

Prisoner Public Health Issues

- **Increased risk for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.**
- **HIV among prisoners three times higher than general population.**
- **Estimated 17% of people with HIV have been incarcerated.**
- **Of prisoners tested for HIV, 1.7% of males and 0.4% of females were known to be infected in state facilities in 2003.**
- **CDC estimates 12% to 15% of Americans with chronic hepatitis B virus and 39% of those with hepatitis C virus infections were released from a correctional facility during the previous year.**

Prisoner Public Health Issues (Continued)

- **In 2003, 3.2% of TB cases occurred among the incarcerated, although they represented only 0.7% of the US population.**
- **One study showed 51% of inmates had sex within 12 hours of release and 11% injected drugs within 24 hours.**

Probation and Parole Informational Packets

- Developed by the Department of Health (VDH) in collaboration with the Department of Corrections (DOC).
- Information on HIV, STDs, TB, hepatitis and staying out of prison.
- Distributed by probation and parole offices to released inmates, as well as community-based organizations working with local and regional jails.
- DOC sent a letter to the probation and parole offices directing them to distribute these packets to released prisoners.

Probation and Parole Informational Packets (continued)

- **Distribution began in 1998. Evaluation in 2002 showed that 26,000 packets had been distributed.**
- **349 prisoner response cards were returned to VDH.**
- **97% said the information was useful.**
- **Almost a third said that they had contacted a resource listed in the packet or planned to do so.**
- **Packet utilization has decreased in recent years and it may be time to send a reminder letter from DOC to the probation and parole offices.**

Seamless Transition Program

- Collaboration between DOC and VDH.
- Ensures HIV infected inmates have access to HIV related care and medications after release.
- DOC obtains necessary information, provides prisoner with 30-day supply of meds, and gives referral to VDH.
- VDH orders medications, sends referral to LHD, and tracks client's compliance with referral.
- Client reports to LHD, completes AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) enrollment and picks up pre-ordered medications.

Seamless Transition Statistics

- 581 total referrals since program inception (9/2000).
- 55% of referrals kept initial ADAP appointment.
- 89 referrals January to December 2005.
- Only 43% kept initial appointment.
- An additional 12% presented to LHDs in subsequent months.
- Current efforts are focused on identifying and addressing barriers to compliance with initial appointments.