



## Demonstration Projects for State and Local Health Departments: Routine Rapid HIV Testing of Inmates in Short-Stay Correctional Facilities



### Overview

High rates of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have been documented among persons entering the correctional system. Currently, only a fraction of jails routinely test for HIV on entry. People incarcerated for fewer than 30 days are unlikely to receive traditional HIV counseling and testing, and, if they do, they may be released before their test results from traditional testing are available. Routine rapid testing would facilitate initial testing, delivery of results, confirmatory testing, and appropriate referral to care, treatment, and prevention services within the facility or in the community. This project focuses on short-stay correctional facilities, from which inmates are more likely to be released before results from traditional testing are available.

All persons who test positive for HIV will be eligible to participate in the 3- and 6-month program evaluation component of the demonstration project. The interviewer will assess the status of referrals made and ask about the participant's specific HIV-related risk factors. At the completion of the 6-month assessment, participants will be screened for gonorrhea and chlamydia through urine samples; project staff will make every attempt to notify participants of their test results and make appropriate referrals for treatment.

### Goals

The goals of this project are to

- increase access to voluntary HIV testing,
- increase the proportion of HIV-positive inmates who know they are infected,
- increase the proportion of HIV-positive inmates who are linked to prevention, care, and treatment services, and
- prevent new HIV infections.

### Collaborator Sites

**Florida**—*Broward County Jail System* (five facilities). The Broward County Health Department will offer rapid HIV testing 4 days a week to male and female inmates during intake and/or at inmates' request. Approximately 10,000 inmates are expected to be tested during the demonstration project. These inmates will be notified of their test results at the time of testing.

Those with negative test results will receive appropriate prevention counseling and, if desired, documentation of their negative result. Inmates with a reactive rapid test result will be offered confirmatory HIV testing and appropriate prevention counseling. Inmates who are HIV positive will be linked upon their release to services through the Jail Release Linkage Project.

**Louisiana**—*Orleans Parish Prison (OPP)*. Male and female inmates incarcerated for more than 72 hours will be offered routine voluntary rapid HIV testing, result notification, and prevention counseling. Approximately 12,000 inmates are expected to be tested during the project period. The Department of Correction’s medical staff will offer rapid HIV testing daily. Inmates with a reactive rapid test result will be offered confirmatory HIV testing; persons confirmed as HIV positive are immediately scheduled for an appointment with the in-house medical staff and are seen by an infectious disease specialist. During their incarceration, inmates who are HIV positive have access to medications and special diets and, if needed, additional services at Charity Hospital’s HIV clinic.

**New York State**—*Dutchess, Westchester, Orange, Sullivan, and Rockland County Jails*. Male and female inmates undergoing a medical evaluation and held for more than 24 hours will be routinely offered voluntary, anonymous rapid HIV testing, result notification, and prevention counseling. Approximately 8,750 inmates are expected to be tested during the project period. Inmates will be eligible for testing unless they identify themselves as HIV positive, have mental health issues that affect their ability to provide consent, have been tested within the previous 30 days, or are scheduled to be released within 24 hours of admission. Persons testing anonymously will be able to change their test status to “confidential” without having to retest. Persons with a reactive result to the rapid test will be referred for confirmatory testing. Those who test positive will be referred to available care, treatment, and prevention services offered within the facility, through case management referrals, or by Family Services Inc., a community-based organization that provides services at the jails and makes linkages to community programs upon release.

**Wisconsin**—*Milwaukee House of Corrections and Rock County Jail*. Male and female inmates entering these two facilities will be offered routine voluntary rapid HIV testing, prevention counseling, result notification, confirmatory testing for reactive results, and discharge planning for referrals to community resources upon release. Approximately 8,000 inmates are expected to be tested during the project period. Rapid testing is available 4 days a week and is provided by contractors (STD Specialties and AIDS Network). Inmates are notified of their test results at the time of testing, and those with reactive rapid test results are offered confirmatory HIV testing. Discharge planning staff will refer and link HIV-positive inmates to medical evaluation, treatment, and prevention services in the community; they will also monitor the discharged inmates’ use of these services by maintaining monthly contacts, overseeing risk assessments, and supervising STD screening 6 months after testing.

## **Project Milestones**

- Research Funding Announcement developed: April 2003
- Interim Technical Guidance for Grantees published: July 2003
- Contractors selected: August 2003
- Investigator meetings: November 2003

- Rapid testing implemented at all sites: January 2004

## Data Collection

Counseling and testing data are entered on the state's site-specific Counseling and Testing Survey (CTS) data collection forms. Supplemental program referrals and 3- and 6-month program evaluation data will be collected for all persons who are identified as HIV positive and consent to participate in the evaluation component of the demonstration project. Data are submitted to CDC monthly via a secure data network.

## Results to Date

From late December 2003 through June 2004, 5,226 persons were tested as part of this project. At most sites, inmates who know they are HIV positive are retested if they do not have documentation of a positive test result. This documentation is needed for referral into services. Of those tested, 108 (2.1%) inmates tested positive, 50 of whom were new positives.

All four sites have begun to submit CTS data to CDC. Valuable lessons have already been learned through this project. Florida and Louisiana will be able to conduct more tests in a shorter period of time for two reasons. First, they practice "juggling"—client A is counseled and rapid test administered; while client A is waiting for test results, client B is counseled and given the rapid test; while client B is waiting for test results, Client A is given his/her test results, and so on. This practice allows staff members to make more efficient use of their time. Second, the inmate populations at the facilities are larger than those at the other sites.