



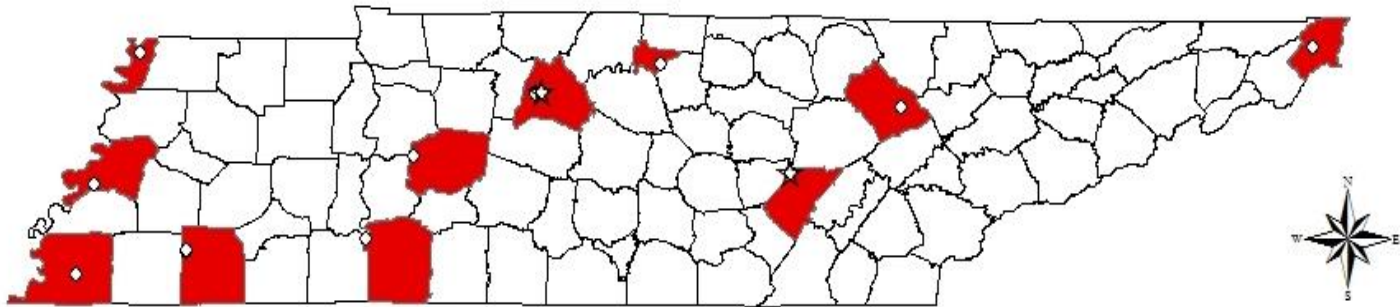
# A New Dawn of Collaboration

Kimberly Gill, MPH BSN RN, TN Department of Health  
February 7, 2019



# Overview of State Prisons

- 14 state prisons within TN Department of Correction (TDOC)
  - Located in 11 counties throughout TN
- 30,242 inmate population (FY 2017 & 2018)



☆ Intake Facility

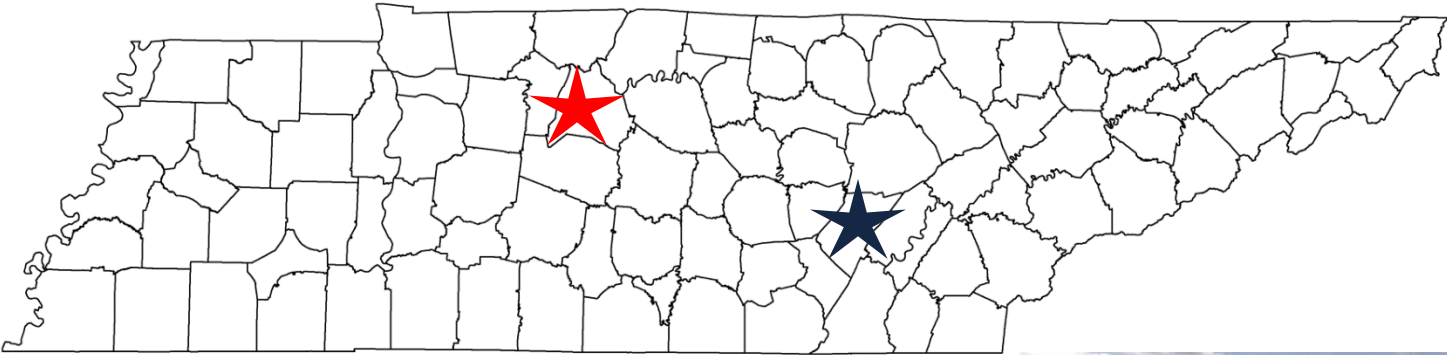
◇ State Prison

■ County Containing State Correctional Facility

# TDOC Intake Facilities



**Tennessee Prison for Women (TPW)**



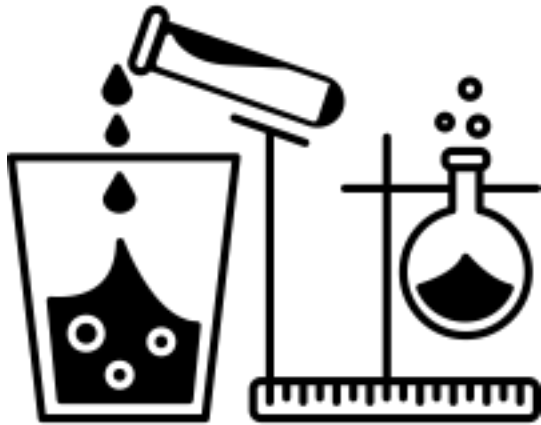
**Bledsoe County Correctional Complex (BCCX)**



# Historical Collaborations

- QuantiFERON TB testing
- HIV
- RPR
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia

**Fall 2015**



# New Viral Hepatitis Ventures (1 of 3)

- Opt-out HCV intake screening



Nov 2018

**Interpretation of the HCV Results and Further Action**

PTBMIS Test Result		Interpretation	Further Actions
HCV antibody	HCV RNA		
Non-Reactive	No result	No HCV antibody detected; person <b>likely not infected with HCV.</b>	Sample can be reported as non-reactive for HCV antibody
Reactive	Non-Reactive	Evidence of <b>past HCV infection.</b> Person either cleared the virus naturally, or had successful HCV treatment.	Provide counseling, including prevention measures to avoid reinfection.
Reactive	Reactive	Evidence of <b>current HCV infection.</b>	Provide person tested with appropriate counseling and link person to care and treatment.



