



The Transitions Clinic - CT

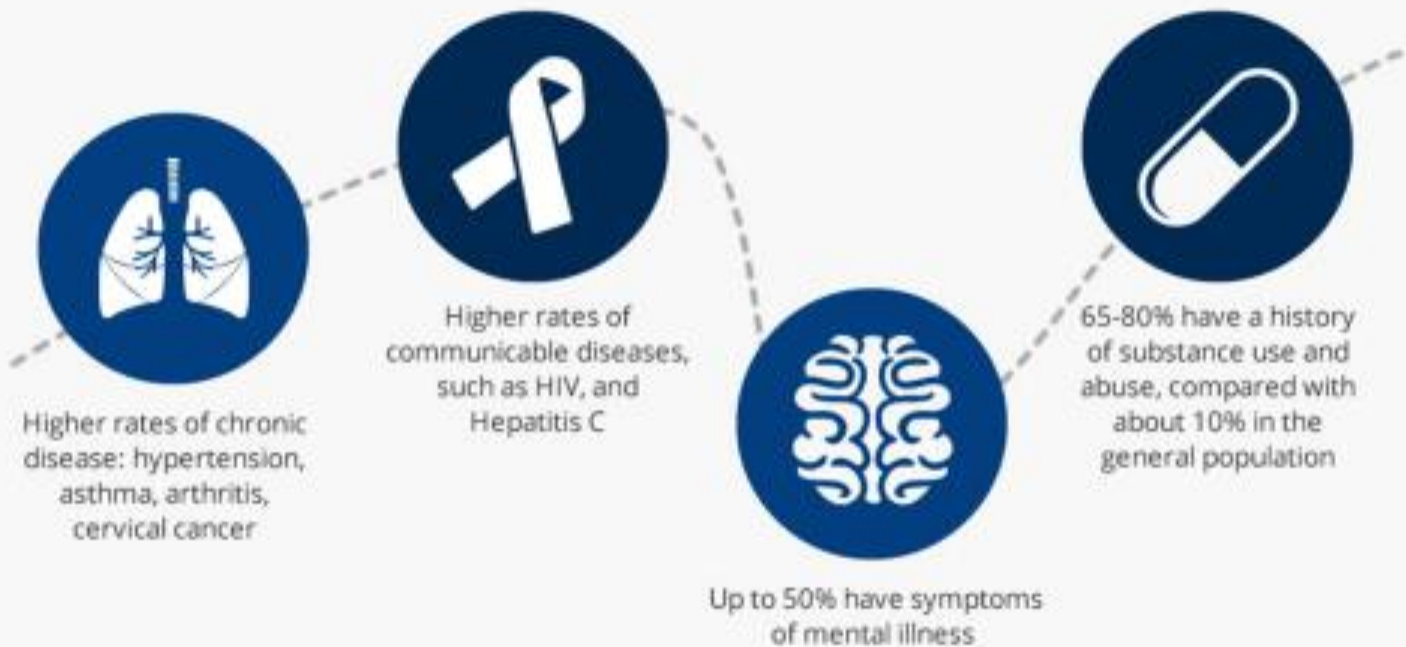
A Model for Addressing Post-incarceration Health in
Connecticut



Lisa Puglisi, MD
Yale University School of Medicine



PRISONERS ARE AMONG THE SICKEST MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

