



A resource guide on HIV health promotion in prisons



Prison is considered to be a potentially high-risk environment for the spread of HIV infection. Prior to their incarceration, prisoners are more likely to engage in risk behaviour for HIV infection than the general population. This applies to both sexual and drug injecting behaviour.

Consequently, prevalence of HIV is higher in the prison population than among the general population. In the Department of Health's 1997 anonymous serosurvey, 0.32% (9 of 2813) of adult male prisoners and 1.2% (5 of 410) of adult female prisoners tested HIV positive. The overall rate of HIV among the UK adult population is 0.09%. To date, there has been one documented case of HIV transmission in an English prison (Strang, 1989).

Condoms and clean injecting works are key components in public HIV prevention campaigns. Condoms are not issued routinely to prisoners, but are made available on request through prison medical officers. The Home Office plans to issue additional guidelines to governors and medical officers supporting the consistent interpretation of policy regarding condoms, following a High Court case in which a medical officer refused to issue condoms to a gay inmate.

Clean injecting equipment is not available to prisoners but the Prison Service has recently completed a pilot scheme to make disinfecting tablets available to prisoners who inject drugs, with a view to extending the initiative to all prisons later in the year. Another challenge facing prisons is the competent management of detoxification, since this is a key intervention in reducing the incidence of injecting behaviour.

All prisons are required to appoint multidisciplinary 'Communicable Disease Management Teams' with a remit to include HIV. Ideally, the Teams should include representatives from external agencies (for example, local health promotion specialists or professionals from the voluntary sector), and many prisons have found their involvement helpful. The forging of a new partnership between the Prison Service and the NHS (Joint Prison Service and NHSE Working Group, 1999) is set to encourage a more proactive approach to all health promotion in prisons. This should underpin the development of more needs-based and innovative HIV health promotion programmes in future.

Published reports

AIDS Advisory Committee. *The review of HIV and AIDS in prison*. London: HM Prison Service, 1995. Available from HM Prison Service, Press Office and Publications, Cleland House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LN. Tel: 020 7217 6633.

Bellis MA *et al*. Prevalence of HIV and injecting drug use in men entering Liverpool prison. *British Medical J* 1997 (5 Jul) 315: 30–1.

BMA Foundation for AIDS. *Prescribing of condoms in prisons: survey report*. London: BMA Foundation for AIDS, 1997. Available from BMA Foundation for AIDS, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP. Tel: 020 7383 6345; fax: 020 7388 2544. £5.00.

Brooke D *et al*. Substance misusers remanded to prison – a treatment opportunity? *Addiction* 1998 93 (12): 1851–6.

Department of Health. *Unlinked anonymous HIV prevalence monitoring programme: England and Wales. Data to the end of 1997*. London: Department of Health, December 1998. Available from Department of Health Publications, PO Box 777, London SE1 6XH. Fax: 01623 724 524; email: doh@prologistics.co.uk.

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Global Programme on AIDS. *WHO guidelines on HIV infection and AIDS in prisons*. Geneva: World Health Organization, March 1993. WHO/GPA/DIR/93.3. Available from WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Gore SM *et al*. Injector inmates and anal sex with another man in prison. *International J STD & AIDS* 1998 9 (12): 781.

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HM Prison Service. *Tackling drugs in prison: the prison service drug strategy*. London: HM Prison Service, 1998. Available from HM Prison Service, Press Office and Publications (see above).

Joint Prison Service and National Health Service Executive (NHSE) Working Group. *The future organisation of prison health care*. London: Department of Health, 1999. Available from Department of Health Publications (see above).

MacDonald M. *Audit of drugs initiatives in operation in 10 prisons in Italy and 10 prisons in England*. Birmingham: University of Central England, 1999. Available from Morag MacDonald (for address details, see Useful Contacts, p.5).

Nelles J *et al*. How does syringe distribution in prison affect consumption of illegal drugs by prisoners? *Drug and Alcohol Review* 1999 18 (2): 133–8 (Switzerland).

O'Brien O *et al*. *A question of equivalence: a report on the implementation of international guidelines on HIV/AIDS in prisons of the European Union*. London: Cranstoun Drug Services, 1997. Available from Francesca Ambrosini (for address details, see Useful Contacts, p.4).