November 6, 2018

TO: All TDOC Medical Staff  
 FROM: Dr. Kenneth Williams, TDOC  
 Dr. Carolyn Wester, TDH  
 SUBJECT: Routine Opt-Out Hepatitis C Screening for Inmates Upon Intake

Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness that damages the liver. HCV is usually spread when blood from a person infected with the virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. Today, most people become infected with HCV by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs. HCV can also be transmitted from unsanitary tattooing equipment, contact with objects that have even small amounts of infected blood on them (snorting straws, medical equipment and personal items), unprotected sex, birth by an HCV infected mother, or blood transfusions and organ transplants prior to 1992.

Based on CDC estimates, 2.7-3.9 million people in the United States have chronic hepatitis C. Approximately 15,000 HCV related deaths occur a year. From 2010 to 2014 the rates of acute HCV increased among persons aged 20-29, 30-29 and ≥ 60 years. The largest increase was among persons aged 20-29 years. In Tennessee, case rates of acute hepatitis C are among the highest in the nation and continue to increase.

In this context and in collaboration the TN Department of Health, **TDOC will implement routine opt-out HCV screening on all persons upon intake at Bledsoe County Correctional Complex and Tennessee Prison for Women, effective November 26, 2018.**

Resources are attached as guidance for this project.

Sincerely,

*K.W. Williams, MD, PhD*  
 Kenneth Williams, MD, PhD  
 Chief Medical Officer, Clinic Services  
 TN Department of Corrections

*Carolyn Wester*  
 Carolyn Wester, MD, MPH  
 Medical Director, HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis  
 TN Department of Health

Test Dates 07/28/2017  
 HCV EIA SCREEN NON-RE

**Interpretation:** No HCV antibody detected; person **likely not infection with HCV.**  
**Further Actions:** Sample can be reported as non-reactive for HCV antibody.

Test Dates 07/27/2018  
 HCV EIA SCREEN REACT !  
 HCV RNA QUALITA NON-RE

**Interpretation:** Evidence of **past HCV infection.** Person either cleared the virus naturally, or had successful HCV treatment.  
**Further Actions:** Provide counseling, including prevention measures to avoid reinfection.

HCV EIA SCREEN REACT !  
 HCV RNA QUALITA REACT !

**Interpretation:** Evidence of **current HCV infection.**  
**Further Actions:** Provide person tested with appropriate counseling and link person to care and treatment.

# New Viral Hepatitis Ventures (2 of 3)

- Opt-out HCV intake screening



Nov 2018

- **FibroScan**

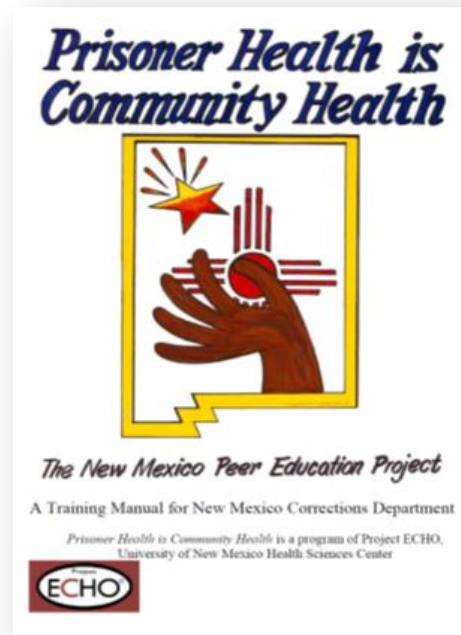


**Jan 2019**



# New Viral Hepatitis Ventures (3 of 3)

- Opt-out HCV intake screening → Nov 2018
- FibroScan → Jan 2019
- **Peer Education Program** → **Pending**





# Growing Relationship

- Development of data sharing processes for HCV analysis
- Complete gap analysis to facilitate HCV cascades of cure for identified priority populations
- Ongoing provider education, as needed



# Questions?



# Program Contacts

- TDH
  - Kimberly Gill, Viral Hepatitis Clinical Services Director
  - Lindsey Sizemore, Viral Hepatitis Program Director
- TDOC
  - Dr. Kenneth Williams, Chief Medical Officer
  - Dr. Kenneth Wiley, Associate Medical Officer