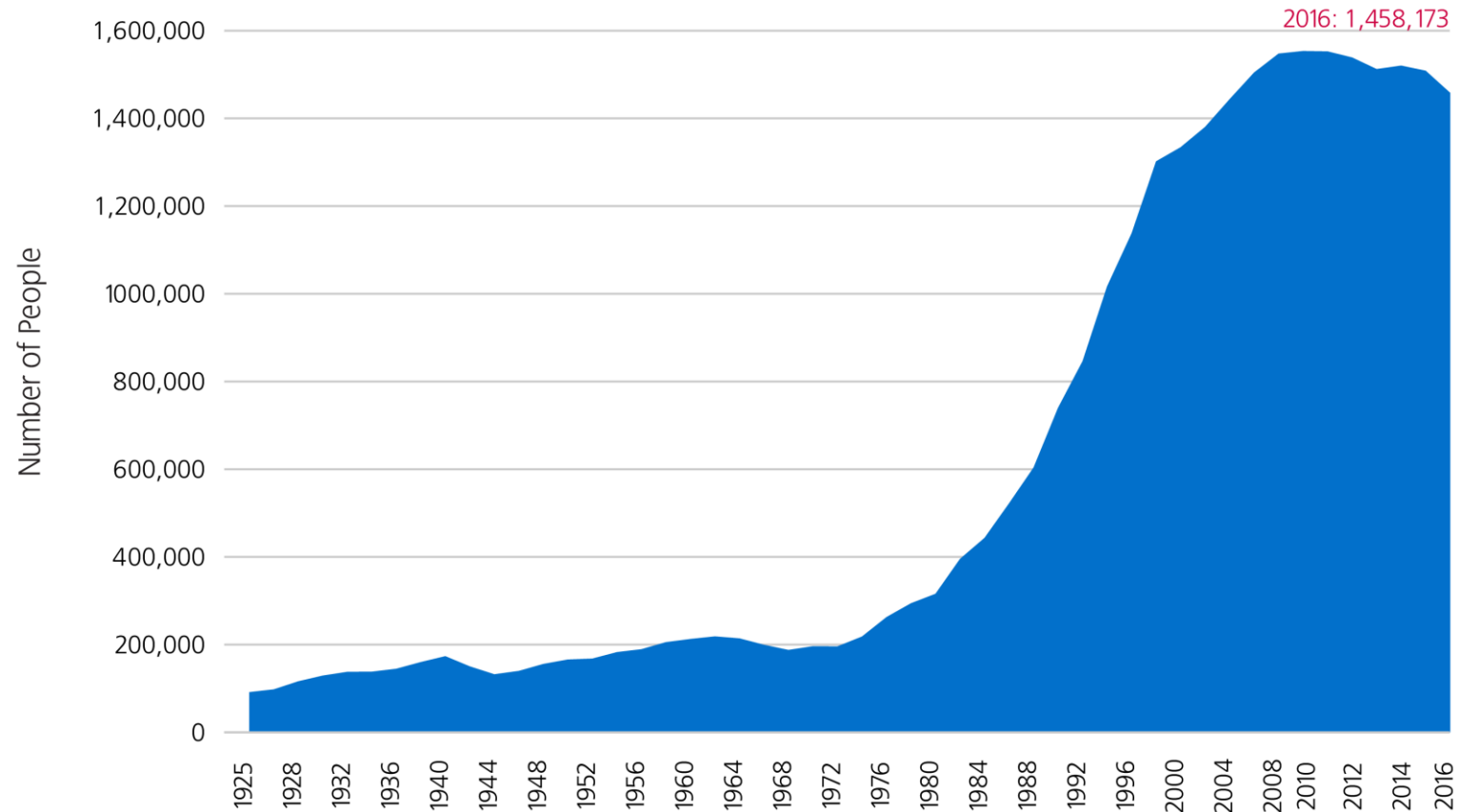


How has incarceration changed over time?



