



Center for Research on U.S. Latino HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

Inequalities in Health Service Use among Former Inmates: Implications for Race/ Ethnic Health Disparities

Tuesday, November 22nd

11:30 am

AHC-5, Room 300

Academic Health Center 5
Third Floor Conference Room

Kathryn M. Nowotny, PhD



Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology,
University of Miami

Presentation

A growing body of research has examined the effects of imprisonment on health across a range of outcomes including mental health, health behaviors, and stress-related illnesses. I examine the effect of imprisonment on community health service outcomes (no public/ private health coverage, using the emergency department as regular source of care, and having no past year checkup) for young adult men and women using a propensity score matching approach. Formerly incarcerated persons are compared to persons who have never been incarcerated or arrested, and to persons who have been arrested but never incarcerated. Also examined are potential mediators that may help explain the causal mechanisms, and heterogeneous treatment effects by race/ethnicity. I find that people who are likely to be incarcerated are already at risk for poor health service use, but incarceration increases this risk. Given that people of color—particularly Black men—are disproportionately incarcerated, this group is most affected by these negative consequences. Therefore, I argue that mass incarceration may exacerbate population health disparities through its effects on community health services.

About the Lecturer

Dr. Kathryn Nowotny is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Miami and an Early Career Fellow in the NIDA-funded Criminal Justice Research Training (CJRT) Program on Substance Use, HIV, and Comorbidities. She received her PhD in Sociology in 2016 from the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research explores how mass incarceration contributes to health inequalities, the intersections of crime and health behaviors, and the contextual influences on health more broadly for vulnerable populations. These complementary “streams” of research center on understanding the health of disadvantaged and underserved populations using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Dr. Nowotny’s dissertation on inmate health disparities was supported by a NIH Predoctoral Fellowship and a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant.

