ABSTRACT

Organizational Readiness for Health Service Delivery in Criminal Justice Settings: A Systematic Literature Review

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Background : Justice health readiness concerns organizational preparedness for health service delivery in criminal justice settings, including jails and prisons, and differs from individual motivation to engage in treatment.

Objective : To examine how organizational readiness is conceptualized and measured, identify associated organizational factors, and synthesize its reported relationships with health service delivery in criminal justice settings.

Research Methods/ Implementation Methods : This systematic review followed PRISMA 2020 and used Scopus and PubMed exports covering English-language publications from January 2022 to October 2026. Records were deduplicated using DOIs and bibliographic information. Five empirical studies underwent criterion-level appraisal using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool, version 2018. Findings were synthesized narratively without pooling estimates or calculating overall quality scores.

Results : Searches identified 43 records; 14 duplicates and four reviews were removed. Of 25 reports sought, six were not retrieved; 19 were assessed. Two protocols and one editorial were excluded, leaving 16 empirical studies. Four provided direct organizational evidence, one related community–justice evidence, and eleven empirical context. Readiness was associated with staff-perceived sustainability, commitment, acceptability, and knowledge. Leadership, policy clarity, collaboration, and security–health tensions emerged as relevant factors. Appraisal identified concerns about representativeness, nonresponse, missing data, confounding, and mixed methods integration. Independent appraisal documentation was incomplete; evidence certainty remained unassessed.

Conclusion/Lesson Learned : Organizational readiness warrants attention in service planning, but current evidence supports associations and implementation processes rather than causal improvements in patient care. Prospective multisite research linking readiness to independently measured service outcomes is needed.

Keyword : organizational readiness; justice health; criminal justice settings; health service delivery; systematic literature review.