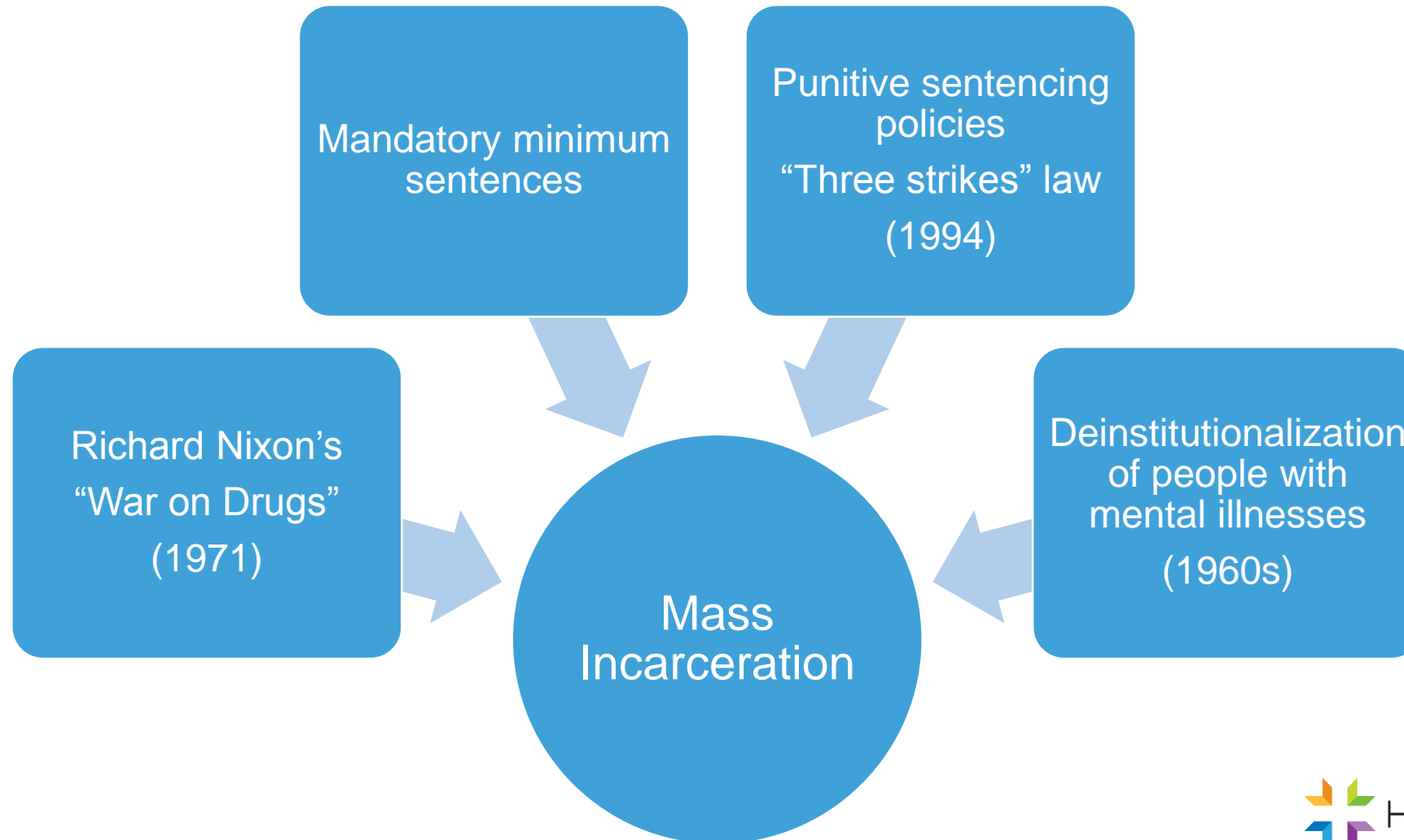
THE SENTENCING PROJECT

U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2016



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How has incarceration changed over time?

