

Conceptual framework: The relationship between criminal justice and health

Racism is a systemic and ongoing crisis with serious consequences for the health and well-being of Ohioans inside and outside of the criminal justice system. Racism and other forms of discrimination drive **disparities** and **inequities** in criminal justice and health outcomes.

Criminal justice

Involvement in the criminal justice system can impact health outcomes, such as:

- Infectious disease
- Chronic disease
- Mental health conditions and addiction
- Health care access and quality

Improving conditions within prisons and jails and strengthening connections to healthcare providers and other resources for people reentering the community improves health for people who are justice-involved.

Community conditions

Community conditions impact outcomes in both criminal justice and health.

Examples of community conditions:

- Poverty
- Trauma and violence
- Employment and income
- Education
- Housing
- Neighborhood conditions

Improving prevention, treatment and recovery for mental health and addiction and strengthening community responses to addiction and mental health crises prevents criminal justice involvement.

Health

Health, including substance use and mental health, can impact criminal justice outcomes, such as:

- Arrest
- Pretrial detention
- Incarceration
- Community and collateral sanctions