

**ACT HIV**  
THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV

**HIV/AIDS among "Vulnerable"  
populations: What are our next  
steps?**

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**Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants should be able to:

- Identify the "vulnerable populations" to which HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services must be directed
- List the roles that jails and prisons play in our efforts to meet the challenge of providing such HIV services
- Identify the factors in the current economic crisis that will complicate HIV/AIDS service provision
- Appraise the role that Healthy People 2020 will play in directing providers' efforts to form collaborations to improve our capacity to provide needed services to vulnerable populations

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**Who are the "vulnerables"?**

- Answer: those are highest risk for new infections:
  - African Americans and other Blacks of African descent
  - Hispanics, but most especially those of Puerto Rican descent
  - Inmates of state and federal prisons

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**The Numbers**

- Approximately two-thirds of new infections are among Blacks and Hispanics
- Rates of infection among prison/jail inmates range from three to five times those in the general population

CDC 2008

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**The Crisis**

- States are closing prisons and/or releasing large numbers of non-violent inmates back into the community
- Those who are HIV infected face particular challenges to get into treatment and remain there

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**Hard Times**

- 43 states are facing budget deficits of considerable proportions
- Cuts in services come at a time when demand for such services increases
- Immediate consequences: increasing rates of risk, increasing rates of untreated HIV disease, increase in burden of the epidemic

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### **What do we do?**

- Healthy People 2020 will focus on “social determinants of health”
- Federal dollars from HHS will increasingly be available based on our capacity to work with non-health agencies to improve the health of all Americans

The Nation's Health Dec 2008/January 2009



### **And for HIV/AIDS**

- We will increasingly be working with the housing authority, with the department of corrections, with departments of parole, and with departments of education
- Collaboration between unlikely partners will be the rule rather than the exception



### **Where to Start?**

- More and more, corrections officials are ready to work with us around issues of testing for HIV, improving access to care, and improving pre-release services for those who must transition from the joint to the community



### **Other Partners**

- Churches, after years of being part of the problem, are increasingly willing to partner with health care and public health officials to “spread the word” and provide space for special services



### **Final thoughts**

- Hard times are coming.
- Put in other terms: “we ain’t seen nuthin’ yet!”
- New partnerships and new collaborations will forge the nature of our battle against the epidemic for many years to come



### **THE END**