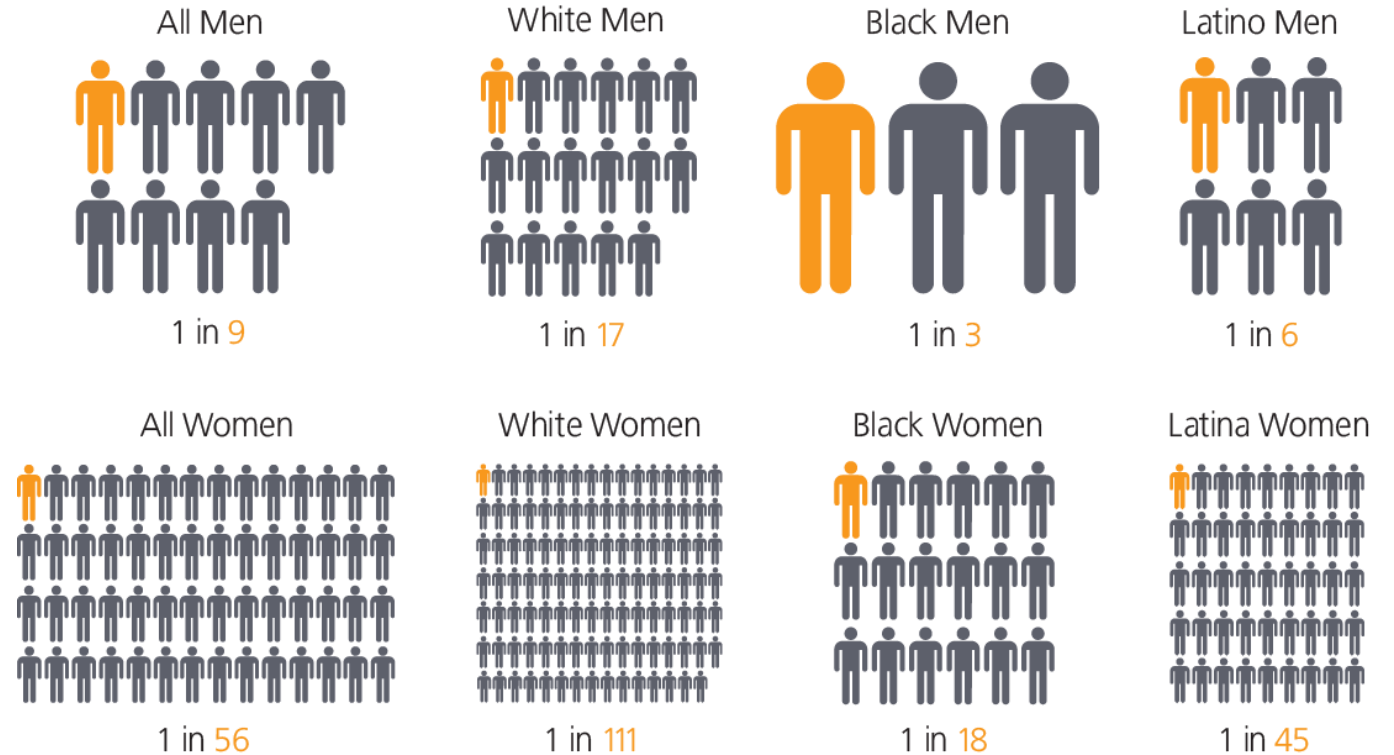


Who is impacted?

Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment of U.S. Residents Born in 2001

Not all communities have been impacted equally.

Black and Latino men make up a disproportionate amount of our incarcerated population.