Padel U *et al*. *HIV education in prisons*. London: Health Education Authority/SCODA, 1992. Although quite old, this is still a useful resource. Out of print, but available via inter-library loan from your local library.

Perkins S. *Access to condoms for prisoners in the European Union: final report*. London: National AIDS and Prisons Forum, 1998. Available from the National AIDS and Prisons Forum, c/o National AIDS Trust, New City Cloisters, 188/196 Old Street, London EC1V 9FR. Telephone Stephanie Sexton on: 01273 700 160. £5.00. Limited copies available.

Robertson D. *HIV and custody: risk reduction and health promotion in custodial settings*. London: Health Education Authority/National AIDS Trust, 1995. Out of print, but available via inter-library loan from your local library.

Sexton S. *AIDS management in prisons: factors leading to effective healthcare for prisoners*. London: National AIDS and Prisons Forum, 1997. Although published in 1997, the issues outlined are still relevant to current prison work. Available from the National AIDS and Prisons Forum (see above).

Strang J *et al*. Well users clinic for illicit drug users. *British Medical J* 1989 (13 May) 298: 1310.

Strang J *et al*. HIV/AIDS risk behaviour among adult male prisoners. *Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. Research Findings* 1998 No.82. Available from the Information and Publications Group, Room 201, Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. Tel: 020 7273 2084.

Educational resources

Health Action. *ACT NOW* is a resource pack (manual and video), funded by the European Commission HIV in Prisons Project, aimed at developing a culturally sensitive education package which uses drama and peer education to address HIV, drug use and other social issues in prison. The pack has been piloted in male and female prisons and Young Offender Institutions across Europe. An updated version will be published at the beginning of next year. Limited copies of the current version are available from Health Action (for address details, see Lynne Partington, in Useful Contacts, p.5).

HM Prison Service. *AIDS inside and out: an education package on HIV infection and AIDS for the use of prisons and young offender institutions in England and Wales* is a video produced by HM Prison Service in 1995. Available from HM Prison Service, Cleland House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LN. Tel: 020 7217 6164; fax: 020 7217 6412.

Midlands Prisons' Initiatives Group. *Exploring ... sex, drugs and HIV* is a comprehensive training package aimed at prison staff and inmates. The package provides materials and activities covering attitudes, awareness and harm reduction. The Group has also produced a wide range of other resources on drugs and safer sex. Available from the Midlands Prisons' Initiatives Group (for address details, see Helen Merricks, in Useful Contacts, p.5).

Since very few resources have been developed specifically for use in custodial settings, what follows is a selection of agencies which produce resources aimed at the different target audiences within prisons/young offender institutions:

AIDS Education and Research Trust (AVERT) produces resources aimed at a range of audiences, including young people. Small charges made for multiple copies. Available from AVERT, 4 Brighton Road, Horsham RH13 5BA. Tel: 01403 210 202; fax: 01403 211 001; email: avert@dial.pipex.com.

British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) Publications produces a range of resources on HIV/AIDS and sexual health for people with learning disabilities. Available from BILD, Plymbridge Distributors, Plymbridge House, Estover Road, Plymouth PL6 7PZ. Tel: 01752 202 300; fax: 01752 202 333.

Health Education Authority (HEA) produces a variety of resources on HIV, sexual health and drug misuse, for a range of target audiences. Single copies may be obtained free of charge from your local health promotion unit. Multiple copies or an HEA catalogue are available from Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN. Tel: 01235 465 565; fax: 01235 465 556.

NAM Publications. *AIDS Reference Manual*. For comprehensive and authoritative information on all aspects of HIV. The 1999-2000 edition (published in late 1999) will include an updated section on prisons. Available from NAM Publications, 16a Clapham Common Southside, London SW4 7AB. Tel: 020 7627 3200; fax: 020 7627 3101; email: info@nam.org.uk. £41.95.

Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) produces a range of resources aimed at different target groups, including Black Africans and gay men. In addition, many health professionals have found THT's leaflet *HIV and AIDS: information for women* particularly useful. Single copies free, multiple copies 50p per copy. Contact THT, 52-54 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JU. Tel: 020 7831 0330; fax: 020 7242 0121; email: info@tht.org.uk.