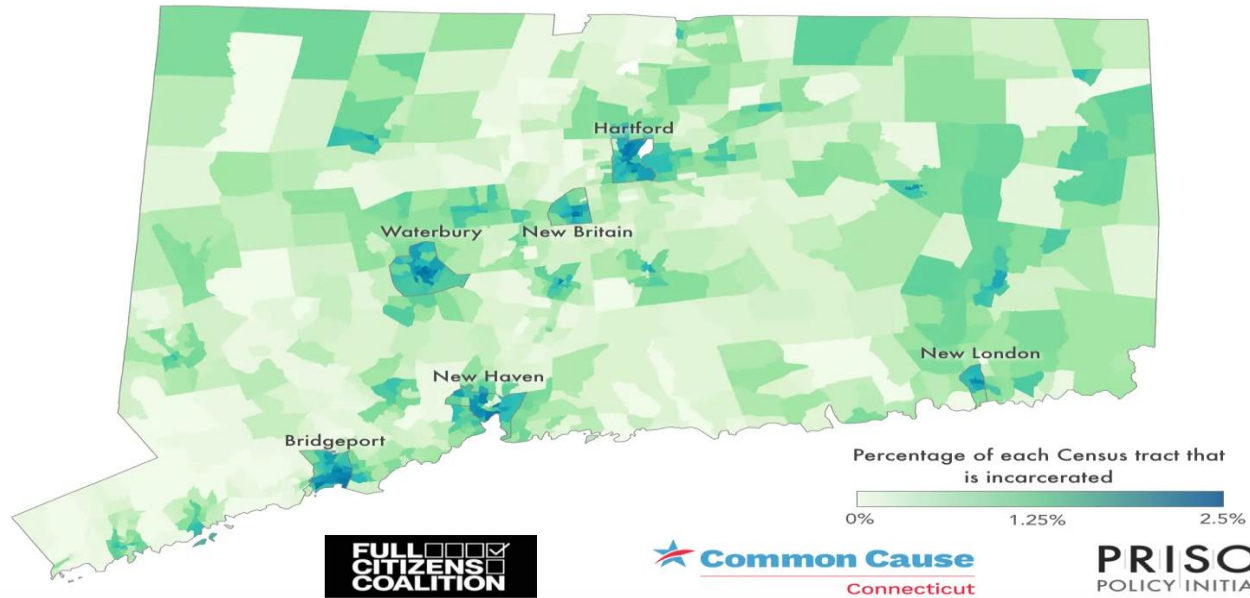




Reentry And Healthcare

Incarceration in CT

Six Connecticut cities are home to more than 50% of the state's incarcerated population, but only 17% of the state's total population





Release from Prison—A High Risk of Death for Formerly Incarcerated Persons

- 12 times increased risk of death in first 2 weeks after release

- The leading causes of death:
 1. Drug overdose
 2. Cardiovascular disease
 3. Homicide
 4. Suicide
 5. Cancer

Racial Disparities in Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment



White people had a 80% increased odds of receiving buprenorphine than Black people.²

Racial Disparities in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Disruption



Black people are more likely to be arrested compared with White people on MOUD³

³ Acevado et al. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 80(2), 220–229 (2019)

Drug Overdose Deaths Rise, Disparities Widen

Differences Grew by Race, Ethnicity, and Other Factors

[View All Topics](#)

2 X

In counties with more income inequality, overdose death rates for Black people were more than two times as high as in counties with less income inequality in 2020.

7 X

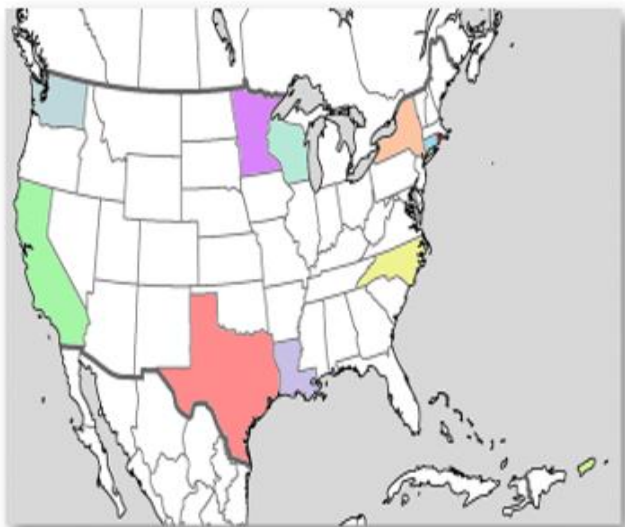
Overdose death rates in older Black men were nearly seven times as high as those in older White men in 2020.

