Gathering Specific Sub-cultural Information on Service Access for Ex-Offenders : The PICS Model

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Objectives

- By the end of this session, participants will demonstrate knowledge about the epidemiological picture of HIV in the Baltimore EMA, focusing on data concerning past incarceration amongst consumers interviewed.
- By the end of this session, participants will be able to explain the three "hot zones" of infection for offenders, and highlight how exposure to HIV might impact the treatment and disease progression of incarcerated individuals.
- By the end of this session, participants will be able to describe the PICS (Previously Incarcerated Consumer Survey) design, implementation plan, and analysis plan.

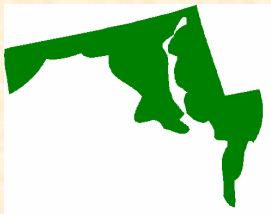
Maryland – General Information

Population: 5,615,727 (2006)

Median income: $57,019

% with bachelors or higher : 34.5%

% African American: 29.5%



Baltimore EMA

- Consists of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Anne Arundel County, and Queen Anne's County.
- 2.5 million people or 47% of the population of Maryland
- 18000 people living with HIV/AIDS
  - 87% African American
  - Majority of cases in Baltimore City

Incarceration – How Big an Issue?

- The United States has more incarcerated people than any other country in the world (more than 2.3 million nationwide)
- Individuals of a minority status are more likely to encounter the criminal justice system
- 46% of people incarcerated have/had a family member who was/is incarcerated

Incarceration – What We Know

- Rapid HIV testing is feasible and useful in detainment settings, but not widely available (Beckwith et al 2007, Rosen et al 2004).
- Individuals may feel unable to take medications because it may "out" them to other inmates (Rosen et al 2004).
- Although prisons must provide medication to prisoners, "medication assisted treatment" is not as common as believed (Bruce and Schleifer 2008).

Incarceration – What We Know

- Release from prison has a negative impact on individuals who are already infected. Care planning and treatment linkage is desperately needed (Stephenson et al 2005).
- Individuals on probation or parole tend to engage in higher risk behaviors and have little HIV education exposure (Belenko et al 2004).
- HIV and incarceration has a positive correlation to probability of homelessness, which has a negative impact on disease management capabilities (Courtenay-Quirk et al 2008).

The "Hot Zone" Theory

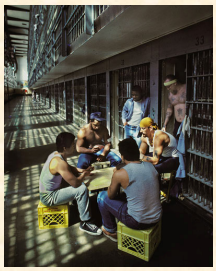
- 3 periods in which individuals are exposed to HIV
  - Before incarceration
  - During incarceration
  - After incarceration

Before Incarceration

- Compulsory Disclosure
- Need for medication/ specialized care
- "Grapevine"
- Segregation/ Ignorance

During Incarceration

- Exposure
- HIV CTR – availability
- Dealing with results
- Post-incarceration discovery
  - Out processing
  - Availability of results for care



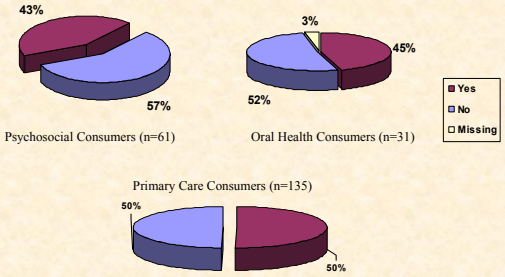
After Incarceration

- Value questions
- Recidivism
- Increase in risky behavior
- Adaptive behavior patterns (do what you did inside)
- Exposure to others due to perceived risk

The 2007 Consumer Surveys

- 227 individuals were given a consumer survey in four service categories
- Large percentages indicated having been in jail or prison
  - Primary Care: 50.4%
  - Oral Health: 45%
  - Psychosocial: 43%

Results- Been to Jail/Prison



Informed Assumptions

- A significant portion of the Baltimore EMA has been involved with the criminal justice system
- A percentage were HIV positive when they were in jail/prison
- Individuals who were either exposed or already infected needed care after jail/prison

The Concerns

- Were consumers infected when they went to jail/prison?
- Were consumers exposed in jail/prison?
- Were infected consumers provided with ample treatment?
- Were uninfected consumers offered testing?
- Were infected consumers linked to care upon release?

PICS Jail/Prison Sub-survey - Methods

- In 2008, the question asking if individuals had been in jail or prison will remain for four service categories
- If the answer is "yes", then it will trigger asking about participation in a short sub-survey, the Previously Incarcerated Consumer Sub-survey, or PICS

PICS Sub-survey data elements

- Jail or prison
- Length of time
- Knowledge of status before entering
- Informing staff of status
- Testing availability
- Risky behavior in jail/prison
- Care in jail/prison
- Educational opportunities
- Linkage following jail/prison

What Will We Learn?

- # of individuals who knew about status before entering jail or prison
- # of individuals who believe they were exposed in jail or prison
- Quality of care in jail or prison
- Linkage following incarceration

What We Will Learn

- The Critical Gap – linkage to care once released from incarceration
- Perception of care while incarcerated
- Probability of infection while incarceration

Limitations

- Convenience sample
- Frequency
- Time dilation
- Quantitative nature
- Knowledge of testing
- Self reporting
- Silence about assault
- Analysis Limitations

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