



Stanford
MEDICINE

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AUTHORS

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TITLE

Improving Access to Healthcare Education in Maryland Prisons and Jails

ABSTRACT

While working in prisons and jails in Maryland, our team encountered numerous people who are incarcerated and experience barriers to healthcare such as a lack of translators, inability to see a physician as often as needed, and misdiagnosis due to the limited duration of appointments.

Our group aims to pursue advocacy, epidemiology projects, awareness, law reform, and education to tackle these issues. The initial workshop plan involved working with facilities to construct a class that could be taken by numerous students. However, because the population of students has an immense diversity of spoken language and needs, educational materials were prepared broadly and specific materials are chosen on the day of the session based on the specific students present.

Since then, we have helped at least 30 students reach fluency for English basics, including a native Spanish speaker who later went on to give English sermons in churches. These students are now able to request prescriptions, longer appointment times, and explain their symptoms in English. This set of lesson plans is now being used at more than 12 detention facilities. Future directions also involve digital education solutions and partnering with groups in other states to increase access to these educational resources and their quality. To other researchers interested in working with detention facilities, we heavily recommend spending extensive time conducting community interviews. With impact in mind, the heart of any detention medicine project should be understanding the needs of those who are incarcerated.

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CATEGORY

Promotion of Health Awareness and Healthcare Access Through Education