2 X

Overdose death rates for younger American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women were nearly two times those of younger White women in 2020.

Transitions Clinic Network

- Provide primary care to 6000+ patients leaving correctional facilities with community health workers with histories of incarceration
- 45 programs in 14 states & PR
- Working with policymakers in community health systems and payers to implement the model



THE TRANSITIONS CLINIC PROGRAM WORKS TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY:

BUILDING CAPACITY for team-based, patient-centered care for chronically ill returning prisoners.



HIRING + INTEGRATING community health workers (CHWs) with a history of incarceration into the medical team, helping patients navigate healthcare and social services.

LEVERAGING the services within an existing community health center, located in neighborhoods with the highest rates of incarceration.



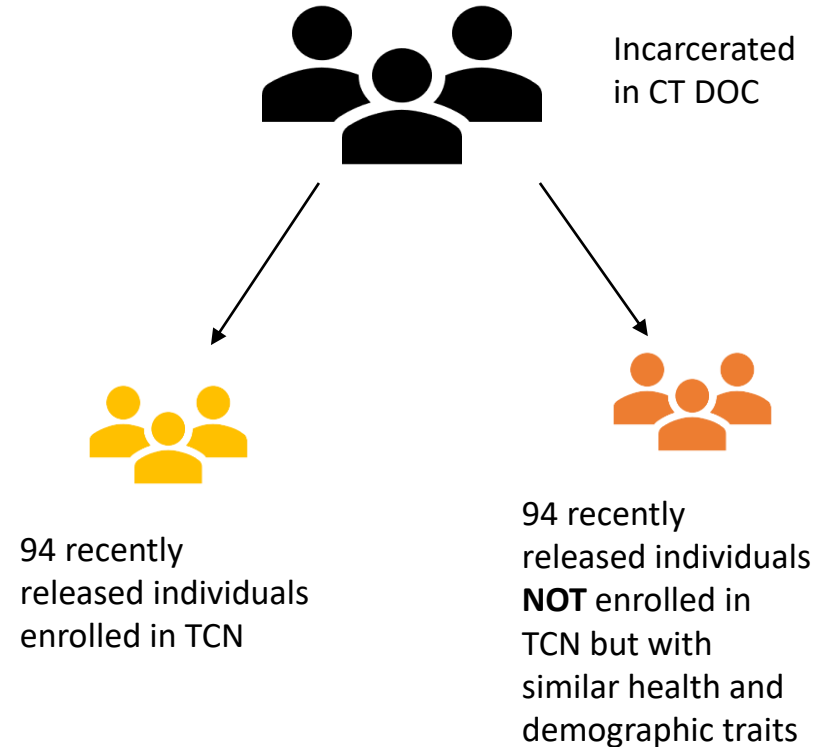
PARTNERING with both community organizations, and correctional and government agencies that work closely with the incarcerated community.

TCN Results

- **TCN program reduces ED visits for patients in the TCN program¹.**
- **TCN program is associated with fewer preventable hospitalizations².**
- **TCN program patients referred by correctional partners had fewer acute care visits compared to those referred by community partners.³**
- **Reduces (Some) Criminal Justice Contact**
 - The TCN group had fewer parole or probation technical violations (17% vs. 33%) compared with the control group.
 - TCN group spent fewer days re-incarcerated compared with the research control group.

