

# Improving the health of patients released from prison

Emily Wang, MD, MAS

Assistant Professor

Yale School of Medicine

# Transitions Clinic Network

- National program that provides primary care to patients leaving prison in local community health centers
- 11 programs in 6 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico



# TCN: Patient Centered Care for Returning Prisoners

- Primary care providers with experience caring for patients with a history of incarceration
- Community health worker with past history of incarceration to assist with patient navigation, care management, and chronic disease self-management support
- Access to primary care within 2 weeks of release



# Health Risks Following Prison Release

- Worsening of chronic medical conditions, including HIV and substance dependence.<sup>1</sup>
- High risk of hospitalization
- High risk of death<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> S Springer, et. al. CID 2004, MJ Milloy, et.al. JID 2011.

<sup>2</sup> IA Binwanger, NEJM 2012; D Rosen, AJPH 2008.

# Health-related Reentry Challenges

- No discharge planning and short or no supply of medications
  - 14% still went to emergency department in first 2 weeks
- No health insurance/lapse in Medicaid and Medicare B
  - 69% were uninsured
- Drug felons face additional barriers to meeting basic needs: food stamps and section 8 housing
  - 93% were homeless or at risk for being homeless; 39% went a whole day without food

# Recommendations

- Individuals with a history of incarceration should be involved in improving the healthcare of returning prisoners.
- We should improve transitions from prison to the community health care systems.
- We should eliminate barriers to Medicaid enrollment and reinstatement for returning prisoners.
- We should eliminate the food stamp ban, barriers to housing, and employment.

# Risk of Hospitalization: Medicare beneficiaries

- 1 in 12 released inmates will be hospitalized within 90 days following release from a correctional facility
- Excess cost of 40 million dollars spent on hospitalizations for returning inmates

# 30-day Hospitalizations stratified by incarceration status for Medicare beneficiaries

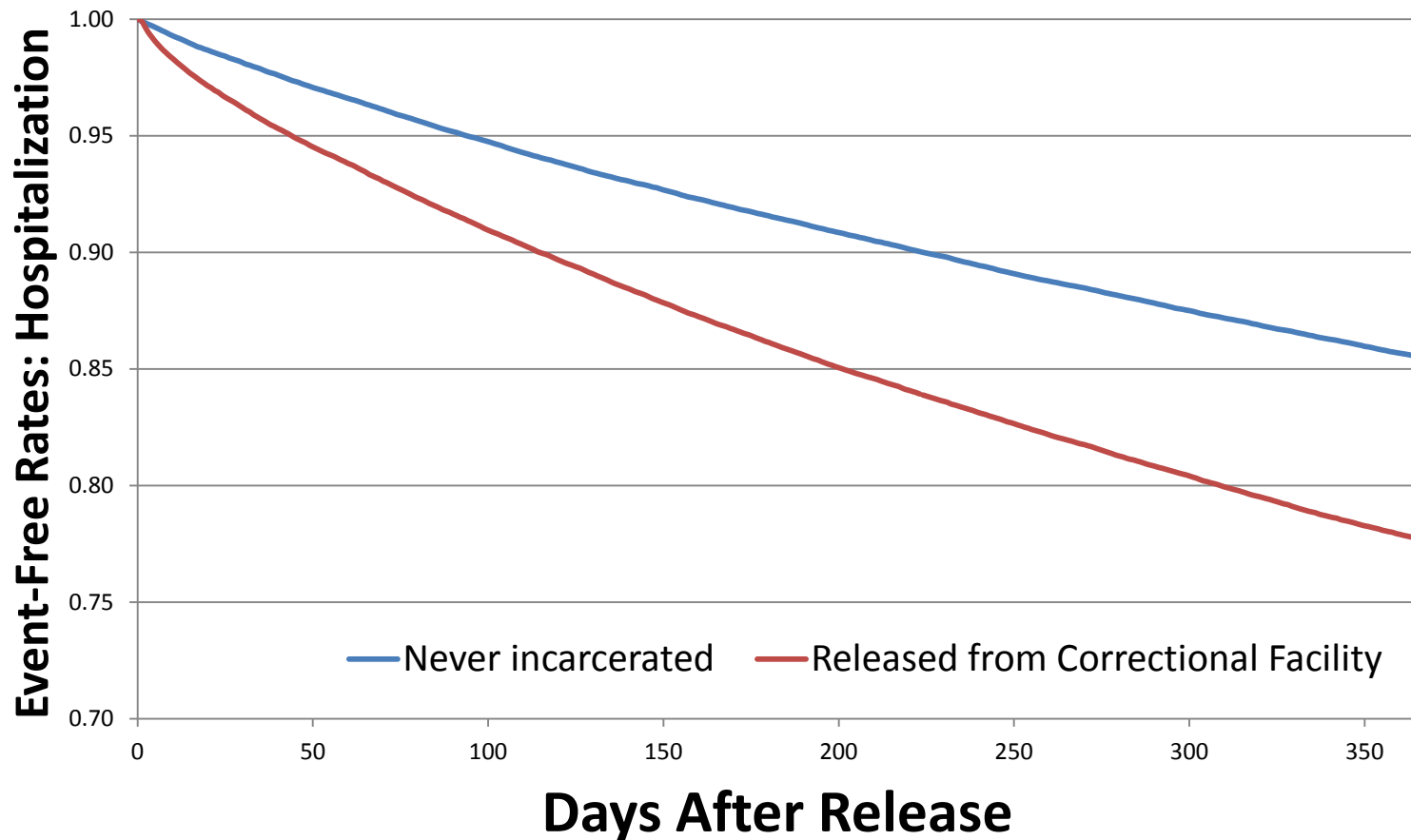
Description	Incarceration status: No	Incarceration status: Yes	<i>p</i> value
All	1.93	3.88	0.0000
Age groups			
< 40	1.52	2.86	0.0000
40 to <50	2.15	3.95	0.0000
50 to <60	2.11	4.48	0.0000
60 to <65	2.1	4.92	0.0000
65 to <70	1.67	3.71	0.0000
70 to <75	1.78	4.28	0.0000
>=75	1.54	5.71	0.0000
Female			
No	1.89	3.90	0.0000
Yes	2.11	3.78	0.0000
Race			
White	1.78	3.83	0.0000
Black	2.27	3.96	0.0000
Other	1.66	4.03	0.0000
Medicare status			
Aged without ESRD	1.60	4.06	0.0000
Aged with ESRD	10.53	36.84	0.0588
Disabled without ESRD	1.95	3.80	0.0000
Disabled with ESRD	14.58	21.88	0.0707
ESRD only	0	50	NA



# 30-day Hospitalizations for Ambulatory care sensitive conditions

Description	Never Incarcerated N (%)	Recently Released from Prison N (%)	<i>p</i> value
Diabetes short-term complications	23 (0.02)	77 (0.07)	0.0000
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	73 (0.07)	117 (0.11)	0.0014
Dehydration	15 (0.01)	35 (0.03)	0.0047
Bacterial pneumonia	90 (0.08)	136 (0.12)	0.0022
Uncontrolled diabetes	7 (0.01)	28 (0.03)	0.0004
Lower extremity amputation in patients with diabetes	73 (0.07)	181 (0.16)	0.0000

# Time to First Hospitalization stratified by Incarceration Status



# Time to Death Stratified by Incarceration History