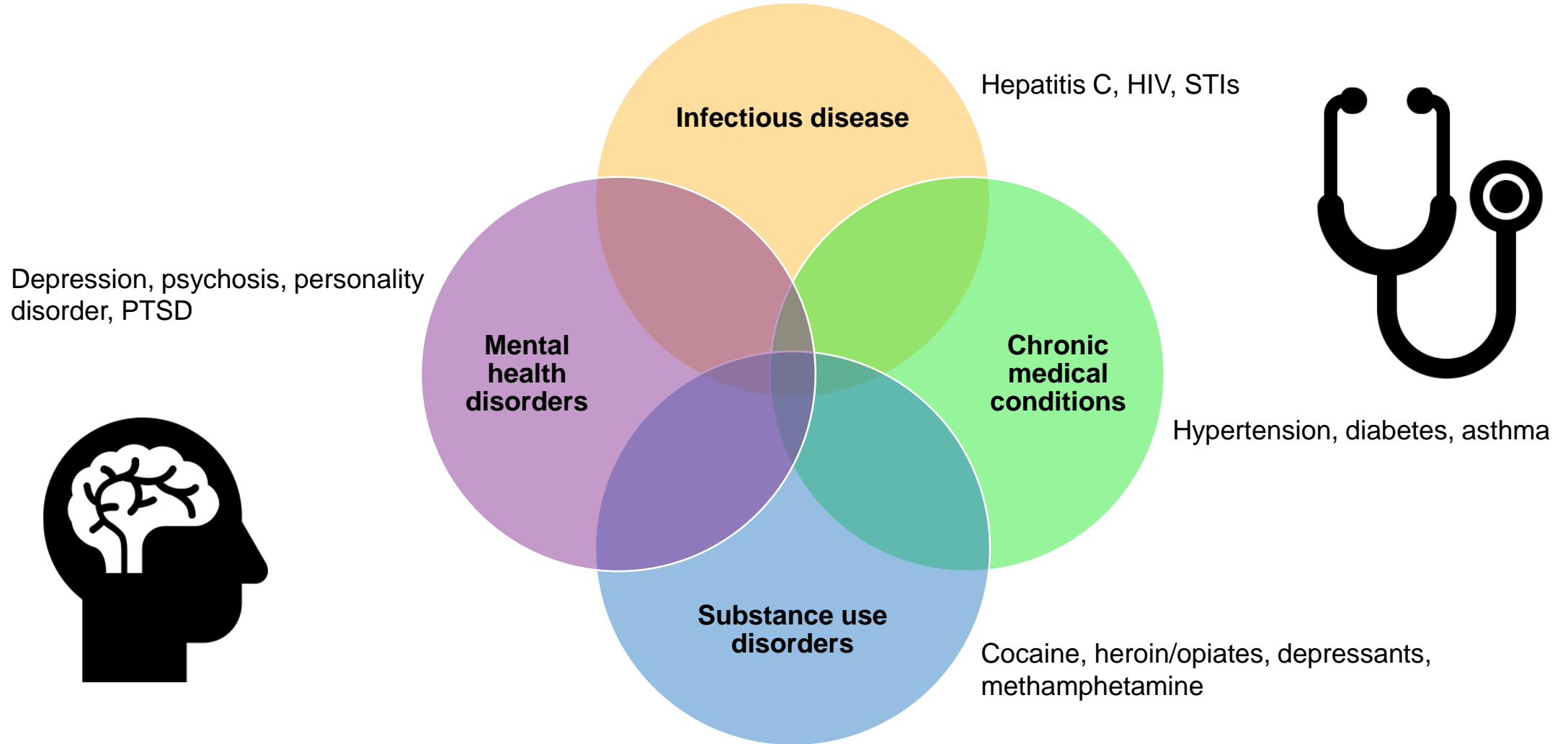


Source: Bonczar, T. (2003). *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

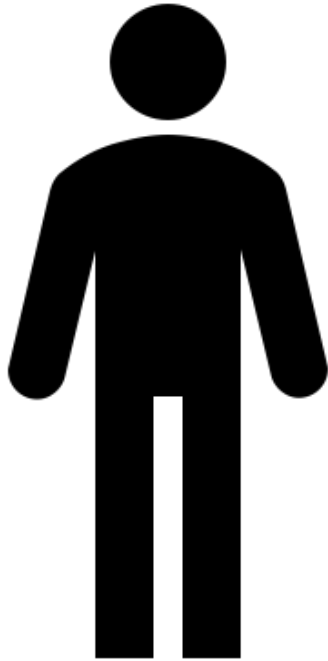
Who is impacted?