Selected websites

- AVERT – www.avert.org
- Health Education Authority – www.hea.org.uk
- HM Prison Service – www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk
- Howard League for Penal Reform – web.ukonline.co.uk/howard.league
- ISTD: Centre for Crime and Justice Studies – www.kcl.ac.uk/orgs/istd/home.htm
- National AIDS Manual – www.aidsmap.com
- Terrence Higgins Trust – www.tht.org.uk
- WHO Health in Prisons Project – www.hipp-europe.org

Useful contacts for further information

- Francesca Ambrosini, European Network of Drug and HIV/AIDS Services in Prisons (ENDHASP), c/o Cranstoun Drug Services, Broadway House, 112-134 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL. Tel: 020 8543 8333; fax: 020 8543 4348; email: fambrosini@cranstoun.org.uk. ENDHASP aims to contribute to the development of effective drug and HIV/AIDS services in prisons and to raise awareness of the drug and HIV-related needs of prisoners of migrant and ethnic minority groups. It has over 3,000 contacts throughout and beyond the EU. ENDHASP also produces a biannual newsletter, *Connections*.
- Gabrielle Brown, HIV Co-ordinator, Prisoners' Resource Service, PO Box 16216, London SW19 1ZU. Tel: 020 8543 8333 / 020 8674 9811 x380. Gabrielle is involved in primary HIV prevention in Brixton prison. She also works in primary prevention with positive prisoners and in one-to-one counselling, particularly with prisoners with reading difficulties or those who do not have English as a first language.
- Steve Brown, HMYOI (Young Offender Institution) Dover, The Citadel, Western Heights, Dover DT17 9DR. Tel: 01304 203 848 x439. Steve runs a sexual health programme with young offenders which covers HIV and contraceptive health, self-esteem and negotiation.
- David Hillier, Head of Communicable Diseases, HM Prison Service, Room 834, Cleland House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LN. Tel: 020 7217 6084. For information about Home Office initiatives in custodial settings.
- Bridget Hughes, North West Prisons and HIV Forum, Health Promotion Specialist Service, 3rd Floor, Mauldreth House, Mauldreth Road West, Manchester M21 7RL. Tel: 0161 882 2304; fax: 0161 882 2319. The Forum has been involved in policy work and is developing models of good practice for the involvement of voluntary and statutory agencies in prison HIV health promotion work.

- Kingsley Lewis, Nursing Manager, HMP & YOI Holloway, Parkhurst Road, London N7 0NU. Tel: 020 7607 6747 x2384. HMP Holloway has involved voluntary agencies such as Blackliners and Positively Women in their HIV health promotion work. Dental dams are made available to prisoners through health care. Holloway also pioneered the provision of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis to prison staff.
- Morag MacDonald, University of Central England (UCE), Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, Perrybarr B42 2SU. Tel: 0121 331 5532; fax: 0121 331 6794; email: morag.macdonald@uce.ac.uk. Morag has a special interest in research on HIV in prisons.
- Helen Merricks, Programme Co-ordinator (Prisons), South Staffordshire Health Authority, Centre for Health Promotion, Corporation Street, Stafford ST16 3FL. Tel: 01785 220 977; fax: 01785 221 170 (Helen can be reached more easily by fax than phone). South Staffordshire Health Promotion is involved in ongoing training within the prison service around HIV issues. In addition, Helen is the key contact for The Midlands Prisons' Initiatives Group, which is involved in all areas of work related to HIV, drug use and other health matters in prison (see also Educational Resources, p.3).
- Steve Morton, Senior Manager, Primary Healthcare & Sexual Health, Health First, Mary Sheridan House, 15 St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RY. Tel: 020 7955 4366; fax: 020 7378 6789. Together with the Prisoners' Resource Service (see Gabrielle Brown, above), Steve has worked with officers and managers at Brixton prison to put policy into practice, translating Brixton's HIV strategy into an operational-level action plan.
- National HIV Prevention Information Service (NHPIS). NHPIS provides details of current projects and research into HIV health promotion in prisons from its Research and Practice/Interests Database (RAPID). See below for NHPIS' contact details.
- Scott Ormerod, Health Promotion Development Worker (Gay Men), East Surrey Health Authority, Health Promotion Unit, West Park Road, Horton Lane, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8PH. Tel: 01372 731 013 / 01372 731 039; fax: 01372 729 841; email: Scott.Ormerod@esurrey-ha.sthames.nhs.uk. East Surrey Health Promotion provides an advice and referral service for men who have sex with men in custodial settings. Information on sexual identity, behaviour and risk is available for prisoners who do not identify themselves as gay but engage in sex with other men while in custody. Scott has also involved the chaplaincy in his work.
- Lynne Partington, Health Promotion Specialist (Sexual Health, Prisons and Drugs), Health Action, Farm Villa, Old Oakwood Site, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME16 7QQ. Tel: 01622 726 529. Lynne has extensive experience training staff and working with prisoners on HIV/sexual health issues. She is also the European Co-ordinator of the *ACT NOW HIV in Prisons Project* (see also Educational Resources, p.3).
- Lynn Pattinson, NW Lancashire Health Promotion Unit, Sharoe Green Hospital, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood PR2 8DU. Tel: 01772 711 777. Lynn is involved in multidisciplinary teams in HMP Preston and HMP Kirkham, developing healthy prisons as a setting. This includes tackling sexual health/substance misuse issues within the context of mental health and relationship skills. Sexuality and homophobia are also covered.
- Loraine Reilly, HIV Community Worker, Community Health Team, Hammersmith and Fulham Social Service Dept, Marzell House, 122-126 North End Road, London W14 9PP. Tel: 020 8748 3020 x5472. Loraine works with remand and long-term prisoners and lifers in HMP Wormwood Scrubs. Long term prisoners are offered five-day courses which include safer sex and injecting practices. Lifers are involved in the use of drama to look at HIV issues and challenge racism and bullying (including sexual bullying). Several lifers have also been trained as peer educators.

