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**WHAT'S HEALTH CARE LIKE IN AMERICA'S PRISONS AND JAILS?
RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN A SPECIAL ISSUE OF *JOURNAL OF CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE***

"It is but just that the public be required to care for the prisoner, who cannot, by reason of the deprivation of his liberty, care for himself." — Spicer v. Williamson, 1926

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (December 18, 2007) –A person is sentenced to prison in America to be punished for a crime. But should that punishment also include denial of food, safety and health care? A landmark Supreme Court decision 30 years ago helped launch the nationwide movement to improve prison health care. So, how does health care in today's prisons compare to what it was like three decades ago?

That question is addressed in a special issue of *Journal of Correctional Health Care (JCHC)*, opening up correctional system health care issues to outside evaluation and input. In key articles and commentaries, all written by eminent experts and pioneers in the field, *JCHC* explores the history of prison health care, from when the only option was for inmates to provide basic first aid for each other, to the current realities of clinics and individualized care behind bars. It also takes a close look at follow-up care after an inmate is released and the prospects for the future of correctional health care.

"Change has not been without its problems," writes John R. Miles, MPA, *JCHC* editor, "but the conditions experienced by inmates in the past are not tolerated today. The standard of decency continues to evolve. We must continue in our quest to ensure that inmates and all citizens of our nation have access to good quality and affordable care. The public health and safety of our nation is everyone's concern."

This special issue of *Journal of Correctional Health Care* is available free-of-charge for a limited time at <http://jcx.sagepub.com/content/vol14/issue1/>.

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Journal of Correctional Health Care (JCHC) is the only national, peer-reviewed scientific journal to address correctional health care topics. Published quarterly, *JCHC*, the official journal of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, features original research, case studies, best practices, literature reviews and more to keep correctional health care professionals up-to-date on trends and developments important to their field. <http://jchc.sagepub.com>

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