

The following 3 cases are intended for use with health professions learners, based on our experiences providing care to patients experiencing incarceration and re-entry. The cases would be best taught utilizing a flipped classroom approach or case approach during which learners are divided into groups and are given adequate time to research the answers to one of the case-related questions and then present back to the group, with faculty moderator facilitation. Suggested resources (there are often many more) are linked beneath each question (these can be edited/moved/updated and used for case background/prep. We often let our learners find their own resources, but are available to guide or teach back with our own data where needed). For more “local” data, learners should explore their city/county/state correctional agencies’ websites, which usually have a good amount of publicly-available statistics. Please feel free to edit/amend/change them in any way that better fits your needs.

### Case 1:

You are seeing a 28 YO F in your preceptor’s clinic who has been stable on buprenorphine for almost 4 years and is interested in tapering off the medication. She thinks it will help her regain custody of her 3 school-aged children who are currently in foster care. With further history-taking, you learn that she was incarcerated in state prison for 28 months for using and selling heroin. During this time, her grandmother was taking care of her 3 children whom the patient saw only twice because the prison was several hours away from where the family lived, and her grandmother didn’t have a car and had limited income for travel. About a year and a half into her incarceration, her grandmother became ill with cancer and was hospitalized, and the children were put into foster care because she could no longer take care of them. The state prison where your patient was incarcerated did offer medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, or MOUD, which she started while there. The prison case manager found her a community MOUD treatment program for her upon release, and while she has experienced homelessness and had a hard time finding a job due to her felony sentence, she has been successful in staying in treatment. She now has a catering job through an organization that works with former inmates, has an apartment, and thinks she may be able to successfully go to court to regain custody of her children. She is worried that being “on meds” will make her case more difficult, however.

1. About how many women are incarcerated in jails and prisons in the United States? In your local jail and/or state prison? How many of them have children under the age of 18?
  - a. <https://www.aclu.org/issues/prisoners-rights/women-prison>
  - b. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/incarcerated-women-and-girls/>
  - c. <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm/content/data/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=261>
2. What types of crimes do women in jails and prisons typically commit? Are these violent or non-violent crimes?
  - a. <https://www.aclu.org/issues/prisoners-rights/women-prison>
  - b. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/incarcerated-women-and-girls/>

3. Why do many women who experience incarceration lose custody of their children, even if family can take care of them?
  - a. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/12/03/how-incarcerated-parents-are-losing-their-children-forever>
  - b. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/reunification/incarcerated/>
  - c. <http://jlm.law.columbia.edu/files/2018/03/28.-LA-Ch.-18-FINAL.pdf>
4. Is it common to be able to get MOUD in jails and prisons? Does your county or state offer this?
  - a. [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field\\_document/20210625-mat-prison\\_1.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/20210625-mat-prison_1.pdf)
  - b. <https://www.sheriffs.org/publications/Jail-Based-MAT-PPG.pdf>
5. Do you think it's a good idea for this patient to try and taper off her buprenorphine? Is there evidence it will help her case?
  - a. <https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/files/toolkitpackage/topic-opioids/topic-opioids-slides-508.pdf>
6. Find 2 or 3 resources in your community for persons who have recently been in jail or prison. Could one of these help this patient?

## Case 2:

You are seeing a 55 YO male who is coming home from federal prison in another state after being incarcerated for 28 years for homicide. He tells you he contracted Hepatitis C a few years ago while there by self-tattooing, and he has been getting labs and ultrasounds to check his liver, which he says "isn't too messed up yet". He was not treated for it – "They said I didn't need it yet." He earned a college degree while there through a partnership with the state university. He has also been on medication for blood pressure and for depression for many years. His parents died while he was incarcerated, and he has one son whom he hasn't seen "since I was locked up – his mom wanted nothing to do with me after that." He is currently in a halfway house where he is getting case management services and some job training. He notes they also have set him up with a cellphone which he is trying to get used to.

