

# HIV Knowledge among Justice-Involved Young Men Participating in a Group Educational and Behavioral Intervention at Rikers Island

Janet Wiersema, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>

Anthony J. Santella, DrPH, MPH, MCHES<sup>3</sup>

Alison Dansby, MSW<sup>1</sup>

Press Canady, MSW<sup>1</sup>

Alison O. Jordan, LCSW, CPPB<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> NYC Health + Hospitals, Rikers Island, East Elmhurst, New York

<sup>2</sup> City University of New York, Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, New York, New York

<sup>3</sup> Hofstra University, School of Health Professions and Human Services, Hempstead, New York

**9th Academic & Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health**  
**March 17, 2016**

# Disclosure

---

I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this program/presentation.

# Presentation Objectives

---

By the end of this session, participants will:

- Know areas of HIV knowledge/lack of knowledge among justice-involved young minority men
- Discuss strategies for providing HIV prevention education to young men, including men who have sex with men, in the jail setting; and
- Discuss study design and methodology for a jail-based HIV prevention group educational and behavioral intervention targeting young men population.

# HIV in the Correctional Setting

---

HIV infection among people in the U.S. prisons was 5 times greater than among people not incarcerated.

Youth and young adults accounted for 26% of new infections, with most being among gay and bisexual men (72%) and young Black men (57%).



# New York City Jail System

## At a Glance

Facilities	12 jails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 on Rikers Island,</li> <li>• 3 borough facilities</li> <li>• Public hospital inpatient unit</li> </ul>
Average Daily Population	~10,800 (2014)
Annual Admissions	60,000 (2014)
Released to the Community	~78%
Length of Stay	Mean = 37 days Median = ~7 days

# New York City Jail System



# HIV Prevention and Education at Rikers Island

---

**Intervention:** Small group intervention (2 sessions) for young minority men to improve HIV knowledge and address risks using adapted **Choosing Life! Empowerment! Action! Results! (CLEAR)** EBI.

**CLEAR Goal:** Increase behaviors that promote:

- Healthy living
- Effectively facing the challenges of daily life
- Positive feelings, thoughts, and actions
- Developing daily routines to stay healthy

# Individual Level Data

(baseline and follow up)

---

- Clinical information
- Hospitalization/ER visits
- Housing stability and other priority needs
- Insurance status
- Substance use (ASSIST)
- Behavioral risk
- General health (*SF-12*)
- **HIV knowledge (HIV-KQ-18)**
- Stigma (ethnicity and MSM)
- CLEAR-specific risk assessment



For each statement, please circle "True" (T), "False" (F), or "I don't know" (DK). If you do not know, please do not guess; instead, please circle "DK."

	<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>	<b>I don't know</b>
1. Coughing and sneezing DO NOT spread HIV.	T	F	DK
2. A person can get HIV by sharing a glass of water with someone who has HIV.	T	F	DK
3. Pulling out the penis before a man climaxes/cums keeps a woman from getting HIV during sex.	T	F	DK
4. A woman can get HIV if she has anal sex with a man.	T	F	DK
5. Showering, or washing one's genitals/private parts, after sex keeps a person from getting HIV.	T	F	DK
6. All pregnant women infected with HIV will have babies born with AIDS.	T	F	DK
7. People who have been infected with HIV quickly show serious signs of being infected.	T	F	DK
8. There is a vaccine that can stop adults from getting HIV.	T	F	DK
9. People are likely to get HIV by deep kissing, putting their tongue in their partner's mouth, if their partner has HIV.	T	F	DK
10. A woman cannot get HIV if she has sex during her period.	T	F	DK
11. There is a female condom that can help decrease a woman's chance of getting HIV.	T	F	DK
12. A natural skin condom works better against HIV than does a latex condom.	T	F	DK
13. A person will NOT get HIV if she or he is taking antibiotics.	T	F	DK
14. Having sex with more than one partner can increase a person's chance of being infected with HIV.	T	F	DK
15. Taking a test for HIV one week after having sex will tell a person if she or he has HIV.	T	F	DK
16. A person can get HIV by sitting in a hot tub or a swimming pool with a person who has HIV.	T	F	DK
17. A person can get HIV from oral sex.	T	F	DK
18. Using Vaseline or baby oil with condoms lowers the chance of getting HIV.	T	F	DK

# Study Population (n=166)

---

## Race:

- 53% Black (non-Hispanic)
- 30% Hispanic/Latino
- 11% White
- 3% Other
- 3% Multiracial

## Age:

- Mean = 23.6
- Median = 23.0
- Range = 19 to 30

## Education:

- 39% some high school or less than high school
- 48% HS diploma/GED
- 12% some college

## Sex with:

- 94% women
- 4% men
- 2% both men and women

# HIV Knowledge (n=166)

---

## Areas of Greatest Baseline Knowledge (>80%)

- Sex with more than one partner increases risk (True, 91.5%)
- Showering or washing one's genitals after sex reduces risk (False, 83.0%)
- People infected quickly show serious signs of being infected (False, 82.4%)
- A woman cannot get HIV during period (False, 81.9%)
- A woman can get HIV if she has anal sex with a man (True, 81.3%)

# HIV Knowledge (n=166)

---

## Areas of Least Baseline Knowledge (<70%)

- Natural skin condom works better against HIV than latex (False, 52.4%)
- Taking HIV test one week after sex will tell if person has HIV (False, 59.6%)
- People likely to get HIV by deep kissing (False, 62.0%)
- A person can get HIV from oral sex (True, 65.1%)
- There is a female condom that decreases a woman's chance of getting HIV (True, 67.5%)
- All pregnant women with HIV will have babies born with AIDS (False, 69.9%)

# HIV Knowledge (n=166)

---

- Mean Knowledge Scores (number correct)
  - 13.3 = Pre-Intervention (range 0 to 18)
  - 16.4 = Post-Intervention (range 6 to 18)
- Increased knowledge from pre to post for all 18 questions
  - Significant increases in 17 of 18 questions
  - Significant increase in total number correct

# Discussion Questions

---

- Suggestions to increase followup response rates for people after incarceration?
- Reliable and valid instruments to measure behaviors/practices or other relevant areas?
- Jail-based interventions targeting young men who have sex with men?



# Thank you!

[jwiersema1@nychhc.org](mailto:jwiersema1@nychhc.org)

[Anthony.Santella@hofstra.edu](mailto:Anthony.Santella@hofstra.edu)

[adansby@nychhc.org](mailto:adansby@nychhc.org)

[pcanady@nychhc.org](mailto:pcanady@nychhc.org)

[ajordan@nychhc.org](mailto:ajordan@nychhc.org)