



Educational Intervention for HIV Care in Internal and External Correctional Communities

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Introduction

HIV is the deadliest STD. Approximately one in Six persons admitted to jails and prisons are already infected and make up between 1 and 3 % of the inmate population. Insufficient funding, inconsistent application of the law, unique laws across states coupled with the current upheaval in prison systems across the U.S. is contributing to inconsistent diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Outcomes related to these inconsistencies include; negative health outcomes for individuals, higher risk to communities and to prison organization communities. A comprehensive education approach that includes communities, inmates and correctional organizations can help to decrease risk and possibly spread of this disease in these at risk populations

Problem

Federal law 42 U.S. Code 5250 - This law requires every inmate to receive fair and equal healthcare while in prison. In addition, they have the right to refuse.

- Absence of treatment for HIV may contribute to increased risk of transmission within the internal and external communities, rapid individual deterioration, and in some cases early demise from AIDS.
- 1 in 6 inmates are admitted to the prison system already infected
- Only 1/3rd continue receiving treatment after release from the system.
- Current programs are inconsistent and lack clear planning and education for prevention

Redesign and development of programs in correctional programs may help to reduce negative outcomes for HIV infected prison inmates and reduced risk of transmission inside and outside of the prison system, as well as support continued treatment and follow up so necessary for individual wellbeing.

Aims

The purpose of this proposal is to:

- Explore and better understand the management of HIV in the prison system.
- Propose a strategy to develop an education program targeting:
 - Early detection
 - Prevention
 - Active treatment
 - Support
 - Continued treatment at re-entry to society
- Target audiences
 - Organization: correctional staff and leadership
 - Individual: prisoners infected with HIV
 - Society: community

Scope of Practice

The theoretical framework underpinning this project is the Constructed Theory of Forensic nursing. Important constructs within this theory include:

- Emancipatory Praxis Theory
- Social Justice Theory
- Social Learning Theory

These social justice approaches bring together the political, social, and personal decisions that individuals and professionals engage in within society. They act to enhance mapping for best practices by, in this case, the forensic nurse.

Purpose

To explore and more fully understand the management of HIV in the prison system to develop a more comprehensive plan for protection and prevention of disease spread.

- Better understanding will lead to improved educational approaches:
 - Individuals
 - Correctional personnel
 - Internal and external communities

Background

- Treatment of HIV includes multiple interventions
 - Detection
 - 20% enter facility already infected and unaware
 - Testing
 - Opt-out
 - Inmates are more likely to get tested if offered testing in first 254 hours.
 - Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
 - Viral suppression
 - Prevention
 - Condoms, abstinence, monogamy
 - Continued Treatment
 - Discharge planning
 - 1/3 of inmates continue HIV treatment upon release

Methods

This proposal is poised to address a serious disease and a vulnerable population. Ethically this project will protect participant privacy, confidentiality and minimize risks to the extent possible. In order to meet those standards:

- IRB approval will be required
- Study design will include:
 - Pre/Post- test measures
 - Completion of AIDS attitude scale
 - Knowledge assessment
 - SPSS analysis of effect size
- Participants will include:
 - Correctional facility personnel including leadership
 - Non- infected and infected inmates
 - Local communities

Outcomes

Well targeted and developed education on HIV in correctional facilities will...

- Reduce transmission
- Improve safety
- Improve health outcomes for all
- Allow for continued care
- Social Statement
 - Any reduction in negative outcomes for individuals with HIV will have be benefit for the individual, the organization, and society.



All references associated with this poster are attached in the next slide. Thank you to the authors whose work helped in bringing these factors to light.

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