

Developing an HIV/Hepatitis C/STD Prevention Intervention for Men Recently Released from Prison

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Project Description: In the formative phase of this project, we will engage men who are recently released from prison (n=30) and their potential service providers (n=10) in in-depth qualitative interviews to develop an understanding of their experiences and their community. In the second phase (Intervention Design, Delivery and Evaluation), we will use the information gained through the qualitative interviews as a guide to choosing, tailoring, implementing and evaluating an intervention model from among those with evidence of effectiveness. The intervention's goals will include addressing the unique HIV prevention and health care needs of recently released men who have sex with men, but do not identify as gay. We will specifically examine need for and receipt of HIV testing, housing services, primary care and family services. We will also examine short-term trends in HIV risk behavior outside of prison among men enrolled and examine associations between risk and receipt of services. Additional qualitative data collection will be undertaken during the intervention phase. We will focus on facilitators and barriers to linking men to and retaining them in the intervention and in health and social services.

Significance: Through consensual and nonconsensual sex with other men and needle sharing, men in prisons may be exposed to HIV. As a result, when they leave prison, these men require services for HIV diagnosis, prevention and treatment that are accessible, appropriate and tailored to the unique issues these men face, including the fact that many of them self-identify as heterosexual. One factor contextualizing men's behavior once they leave prison is the extent to which they are able to access risk reduction support in the communities to which they return. However, little is known about the best ways to tailor services in light of personal and community-based issues facing men after release. It is not known whether exposure to sex with other men, needle sharing or other prison-related experiences influence HIV risk behavior on the outside. For example, it is not known whether men leaving prison continue to engage in sex with other men or needle sharing, whether they engage in HIV preventative behaviors, or the extent to which they seek HIV testing and medical care. This study will explore these factors in service of improved intervention design and delivery.

Project Recruitment Dates: Summer/Fall 2005

Project End Date: 2007