- Lise Russell (Educational Co-ordinator), Camden and Islington Community Trust HQ, East Wing, St Pancras Hospital, 4 St Pancras Way, London NW1 0PE. Tel: 020 7530 3193; fax: 020 7530 3129. The Home Office funds London-based residential Communicable Disease Management Team courses, run by staff at the Mortimer Market Centre GUM/HIV Dept. Open to all prison personnel, the course covers HIV, TB, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. A course manual is provided and teams are assisted in producing an action plan for their establishment. Follow-up can be provided.
- Stephanie Sexton, National AIDS and Prisons Forum (NAPF), c/o National AIDS Trust, New City Cloisters, 188/196 Old Street, London EC1V 9FR. Tel: 01273 700 160 (Stephanie's home number). NAPF was established in 1989 and is the key forum in the area of HIV and prison issues. There are members' meetings three times a year, with specialist interest working groups in between, and one annual conference.

Watch out for ...

- The National AIDS and Prisons Forum is undertaking a review of resources for work in prisons. Working parties are to be set up on addressing the needs of young offenders, women and non-convicted prisoners, and on strategy and policy (for address details, see Stephanie Sexton in Useful Contacts, above).
- NW Lancashire Health Promotion Unit is involved in the development of a resource for prison staff adapted from the Unit's training programme for the Police Service, dealing with homophobia and sexuality issues (for address details, see Lynn Pattinson in Useful Contacts, p.5).
- The Prison Service is setting up a national multidisciplinary drug service called CARAT, providing Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice/information and Throughcare for all prisoners who require it. CARAT is to provide resources, including postcards with drug education information aimed at young male offenders. Contact Elaine Bass, Prison Service Drug Strategy Unit, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN. Tel. 020 7217 5715.
- The Prison Service is to ensure by 2001 that sexual health education and parenting education are offered in all Young Offender Institutions, according to the Social Exclusion Unit's 1999 report, *Teenage Pregnancy* (p98).

Further copies of this guide are available from Marston Book Services. Tel: 01235 465565.



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National HIV Prevention Information Service

NHPIS

NHPIS resource guides are designed to alert interested health and education professionals to the key resources required for developing HIV health promotion in a given area.

NHPIS is a free specialist information service on HIV health promotion for professionals in England. It is funded by the Department of Health and based at the Health Education Authority, 30 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW.
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Fax 020 7413 8929
e-mail: nhpis@hea.org.uk
website: www.hea.org.uk/nhpis

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