TCN Provides Cost Savings to CT

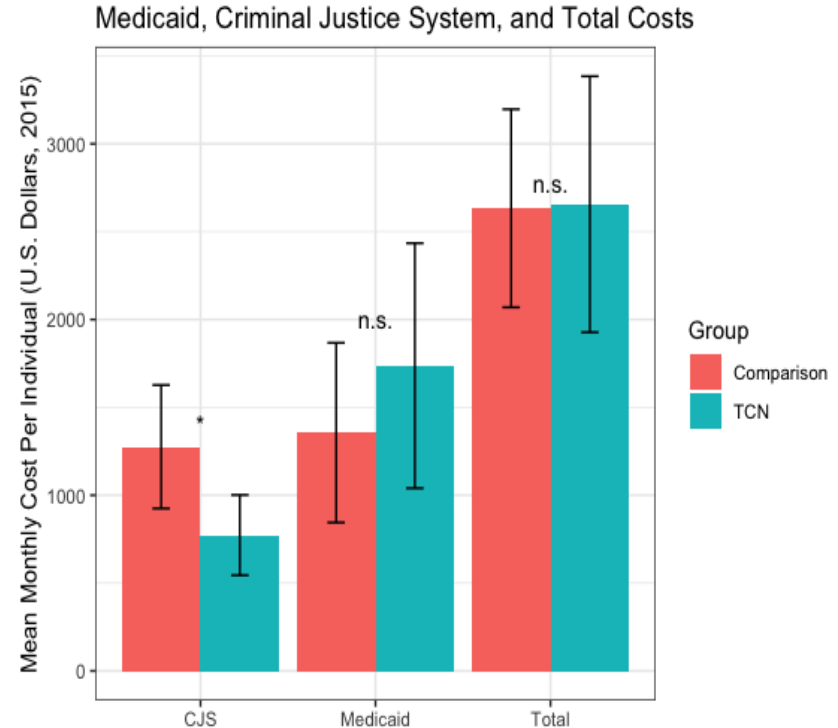
- Data Sources: Connecticut Department of Correction, Medicaid, and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Outcomes: 1) Criminal legal system (prison and jail incarceration, probation, parole, halfway house) costs and 2) Medicaid costs



TCN Provides Cost Savings to CT

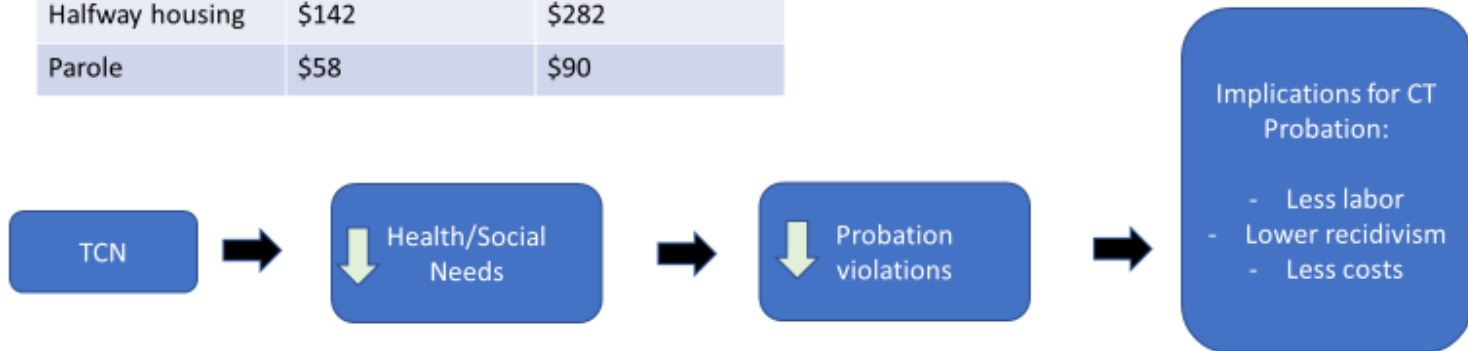
- Medicaid costs: similar between TCN and non-TCN groups
- Criminal Justice System costs: lower in TCN group than non-TCN group, primarily through reduced probation costs.

Takeaway: Every \$1 dollar invested in TCN returned an estimated **\$2.55** to CT, primarily through reduced criminal legal system costs.



But how?

Overview of Criminal Justice System Costs		
	Average for TCN Patients Per Month	Average for non-TCN Patient Per Month
Prison/jail	\$539	\$791
Probation	\$34	\$112
Halfway housing	\$142	\$282
Parole	\$58	\$90



Where we need to be...

Six Connecticut cities are home to more than 50% of the state's incarcerated population, but only 17% of the state's total population

