
Board 2 - Community health promotion to support corrections workplace health: A mixed methods needs assessment



Tuesday, November 1, 2016
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center - Halls A/F

Session: [Community Health Policies, Population Health, and Program Evaluation Poster Sessions](#)

Program: [Community Health Planning and Policy Development](#)

Abstract

Corrections officers (COs) are an underserved population of public safety workers who experience high rates of depression, obesity and heart disease. The National Institute for Occupational Safety Health supports the use of an integrated workplace and community strategy called Total Worker Health™ (TWH) for protecting worker safety and promoting well-being. The purpose of this study was to use a TWH approach to identify evidence-based health solutions to address corrections officers' mental and physical health needs with guidance from participatory teams. Methods: In 2015, we formed community based participatory (CBPR) teams at two rural and one urban jail in the Midwest U.S. to represent multiple levels of corrections officers in the selection of survey and focus group questions. Survey items included descriptives (e.g. age, gender, body mass index (BMI), years of service) and existing survey questions categorized into levels within the social ecological model to inform focus group questions. Results: Of the 328 COs who completed surveys, 84% were urban, 53% were female, 64% scored in the obese BMI category, and 80% worked in the jail for more than 2 years. The primary workplace health needs identified by focus group participants (N=40) and the CBPR teams included policy at jail and city/county levels, workplace culture and communication, safety and training for new hires, and local health resources (e.g. food access and fitness centers). Conclusions: A participatory needs assessment identified key workplace and community solutions to support COs mental and physical health needs. Further study is needed expand upon these findings.

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Learning Areas

Learning Objectives

Describe a mixed methods, community based participatory study for investigating mental and physical health needs of jail corrections officers. Identify examples of potential workplace and community health promotion interventions for improving workplace health based on the results of this study.

Keyword(s)

Community-Based Research (CBPR), Occupational Health and Safety

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