

Dispelling CORRECTIONS MYTHS

At Supplemental Health Care, we want to dispel common myths that keep healthcare professionals from considering corrections as a career option. We hope this information helps open new doors for you. If you have additional questions or want to learn more specifics about a correctional healthcare career, reach out to us at corrections@shccares.com.

MYTH:**1**

“It’s Unsafe”

Truth: It’s true that corrections assignments include many security precautions and protocols. Correctional facilities often require clear backs and prohibit phones from being brought inside.

But it’s because of those security procedures that many nurses actually feel safer in a correctional facility than they do at other locations (1). Unfortunately, workplace violence is a greater threat to healthcare workers than any other industry (2), so precisely because correctional facilities place an extra focus on security, they may actually offer more vigilance against violence than other settings.

MYTH:**2**

“There Are Limited Options”

Truth: Most healthcare in the United States is provided through hospitals and clinics, so if you haven’t considered correctional nursing before, you may not realize how many options there are. Supplemental works with hundreds of facilities to fill over 3,000 correctional healthcare roles every year.

And for many skillsets, corrections may offer more flexibility than other sites of care. For instance, travel LPN positions are much more common, and you’ll have your pick of locations across the country.

MYTH:**3**

“It’s Not a Career”

Truth: Some healthcare professionals stumble into corrections as a temporary option, expecting it to be a carry over to something else, but then they discover the flexibility and turn it into a career. Because assignments can be short or long-term, you can try out a facility and employer before committing for too long.

Once you find a fit, corrections facilities often renew travelers and contract workers at higher rates than other settings, so you often have the option of multiple assignments at your favorite facilities.

MYTH:**4**

“You’ll Burnout”

Truth: Corrections nursing can definitely be tough. Around 50% of inmate populations have chronic conditions (3), and you may be called on to provide an extremely wide range of care from diabetes management to basic dental check-ups.

Because of the difficulties, compassion fatigue is a recognized challenge but not a foregone conclusion. Experts recommend practicing aggressive self-care while on your assignment and seeking help when you’re feeling overwhelmed. SHC offers our Employee Assistance Program with access to 24-hour teletherapy services to all employees for free, and we can help connect you with fun in your off-hours through our Tickets at Work program, offering discounts to your favorite theme parks and concerts.