

# Treating and Preventing HIV among People who are Incarcerated: The Way Forward in Illinois

In early 2023, Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC) in collaboration with Community Research Collaborative (CRC), disseminated a survey to all Illinois county jails and detention centers to gather updated information and discover their priorities, challenges, and other options to increase awareness of the goals of the Illinois County Jails Act and fulfill them. This includes aspects of the Act related to education, prevention, testing, and treatment of HIV both during and post-detention. The primary goal of collecting this data was to inform the development of an outreach and capacity-building strategy to improve HIV services in Illinois' county jails and juvenile detention centers. This process built on the learnings from 2012 and 2016 data collection initiatives; it included extensive survey expansion and redesign, implementation, data analysis and reporting, outreach, and capacity building.

The most actionable findings suggest the necessity for further support of HIV services that generally fall into four categories:

**Prevention with Promotional Materials**

**Training of Staff and People in Custody**

**Screening and Testing**

**Intervention and Treatment**

Based on research completed in collaboration with PHIMC and CRC, the lessons learned from the 2023 survey can provide support for:

- **Increasing overall health education and HIV testing for people in custody and those released from correctional facilities**
- **Ensuring county jails and juvenile detention centers are poised to respond to necessary provisions of the Act**

## Survey Highlights that Support the Need for HIV Services, Education, and Resources



**60%**

of the facilities reported wanting to “know more about the IDPH’s medical assistance program”

The most reported barrier to providing people in custody with HIV education was “Insufficient knowledge to provide training and education”



**Only 2**

facilities offer people in custody Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication regimens



**90%**

of the facilities **DID NOT** post HIV prevention, treatment, and testing education materials in visitor waiting rooms



**40%**

of the facilities reported staff training on ethics



**75%**

of the facilities reported contracting out mental health services



**60%**

of the facilities reported providing staff with basic HIV facts and information



**47%**

reported training staff on confidentiality of people in custody



**Only 4%**

of the facilities reported providing further HIV education as part of their discharge planning

PHIMC appreciates all who initiated and participated in this research and those same people who will carry this work forward by integrating lessons learned into practice, to move Illinois closer to zero cases of HIV in the future.



Read the full report at:  
[www.phimc.org/crp](http://www.phimc.org/crp)



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