



Health Services Sector

QUICK FACTS

CSC Health Services Sector

CSC has a national headquarters office in Ottawa and is divided into 5 regions, which are the Pacific, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Regions with 57 institutions in total. Each region has a facility dedicated to federally sentenced women offenders, a CSC Regional Hospital and a CSC Regional Treatment Centre (Mental Health). In total, CSC is responsible for approximately 22,500 offenders of whom approximately 13,500 are incarcerated (receiving direct health services in CSC institutions) and 9,000 who are on conditional release in the community* (receiving health services in the community).

*CSC/NPB Data Warehouse Services 28-2-2010

CSC Health Services

The legislative mandate for CSC to provide health services to federal offenders comes from the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA)*. It states that CSC is responsible to "...provide every inmate with (a) essential health care; and (b) reasonable access to non-essential mental health care that will contribute to the inmate's rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community".

CSC is responsible for ensuring appropriate, equitable and adequate access to physical and mental health services provided by registered health professionals. These services maintain and enhance the inmates' health status, contribute to their adjustment within the institution, and assist them upon release to become law-abiding citizens.

The delivery of care is provided by health care professionals who are registered or licensed in Canada such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists, social workers, dentists, and other relevant specialists.

Offender Health Profile

According to a CSC study in 2004¹, it was found that on average, inmates are 20 times more likely to have been infected with Hepatitis C virus; 10 times more likely to have been infected with HIV; more than twice as likely to have had a mental disorder; and more likely to be treated for chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular conditions and asthma.

Providing health care in prisons poses unique challenges and differs from community settings in a variety of ways:

- Need for greater monitoring of medications due to potential for abuse;
- Overall, higher risk behaviours and poorer health status of inmates; and
- Use of community health care services requires escort services.

CSC Health Service Structure

The oversight for delivery of physical health services within CSC is through the Assistant Commissioner Health Services.

The CSC Directors General of Health Services, located at National Headquarters, oversee four main programs; Clinical Services, Public Health, Mental Health, and Policy, Planning and Quality Improvement. The national team works closely with the Regional Directors and health care teams in providing policy, guidelines and leadership to ensure standardization and consistency of care. The regional teams provide support and guidance to Institutional Chiefs of Health Services and operational staff in the coordination of health services at the institutional health units.

1

<http://journal.cpha.ca/index.php/ciph/issue/view/24>



Types of Health Care Settings

There are four main types of health care settings in CSC:

Institutional Health Units (ambulatory care centres)

Every institution has a health services centre with varying hours of operation based on factors such as level of security and proximity to community services. The primary care providers in these units are nurses. Each institution provides a variety of routine and emergency psychology services to offenders.

CSC Regional Hospital

Each region has a hospital located within the compound of a multi-level or maximum security level institution and provide more specialized or comprehensive health care services on a 24-hour basis. Services include but are not limited to post-operative care, trauma care, observation, dialysis, palliative care or any condition requiring 24 hour nursing services.

CSC Reception Centre

Each region has at least one reception Centre which conducts the CSC standardized admission process (both health and security) for all newly sentenced federal offenders. The admission process involves various health assessments such as Mental Health Assessment, Comprehensive Health Assessment, and Tuberculosis Assessment.

CSC Regional Treatment Centre (Mental Health)

An in-patient mental health treatment facility is located in each region to provide treatment to inmates with psychiatric disorders that are too severe to allow them to remain in the general inmate population of an institution.

In addition, mental health and public health services are provided by various health care professionals in some community-based settings.

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