- Age: 20s to early 30s
- High school or lower education level
- Low economic opportunity
- Many are parents of minor children
 - Effects of incarceration are intergenerational
 - History of parental incarceration is associated with forgone health care use, risky sexual behaviors, and drug use in young adulthood

What are their health needs?



Case study—Mr. C



- Fearful of being reincarcerated
- Feels weak
- Has not followed through with cardiac rehabilitation
- Doesn't have transportation
- Remaining unemployed will violate his parole
- Cravings for heroin

Access to care—Locally

- **Varies widely based on the facility**

Hennepin County

Adult Detention Center



Hennepin**Healthcare**

Adult Corrections Facility

Corizon Health



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Access to care—United States

- **Chronic medical conditions**

- 1 in 7 taking routine medication prior to incarceration
- 21-37% stopped receiving medication during incarceration

- **Substance use disorders**

- Over 50% have a substance use disorder
- 22-28% participated in a drug treatment program during incarceration

- **Mental health disorders**

- 15-26% with at least 1 diagnosed condition
- 26-37% were taking psychiatric medication at time of arrest
- 46-69% received psychiatric medication during incarceration

Transitioning to the community

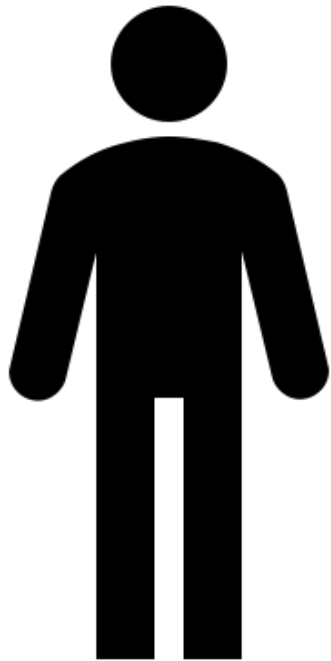
95% of people who are incarcerated return home

