

Policy Continuum: Condoms in CA Prisons

Nina T. Harawa, MPH, PhD

Professor, DGSOM UCLA

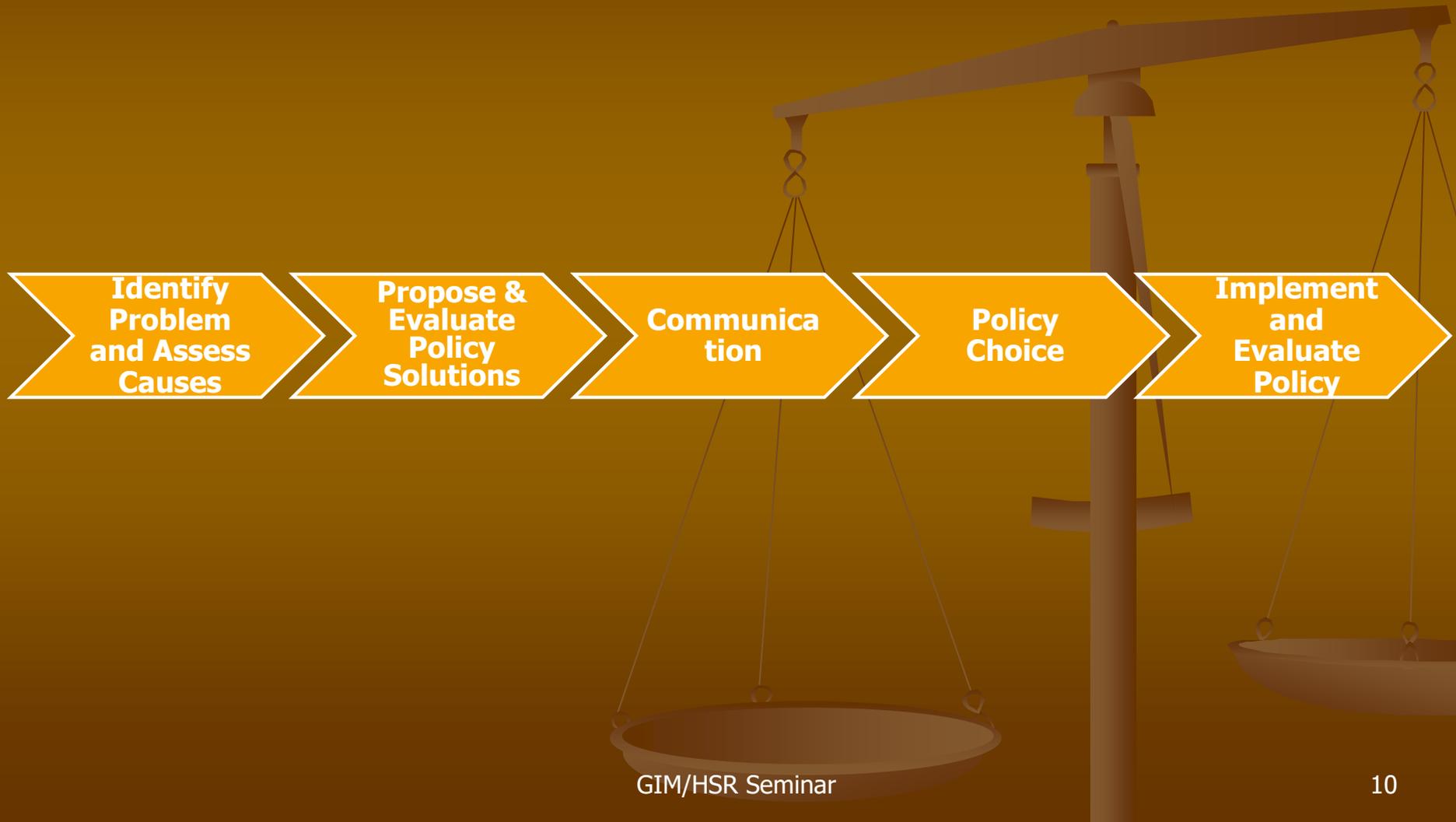
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Background – Condom Distribution in CA

- The first condom distribution program was initiated with the SFHD in the Broward County jail.
- The second program was initiated by Center for Health Justice in collaboration with LASD in November 2001.



Policy Continuum



History: Low access to harm reduction methods in US

■ Condom distribution

- Two US prison systems and five US jails provide (generally limited) access to condoms.

