

Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago

(PHIMC) advances health justice and strengthens public health through innovation and partnerships that align people, strategies, and resources. PHIMC envisions systems that impact how we live, work, and play as compassionate, affirming, and racially equitable, supporting health and well-being for all people.

PHIMC tackles critical health challenges in partnership with public health departments, schools, and other government entities, community-based organizations and advocacy groups, academic and grant-making institutions, and healthcare providers and associations.

Community Reentry Project (CRP) is a multi-stakeholder project that coordinates efforts to ensure that people living with and at highest risk for HIV transition smoothly from incarceration to communities. CRP facilitates a comprehensive system of HIV prevention, care, and support services throughout Illinois.

Each year about 35,000 individuals exit the Illinois state prison system. Incarcerated individuals are disproportionately impacted by chronic and infectious illnesses with higher rates of HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, substance abuse, mental illness, and other medical conditions. For incarcerated individuals living with chronic health problems, the challenges of reintegrating into the community are exacerbated.

The Impact of Community Reentry Project

- Improved health outcomes for people living with and at highest risk for HIV who are re-entering Illinois communities
- Increased HIV testing in county jails throughout Illinois and the Illinois Department of Corrections system (IDOC)
- Reduced HIV transmission in Illinois communities through education, testing, and suppressed viral loads
- Reduced recidivism

The project is a unique model that has earned state and national attention for using a public health approach to reentry. The recidivism rate for participants in CRP is only 23% compared to 50% as reported by IDOC.



PHIMC serves as the convener and grants manager for CRP partner agencies, guiding strategic planning, providing fiscal management, and leading program management and monitoring. Highly trained staff at partner organizations identify and address the health, social, and criminogenic needs of clients. Partners include:

Cermak Health Services of Cook County

Prevention education, counseling, testing, and referrals
773-869-4935

Transforming Reentry Services

Distribution of discharge planning packets, family support groups, and assistance in obtaining identification
312-328-9610

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Discharge planning trainings, Illinois Reentry Conferences, and statewide meetings around incarceration and public health

For more information, contact:

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