

POSITIVE PATHWAYS



Positive Pathways

Positive Pathways is a public health demonstration program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Innovative strategies will be tested and best practices discerned to identify new and existing HIV infections in the correctional facility population. Once identified, Pathways Advocates will work with HIV-positive incarcerated persons to encourage the initiation of medical care and treatment for HIV during incarceration, and to ensure linkage to medical care and continued care and treatment for six months following release.

Positive Pathways represents a unique collaboration between the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), the New York State Department of Health (DOH), five community-based organizations (CBOs) currently providing services in DOCCS correctional facilities, and the HIV Center at Columbia University. This initiative is being launched in 19 DOCCS correctional facilities across New York State.

Correctional Facility	Community-Based Organization
Marcy Mid-State Mohawk	Center for Community Alternatives
Adirondack Altona Bare Hill Clinton Franklin Chateaugay	AIDS Council of Northeastern NY
Beacon Bedford Hills Taconic Bayview	Women's Prison Association
Downstate Fishkill Green Haven Sing Sing Queensboro	The Osborne Association
Albion	PathStone

New York State has one of the nation's highest numbers of persons living with HIV/AIDS in its correctional system. There are an estimated 3,100 to 3,500 HIV-positive persons in the DOCCS system. However, fewer than 40% of these individuals are currently known to DOCCS Health Services. Additionally, it is believed that most HIV-positive incarcerated persons unknown to DOCCS Health Services are personally aware of their HIV status, but choose not to disclose. As a result, the majority of the estimated 1,500 HIV-positive persons released from New York State correctional facilities annually are not being linked to essential medical services and other needed services upon release.

Goals

- Reduce stigma associated with being HIV-positive in the correctional setting
- Identify new and existing cases of HIV in the correctional facility population
- Encourage HIV-positive incarcerated persons to link to medical care and treatment during incarceration
- Link HIV-positive persons released into the community to medical care
- Sustain releasees in medical care for HIV for six months following their release

Strategies

Six distinct strategies will be employed to reduce stigma, increase incarcerated persons' confidence in DOCCS medical care, identify and treat the HIV-positive correctional facility population, and link and sustain in medical care HIV-positive persons following their release:

- Train DOCCS uniformed staff
- Train DOCCS Health Services staff
- Educate incarcerated persons about the importance of testing, disclosure and the quality of medical care in the correctional setting
- Explain and promote Positive Pathways to HIV-positive incarcerated persons who have not disclosed their HIV status, have not linked to medical care and/or have not initiated treatment
- Offer HIV testing to all incarcerated persons scheduled for release who have no history of HIV testing within DOCCS
- Link HIV-positive incarcerated persons to medical care for HIV and supportive services following their release

Your partnership will make this unique public health demonstration program a success!

Please serve as an ambassador and promote Positive Pathways.

Thank you!

Questions

Contact your local Community-Based Organization: