

1-2020

Health Concerns in the Juvenile Justice System in Philadelphia: An Analysis

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Recommended Citation

Humrich, Sarah, "Health Concerns in the Juvenile Justice System in Philadelphia: An Analysis" (2020). *Phase 1*. Paper 33.

https://jdc.jefferson.edu/si_phr_2022_phase1/33

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SI/PHR Abstract

SKMC Class of 2022

Word count: 245

Health Concerns in the Juvenile Justice System in Philadelphia: An Analysis

Sarah Humrich

Introduction: There are more than 40,000 minors nationwide that are incarcerated, and yet there remains to be no standardized way to offer this population health care. Time spent in prison offers a unique opportunity that could allow healthcare workers to intervene, providing needed health care to an otherwise neglected population. This research seeks to better understand the healthcare offered to youth in juvenile detention centers in Philadelphia and to determine the unique health concerns of this population.

Methods: The target population of this study is the incarcerated youth in the juvenile detention centers of Philadelphia. I intend to collect data through surveying the existing incarcerated population in Philadelphia evaluating barriers to care and care consistency. Additionally, I plan to assess what the present protocols are in offering healthcare at intake, during their stay, and upon transferring.

Results: Data collection is ongoing and conclusions are to come with the collection of the data. I anticipate to see that there is inconsistent health care offered to incarcerated youth across different correctional facilities.

Conclusion: While there have yet to be conclusions drawn due to forthcoming data, I do have some predictions about the conclusions that will be drawn. I expect that inconsistent care provided to the juveniles incarcerated will prove to be a detriment to their overall health. This

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information can then be used to address how care is lacking in juvenile centers and improve streamlining care between facilities when transferring youth and in a given single facility.