

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Community Health Clerkship
Health Advocacy

CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE

Advocacy Organizations	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	The Society for Correctional Physicians, The Center for Restorative Justice
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	Massachusetts Public Health Association
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	American Liver Foundation, Hepatitis C Association, Hep-C Alert
What are some International organizations that do advocacy work?	World Health Organization
Advocacy Issue	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	A major area of advocacy at the State, National, and International level is that in education. In specific, many organizations at all level are trying to make preventative education more available. This will directly effect the prison and jail populations, as we see a very large number of inmates with hepatitis C (almost all of whom return to their communities). Many of those who have hepatitis C did not know how it is spread. By making hepatitis C education more available, it would hopefully help decrease risky behavior and at least teach people how hepatitis C is spread.
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	Eighth Amendment Rights, Correctional Physicians (Support & Training)
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	Law Students & Professors, Physicians, Community Volunteering/Donations, Massachusetts Public Health Association, American Liver Foundation, Hepatitis C Association, Hep-C Alert
Who is being lobbied?	Health Care for Inmates, Justice for Inmates
Whom will this issue affect?	General Population, Inmates, Physicians
Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	I believe the organizations will be successful in advocating the increase in availability of hepatitis C education.
Why or why not? What do they need to be more successful?	Hepatitis C treatment is expensive, long, and painful. Due to the nature of hepatitis C, it is actually not too hard to prevent. For example, teaching people who engage in risky drug behavior to use clean needles would drastically reduce the spread of hepatitis C. By investing money into preventative measures actually saves money in the long run.

	To be more successful, ironically, they need to spread hepatitis C education more. The average person needs to learn more about hepatitis C before they care. I believe that informing those in charge about this virus would greatly help the cause.
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	At best, things remain unchanged. More likely, hepatitis C becomes more widespread and takes its toll on poor communities (where most of the hepatitis C cases are found).
If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	Advocacy among community's citizens
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	Joining/Volunteering in the Correctional Health Care System