

Prisoner Health and Rights

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An explanation on how the workshop will be lead:

There will be a presentation over viewing the current health situation in US prisons/jails including the top ten illnesses prisoners face. The methods of obtaining treatment as well as its quality will be addressed. I will also discuss how the incarcerated have an increased risk of disease transmission. If possible, I will have a local prisoner advocate and possibly a former inmate come in to provide some first hand information. I will also discuss prisoners' rights regarding their health and participation in research as well as other programs. If still in effect, we will touch on South Carolina's new prisoner organ donation program that reduced sentences for inmates who donate organs. If additional pertinent legislation is brought forth, it will also be discussed. If it fits into the workshop, there could be a section on special prisons, such as Guantanamo Bay. I think that it might be interesting to have everyone take a quick quiz to see how much they know about prisoner health before the workshop and then go through the answers throughout the talk to see what misconceptions each person might have had. I would like it to be as interactive as possible, but I'm not exactly sure how that will manifest itself at this time.

A description of expertise/previous work in this area:

I worked on an IRB committee at UCSF that reviewed studies that recruited prisoners. There are extensive regulations regarding how prisoners can participate in research because they are an extremely vulnerable population. Through this experience, I got to know a prisoner advocate.

An outline of the goals for the workshop and specific tools the participants will gain:

I would like to bring awareness to the health of prisoners, which is often misunderstood or misrepresented. I would like participants to walk away with an understanding of the current health situation of the incarcerated and relevant regulations and legislation that affects inmates. Participants will become more aware of the complicated ethical concerns regarding this population.

A description on how this workshop will serve the overall goals of the summit:

Prisoners represent a branch of society that is extremely vulnerable and therefore, are an important facet of social justice. Because they have been convicted of crimes, they are looked down upon by society and are at great risk for receiving substandard health care. Prisoners lives are often viewed as less valuable than the non-incarcerated.



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