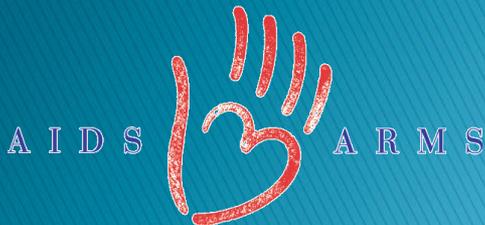


Building Relationships with Soon to be Released Individuals to Ensure Linkage to Care and Treatment – the role of the START Intervention

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Rates of Incarceration

- ▶ At the end of fiscal year 2012
 - 152,302 offenders incarcerated in TDCJ facilities
 - 137,093 prison offenders
 - 11,732 state jail offenders
 - 3,477 substance abuse felony punishment facility offenders

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (2012). Annual Review Fiscal Year 2012. Retrieved from http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Annual_Review_2012.pdf

HIV/AIDS in the Correctional Setting

- ▶ According to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Office of Public Health
 - As of May 2014
 - 2218 individuals with HIV/AIDS in TDCJ
 - Of these 109–120 are released each month
 - Average 20 newly diagnosed offenders each month
 - Average 192 offenders with HIV/AIDS coming into TDCJ each month

Free World Bound (FWB) Programs

- ▶ The purpose of FWB is to increase participation of HIV+ incarcerated and recently released individuals in active health care, support and the Texas HIV Medication Program. Our goal is to increase their chances of success once they return to the Free World. We work closely with correctional staff, parole and probation officers to increase access to the program and provide assistance with pre- and post-release plans.



The START Intervention

- ▶ The START Intervention (known as Project START) is a 6 session individual-level HIV, STD and hepatitis risk reduction intervention for HIV+ and high risk negative individuals being released from a correctional facility back to a community.

Basic Structure

- ▶ Enrollment
- ▶ Six one-on-one sessions
 - 2 sessions are to be completed before release
 - 4 sessions are to be completed after release
- ▶ May require additional sessions
- ▶ Certain tasks and exercises are required at each session

Sessions 1–2: Pre–Release

- ▶ Discuss previous linkage to care
- ▶ Assess HIV/STD knowledge
- ▶ Discuss personal risk behaviors
- ▶ Develop individual risk reduction plan
- ▶ Develop transitional plans
- ▶ Discuss and provide referrals as needed

Issues for Staff

- ▶ Gaining entry into the facility
- ▶ Maintaining client confidentiality
- ▶ Finding an appropriate space
- ▶ Knowing how each correctional facility works

Meeting the Client

- ▶ Using appropriate language
- ▶ “Prison terms”
- ▶ Dressing appropriately

Sessions 3–6: Post Release

- ▶ Provide any ongoing assessment client may need
- ▶ Problem solve barriers
- ▶ Provide risk reduction materials
- ▶ Acknowledge client successes
- ▶ Provide referrals as needed

Reality after Release

- ▶ Released with a 10 day supply of medication, few resources, and little or no community support.
- ▶ May engage in risk behaviors.
- ▶ Health may not be a priority.

Implications for prevention, treatment, and care services

- ▶ Connecting with client before release allows staff to build a rapport.
- ▶ When clients are engaged retention is more likely.
- ▶ The FWB+ teams' relationship with the client, the prison system, and community partners has resulted in a retention rate of over 70% for clients released from prison.

Thank you!

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