- Vermont/Miss
- NYC, Wash DC, LA,
- SF, Philadelphia

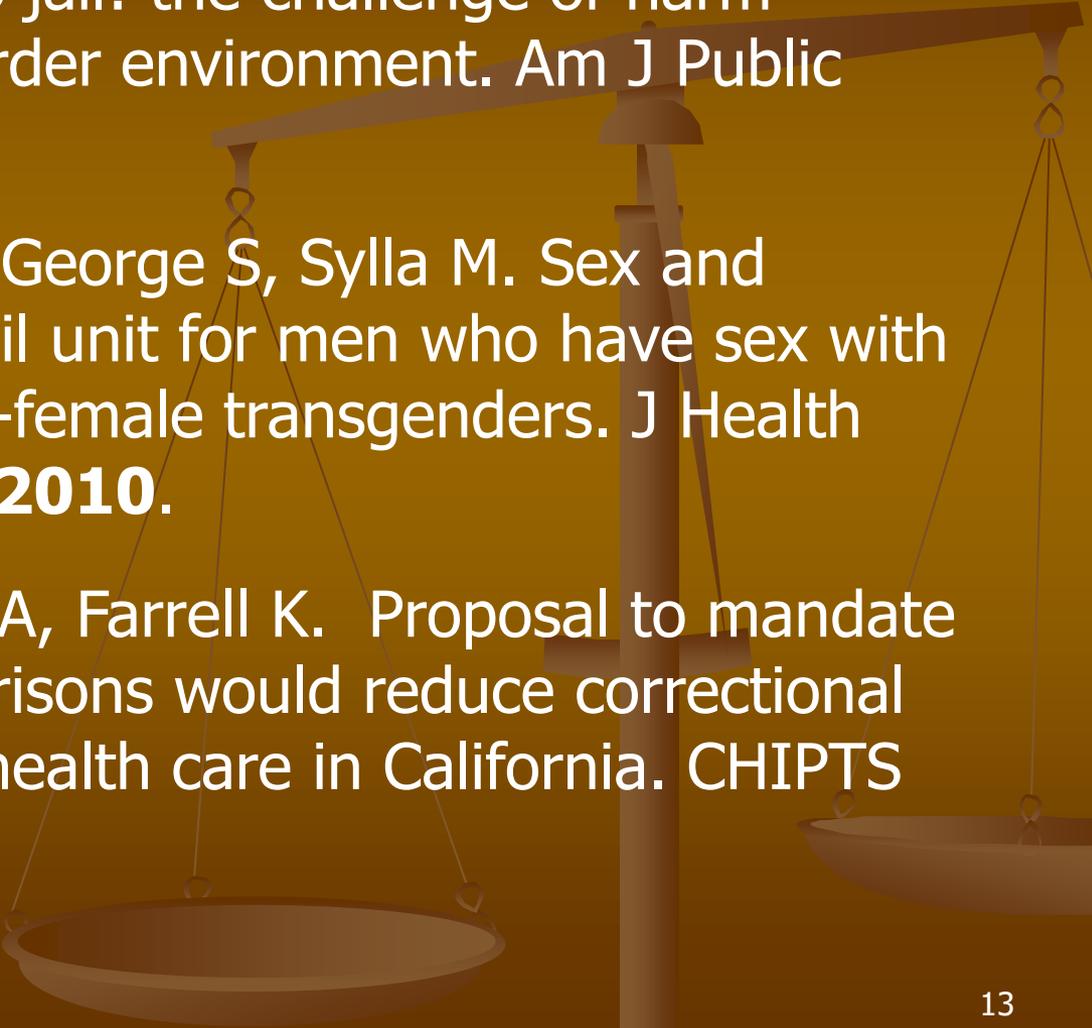
■ Safe injection

- No US facilities provide needle exchange (1 provides bleach for needle cleaning).
- Few facilities provide methadone maintenance.
- None provide safe injection sites

Note: Many of these programs are provided throughout Europe, parts of Central Asia, and in other countries (e.g., Brazil, South Africa, Canada).

Propose and
Evaluate
Policy
Solutions

Research Publications

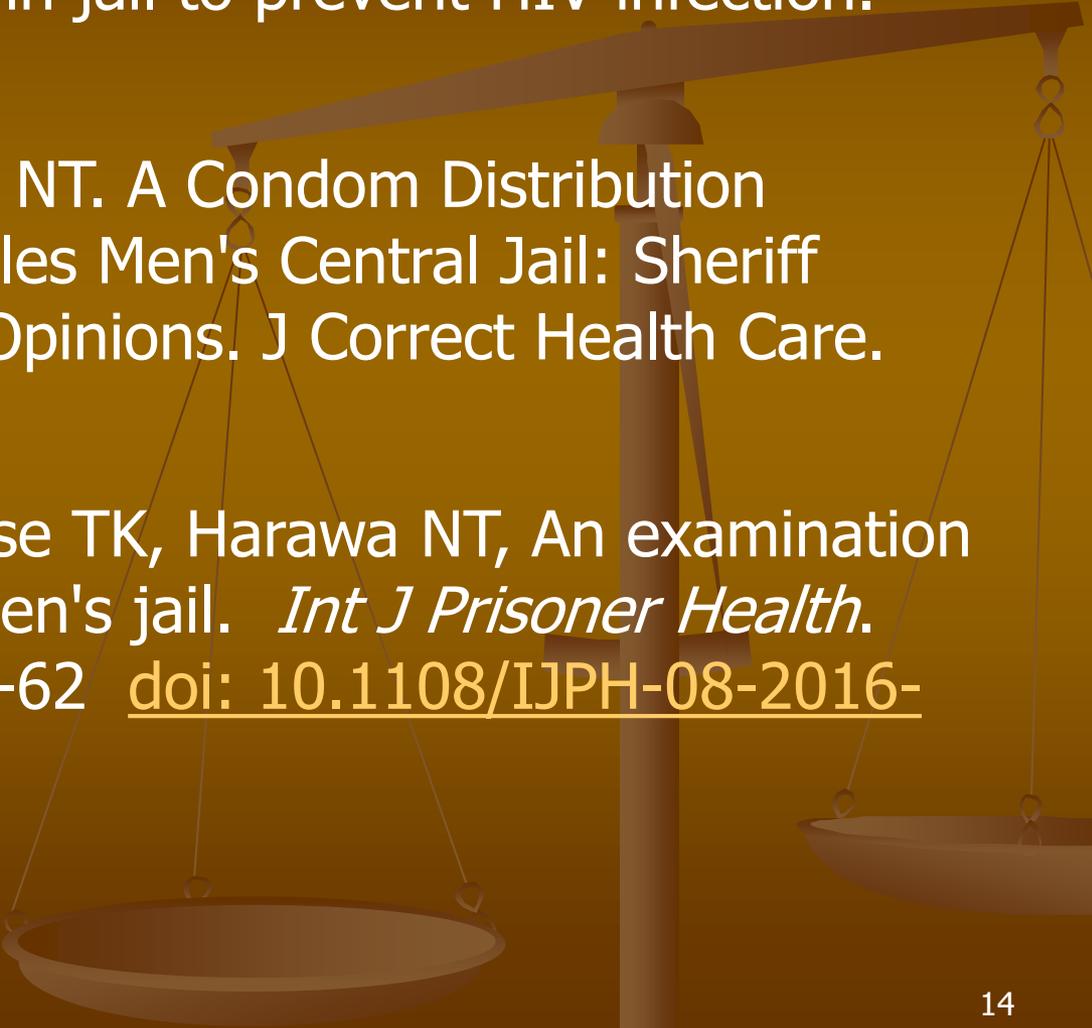


Sylla M, Harawa N, Grinstead Reznick O. The first condom machine in a US jail: the challenge of harm reduction in a law and order environment. *Am J Public Health*. **2010**.

Harawa NT, Sweat J, George S, Sylla M. Sex and condom use in a large jail unit for men who have sex with men (MSM) and male-to-female transgenders. *J Health Care Poor Underserved*. **2010**.

Harawa N, Leibowitz A, Farrell K. Proposal to mandate condom distribution in prisons would reduce correctional facility costs for inmate health care in California. *CHIPTS Policy Brief*. **2013**.

Research Publications



Leibowitz AA, Harawa N, Sylla M, Hallstrom CC, Kerndt PR. Condom distribution in jail to prevent HIV infection. *AIDS Behav.* **2013.**

McCuller WJ, Harawa NT. A Condom Distribution Program in the Los Angeles Men's Central Jail: Sheriff Deputies' Attitudes and Opinions. *J Correct Health Care.* 2014.

Lea, CH, 3rd, Gideonse TK, Harawa NT, An examination of consensual sex in a men's jail. *Int J Prisoner Health.* 2018 March 12;14(1):56-62 [doi: 10.1108/IJPH-08-2016-0047](https://doi.org/10.1108/IJPH-08-2016-0047). PMID: 29480771

Key Research Findings

Propose and
Evaluate
Policy
Solutions

- Condoms are taken and used
- No impact on jail safety or management
- Machines more accessible & efficient than medical distribution
 - Initial novelty factor
- Prison staff acceptance grows with exposure
- Acceptance/tolerance by people in prison not universal, but can be attained
- Cost effective and cost saving!

Policy Choice

Implement
and Evaluate
Policy

Key California Events

Policy Choice

- 2006-2008 Bills vetoed AB1677 -- AB1334
- 2007 SF jail condom machine pilot program

Implement and Evaluate Policy

- 2008 CDCR Pilot authorized 2008
- 2008-2009 Pilot conducted
- 3/2013 Pilot findings released
 - dated 9/2011

Communication

- 2013 AB999 passed
- 2013 AB999 vetoed
- 2014 AB966 passed
- 2014 AB966 signed into law
- 2015 Implementation begins

Take-Home Points

- Collaboration
- Community partnerships
- Identifying points of resistance
- Patience
- Outcomes are dependent on policy, implementation, and practice