Transitioning to the community

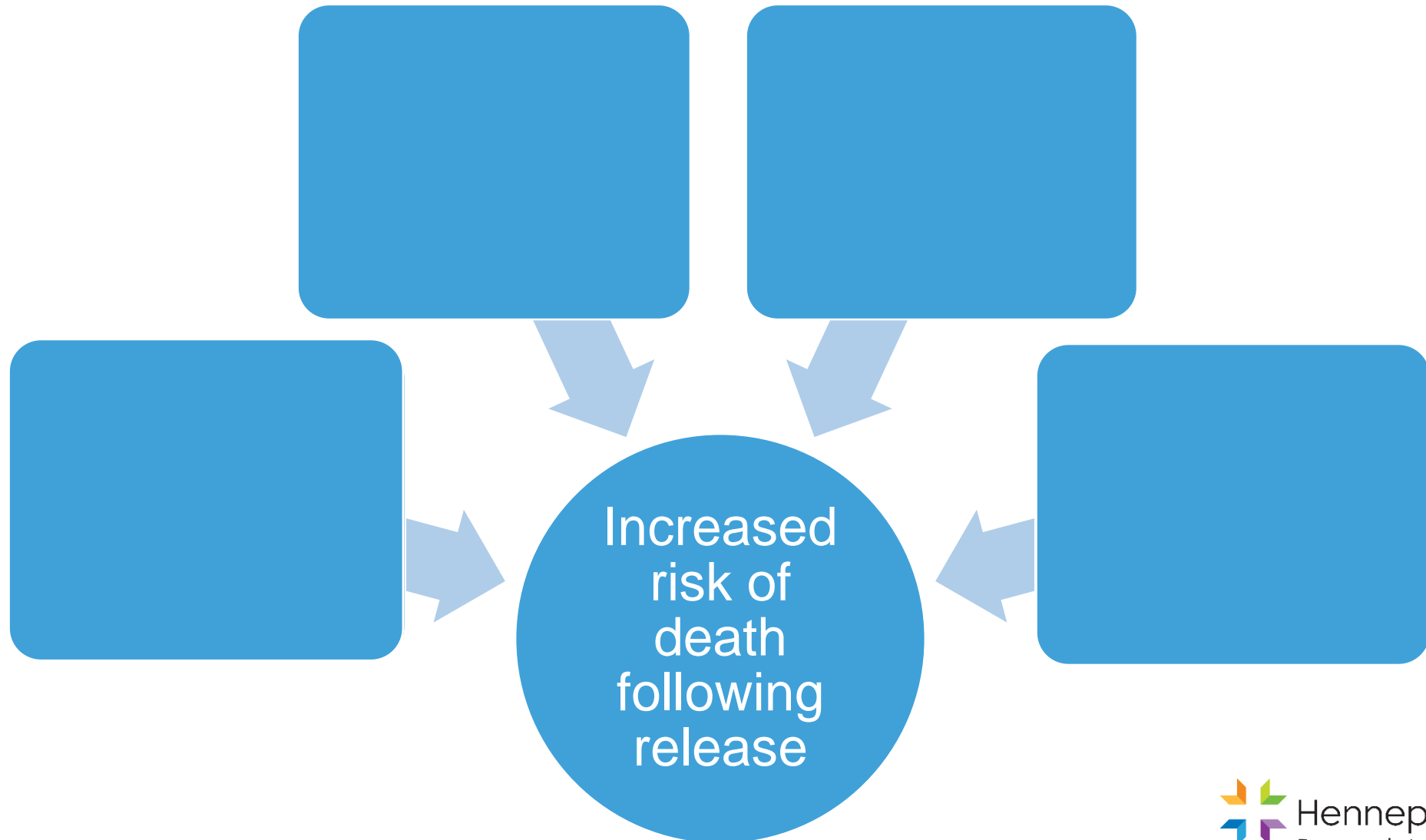
- **Difficult to maintain continuity of care**
 - Patients may not receive an adequate amount of needed medications upon release
 - Hard for community providers to get medical records from prison or jail facility
 - Competing demands can make healthcare a low priority



Mr. C—Transitioning to the community



Transitioning to the community



Transitions Clinic Network

- **A community-based model of care for individuals recently released from incarceration**
- **Patients receive:**
 1. Care from a physician with experience working with formerly incarcerated individuals
 2. Referrals to community organizations that serve these individuals
 3. Case management from a community health worker (CHW) with a history of previous incarceration

Transitions Clinic Network

- **Community Health Workers (CHWs) provide:**
 - Health and social service navigation
 - Mentorship to reclaim the autonomy lost in prison
 - A bridge between the clinical team and the patient
 - Advocacy on behalf of their communities to key stakeholders and policymakers



**How to address this issue with
your own patients?**

Screening

- **No one-size-fits-all approach**
- **Pros:**
 - Helps you to better understand your patient's life and medical history
 - May prompt screening for infectious diseases
- **Cons:**
 - Patients may not feel comfortable sharing this information
 - Patients may perceive that they are being racially profiled

Screening

- **Who should you ask?**
 - Add as a screener for all patients
- **What should you ask?**
 - Have you ever been to jail or prison?
 - When were you released?
 - From where were you released?
 - Are you on probation or parole?
 - What treatment was provided to you while you were incarcerated?
- **What should you not ask?**
 - Why were you incarcerated?

Want to learn more?

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- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America* by James Forman Jr.
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
- Transitions Clinic Network—<http://transitionsclinic.org/>
- The Sentencing Project—<https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

Contact Information

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Questions?

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