



Anti-Criminalization for Public Health Departments

Mar 16, 2023





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Housekeeping



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Ask questions in the chat until Q&A



We are all open to learning and growing



We will be recording this presentation



What is Anti-Criminalization?

And why does it matter?





Criminalization is...



The process of turning actions into crimes.

The process of turning people into criminals.

- Courts, including drug courts, family courts, and other courts
- Police and other law enforcement
- Jails and Prisons
- Immigration Detention Centers
- Juvenile Detention Centers
- Family Regulation, also known as “child welfare”
- Court-mandated services, including drug treatment programs

What are the impacts?



Policing



Rushed, isolated
use

Arrest



Access to
medications,
substances

Incarceration




Violence and
access to care


Re-Entry



Connection to
care, Records as
barriers



A (very, very) Short History

- Public Health Systems and Law Enforcement
 - Structural Determinants of Health and Criminalization
 - Policing and Criminalization as a Health Crisis
- 



Anti-Criminalization is...



The APHA (2021) recommends moving toward the abolition of carceral systems and building in their stead just and equitable structures that advance the public's health by:

- Urgently reducing the incarcerated population;
- Divesting from carceral systems and investing in the societal determinants of health (e.g., housing, employment);
- Committing to non-carceral measures for accountability, safety, and well-being;
- Restoring voting rights to formerly and currently incarcerated people; and
- Funding research to evaluate policy determinants of exposure to the carceral system and proposed alternatives.



THANKS!



Do you have any questions?

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