

Education to Reduce HIV/HBV/HCV Transmission in Incarcerated Populations

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The US incarcerates more citizens than any other country and nearly half of the prison population has drug-related convictions. HCV rates are twenty times higher in prison and HIV rates are five times higher than the non-incarcerated population.

Over 90% of those impacted by hepatitis C will pass through a correctional setting each year. In order to make meaningful progress eradicating viral hepatitis, programs must expand to address the health of incarcerated citizens in the US.

Description of model of care/intervention

The Hepatitis Education Project (HEP) has provided education in Washington State Prisons for nearly twenty years. HEP visits each prison and conducts a two-hour course reviewing:

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prevalence of HIV/viral hepatitis
- 

overdose recognition/response
- 

basics of immune/liver function
- 

viral hepatitis treatment options
- 

overview of vaccines
- 

transmission/prevention of hepatitis viruses
- 

harm reduction principles
- 

ways to protect one's health

HEP also conducts an intensive peer educator training four times a year to spread awareness of harm reduction practices when using drugs, engaging in sexual intercourse, and tattooing.

PEER COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- P** Pick the right place and time.
- E** Evaluate the situation.
- E** Explore Safer Options.
- R** Resources and Referrals.

HEP

HIV/HBV/HCV SEX RISK

- Anal sex without a condom
- Vaginal sex without a condom
- Vaginal or anal sex with a condom
- Oral sex without a condom or barrier
- Oral sex with a condom or barrier
- Touching partner's genitals with hands
- NOT HAVING SEX

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HIV/HBV/HCV INJECTION RISK

- Injecting using someone else's uncleaned needle and works
- Injecting using someone else's uncleaned cooker or works, but your own brand new needle
- Rinsing a used needle one time with cold water before injecting
- Rinsing a used needle 5 times with cold water before injecting
- Using a brand new needle and works every time you inject
- NOT INJECTING DRUGS

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HIV/HBV/HCV TATTOOING RISK

- Getting a tattoo on the street or in prison with a used needle and ink
- Getting a tattoo with a clean needle but reusing ink
- Using a brand new needle and new ink every time you get a tattoo
- Getting a tattoo in a licensed tattoo shop
- NOT GETTING A TATTOO

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BODY FLUIDS

HIV can spread through:

- ✓ Blood
- ✓ Semen
- ✓ Vaginal Fluid
- ✓ Breast Milk

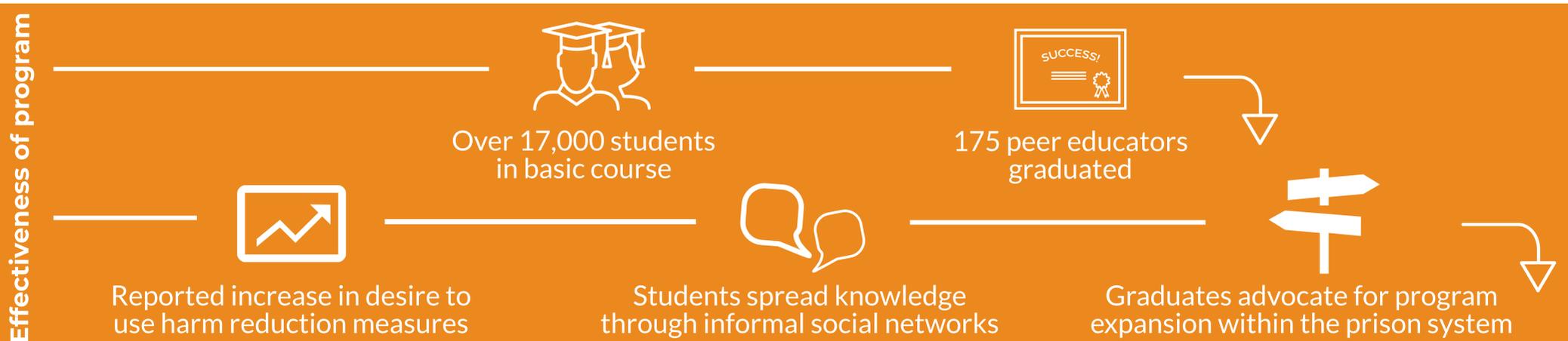
HBV can spread through:

- ✓ Blood
- ✓ Semen
- ✓ Vaginal Fluid

HCV can spread through:

- ✓ Blood

Students in this class learn harm reduction practices and communication skills. Materials were developed to supplement the course.



Conclusion and next steps

HEP has run an effective educational program to reduce the spread of infectious diseases among the population most impacted by viral hepatitis in the US. HEP continues to expand its program, has begun working on a video to be shown to all new prison residents, has adapted its model for delivering education to include incarcerated teachers, and has expanded to other justice-involved sites in its geographical area.