

TITLE: Prisoners and Physician Bias

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION (brief overview of background, hypothesis, methods, role of medical student, funding and relevant publications -- SHOULD NOT EXCEED ~ 250 WORDS)

The issue of physician bias has been well studied in many areas; one area that has not been explored is how a patient's status as a prisoner may affect decisions physicians make about their care. Furthermore, physicians sometimes inquire about the crime a patient who is a prisoner committed, ostensibly out of curiosity, but the impact of learning this information has not been studied. For example, we do not know whether learning that a patient has committed a crime like homicide, or distribution of child pornography, or a white-collar nonviolent crime like insider trading affects the care provided, even subconsciously. Using previously published instruments used to measure other physician bias, we will conduct a survey of physicians about how a patient's status as a prisoner and information about his or her crime could affect that patient's care.

The medical student will be involved in all aspects of the project, including identification of the subject population, subject recruitment, data collection, and data analysis. The student will be involved in drafting the IRB materials as well as publications stemming from the project (and will be appropriately credited as an author).