

Project Relate: HIV Risk Among Male Parolees and Their Female Partners

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Project Description

This study explores HIV risk among men who were released from prison within the last year and are currently on parole and the women who are in sexual relationships with them. Couples are recruited from community sites in Oakland, CA for participation in a quantitative survey. The couple comes to an appointment together and then each person is interviewed separately by a gender-matched interviewer. 200 couples will participate in the survey; a sub-sample of 44 couples will also be asked to participate in a qualitative interview to provide more in-depth contextual information about HIV risk and risk reduction among couples affected by incarceration.



Significance

HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect prisoners in the United States. Low-income men of color, particularly African American men, are incarcerated at much higher rates than are low-income white males. Women of color and low-income women in the United States also have disproportionately high rates of HIV/AIDS.

Our preliminary studies have underscored the complexities of understanding how the context of a man's incarceration influences couples' decision-making processes involving HIV risk and risk reduction and have compelled us to undertake couple-level research on this issue. This study will yield critical information about HIV risk and risk reduction in relationships between male parolees and their female partners that can be used to develop population-appropriate and effective interventions for low-income people of color who experience their own or their partner's incarceration.

Project Recruitment Dates: January 2009 – August 2010

Project Ending Date: 2011