1. What type of care do inmates receive through the Federal Bureau of Prisons? Do they get health screenings? What if they develop a severe disease like cancer?
  - a. [https://www.bop.gov/inmates/custody\\_and\\_care/medical\\_care.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/inmates/custody_and_care/medical_care.jsp)
  - b. <https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/phc.pdf>
  - c. [https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/care\\_level\\_classification\\_guide.pdf](https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/care_level_classification_guide.pdf)
2. Why do you think he did not get treatment for Hepatitis C while incarcerated? How common is Hepatitis C in jails and prisons?
  - a. [https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/hcv\\_guidance.20210513.pdf](https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/hcv_guidance.20210513.pdf)
  - b. <https://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/pdf/key-populations-situations/treatment-corrections/core-concept/all#:~:text=Since%20the%20median%20length%20of,persons%20in%20the%20jail%20system.>
3. What other infectious diseases is this patient at higher risk of due to his history of incarceration? What tests will you offer him today?
  - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/correctionalhealth/health-data.html>
  - b. <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/incarceration.html>

- c. <https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2021/september/incarceration-covid-19-spread-public-safety/>
4. How common are mental health problems in jails and prisons in the United States? Do prisons/jails have mental health services? What does your county jail or state prison offer?
  - a. [https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/mental\\_health/](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/mental_health/)
  - b. <https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Policy-Priorities/Improving-Health/Mental-Health-Treatment-While-Incarcerated>
5. How common is suicide in jails and prisons? If higher or lower than what you would expect, why do you think this is?
  - a. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/suicide-local-jails-and-state-and-federal-prisons-2000-2019-statistical-tables>
  - b. <https://nicic.gov/projects/suicide-in-corrections>
6. Is it a law that carceral settings offer health care for residents? Is it free for them? Are medications free?
  - a. [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/images/asset\\_upload\\_file690\\_25743.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/images/asset_upload_file690_25743.pdf)
  - b. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/09/30/444451967/even-in-prison-health-care-often-comes-with-a-copay#:~:text=Correctional%20facilities%20have%20to%20provide,care%2C%20a%20recent%20study%20finds.>
  - c. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2017/04/19/copays/>

### Case 3.

You are a medical student shadowing a doctor in your local jail. The officer brings the next patient to the exam room – a 25 YO transgender female who states she is on hormones in the community and asks if she can get them while in jail. Your preceptor logs into your regional health exchange system and verifies that she is getting hormone treatment in the community and is able to call the pharmacy for the doses. The officer states that the patient refused a full exam during intake and asks if you can do a “private” exam so the jail can figure out whether to put her on a male or female housing unit. Your preceptor asks if the patient wants a genital exam, and the patients firmly states that she does not.

1. Can inmates refuse medical care? Is there ever a time they can be forced to have treatment or take medication?
  - a. <https://www.ncchc.org/right-to-refuse-treatment>
  - b. <https://www.ncchc.org/psychotropic-medication>
  - c. <file:///C:/Users/eodonovan/Downloads/Resource-Documents-2020-Non-Emergency-Involuntary-Medication.pdf>
2. Do jails and prisons offer hormone treatment for transgender persons? What if someone wants to get modification surgery while there?
  - a. [https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/trans\\_guide\\_dec\\_2016.pdf](https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/trans_guide_dec_2016.pdf)
  - b. <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/population-care/transgender-prisoners-have-fundamental-right-appropriate-care>

3. How is housing determined for incarcerated transgender persons? What if the resident disagrees with the housing decision?
  - a. <http://ncflr.convio.net/site/DocServer/RightsofTransgenderPrisoners.pdf?docID=6381>
  - b. <https://www.wcl.american.edu/impact/initiatives-programs/endsilence/state-by-state-transgender-housing-policies/>
  - c. <https://sanquentinnews.com/federal-officials-review-housing-policies-for-transgender-prisoners/>
4. Often items like wigs, breast binders, make-up and depilatories are very important to transgender people. Is it possible to have any of these items while in jail or prison?
  - a. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/mar/07/jessica-hicklin-transitioned-prison-free>
5. Are transgender people more or less likely to be incarcerated? If it is higher or lower than the other groups, why do you think that is?
  - a. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/03/02/lgbtq/>
  - b. <https://www.vera.org/projects/advancing-transgender-justice/learn-more>
6. What is the Prison Rape Elimination Act, or PREA? Has it had an impact?
  - a. <https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/about/prison-rape-elimination-act>
  - b. <https://genderpolicyreport.umn.edu/the-prison-rape-elimination-act-and-the-limits-of-liberal-reform/#:~:text=While%20PREA%20has%20effectively%20enforced,most%20frequently%20by%20correctional%20staff.>
  - c. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/07/25/prison-rape-allegations-are-on-the-rise>