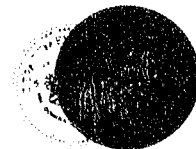


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ACQUISITIONS

*Research
in Action*

James K. Stewart, Director

August 1988

NIJ AIDS Clearinghouse helps you respond to the AIDS challenge

Criminal justice professionals often deal with people who engage in behavior that can transmit the AIDS virus—especially intravenous drug use and prostitution. Law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel responding to the scene of an accident or crime are often called on to perform CPR and other life-saving techniques. Correctional officers routinely search and transport inmates who may be infected with the AIDS virus but who show no symptoms. These practitioners all need appropriate information about how to protect against the transmission of the virus and avoid overreacting.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has, since 1985, analyzed and reported on the emerging policy issues that AIDS poses for the criminal justice system. The Institute continues to keep pace with the rapidly developing AIDS situation. To help meet the need for information, the Institute established the NIJ AIDS Clearinghouse, a resource that criminal justice professionals can use to obtain *current* information on AIDS.

The NIJ AIDS Clearinghouse is the only centralized source of information about how AIDS affects criminal justice professionals and their work. The Clearinghouse distributes the most recent information on AIDS developed by NIJ, the Centers for

Disease Control, and other agencies of the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Department of Justice, as well as materials prepared by professional associations, State and local governments, and corrections and law enforcement agencies across the country.

The Clearinghouse answers your questions about AIDS

An information specialist with a broad knowledge of AIDS issues is available to answer questions, make referrals, and suggest publications pertaining to AIDS as it relates to criminal justice. If you are planning an AIDS focused conference, training seminar, or meeting, the Clearinghouse can give you ideas for materials and refer you to sources for knowledgeable speakers.

"Can you send us AIDS training materials for lockup situations?"

This police department received copies of NIJ's *AIDS in Correctional Facilities* and the *AIDS Bulletin, Precautionary measures and protective equipment*, and was referred to several other sources of good training materials.

The Clearinghouse places special emphasis on gathering and disseminating materials and information that address questions criminal justice professionals have about AIDS. Examples of these questions appear throughout this *Research in Action*. The Clearinghouse can help answer *your* questions about AIDS—call 301-251-5500.

AIDS Bulletins now available

Another feature of the Clearinghouse is NIJ's *AIDS Bulletin* series—short, nontechnical summaries of important information on AIDS and related criminal justice policies. These bulletins provide helpful, relevant information to criminal justice agencies that are concerned about AIDS risks and prevention strategies. Recent bulletins addressed the cause, transmission, and incidence of AIDS and the risk of infection through exposures to blood.

Two new bulletins in the series include:

- *Precautionary measures and protective equipment: Developing a reasonable response* provides an overview of precautionary measures criminal justice personnel can take to protect themselves from HIV infection during specific incidents and situations.

NIJ AIDS Clearinghouse helps you respond to the AIDS challenge

• *AIDS and intravenous drug use* explores the relationship between intravenous drug use and the spread of AIDS and discusses some educational and prevention strategies currently being used with IV drug users.

These and other *AIDS Bulletins* are available free from the NIJ AIDS Clearinghouse. Upcoming topics in the *NIJ AIDS Bulletin* series include

“How do people get AIDS?”

This sheriff received a copy of NIJ's first *AIDS Bulletin*, *The cause, transmission, and incidence of AIDS*, and was put on the mailing list to receive future *AIDS Bulletins*.

legal and liability issues, technical requirements of testing, and training and education.

NIJ recognizes that AIDS presents unique problems for corrections and law enforcement officials. The Clearinghouse provides these professionals with information specific to AIDS as it relates to their situations.

AIDS and corrections

NIJ studies focusing on AIDS in correctional facilities review significant medical research, policy issues, and legal implications associated with AIDS in the correctional setting. As of October 1, 1987, a cumulative total of 1,964 confirmed AIDS cases among inmates were reported in 70 Federal, State, and local correctional systems, according to an NIJ study.

The report, *AIDS in Correctional Facilities: Issues and Options*, sum-

marizes the findings of NIJ's annual survey of State and Federal correctional systems and 33 of the larger city-county jail systems. It provides corrections officials and medical staff with reliable information to make sound policy decisions about AIDS. It gives statistics on incidence rates in corrections systems, up-to-date medical facts, and information on key issues such as screening and testing programs.

A major controversy in corrections surrounds the testing of inmates for the AIDS virus. Of 82 correctional systems surveyed in October 1987, 25 employ selective screening of people they believe engage in high-risk behavior—homosexuals, intravenous drug abusers, and prostitutes.

As of October 1987, 13 systems, including the Federal Bureau of Prisons, employ mass screening. Questions have arisen concerning the test's utility in predicting the future course of the disease, and the difficulty in maintaining the confidentiality of the test results. What should be done with those identified as seropositive is another important issue that must be carefully weighed in any application of screening programs to correctional setting.

A forthcoming publication, *AIDS: Issues for Probation and Parole*, will address the implications AIDS presents for community-based corrections agencies. This publication, based on a survey of probation and parole agencies, will provide information about key issues, including confidentiality, legal liability, and effects of clients' medical status on parole/probation decisions.

AIDS and law enforcement

NIJ surveyed 35 law enforcement agencies to determine their needs for AIDS information and guidance. The June 1987 report that resulted from

“Can you refer me to other departments that have instituted AIDS policies?”

This police department received copies of NIJ's *AIDS and the Law Enforcement Officer*, which contains examples of policies from the Los Angeles Police Department, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department.

that survey, *AIDS and the Law Enforcement Officer: Concerns and Policy Responses*, summarizes key medical information, documents operational policies and training programs, and discusses key legal and labor relations issues. Concern about AIDS tended to be highest in smaller departments and in those serving jurisdictions that had little experience with the disease. Accurate knowledge about AIDS is a prerequisite for rational policy decisions and can help dispel misinformation about the disease.

Recommendations

Based on the most up-to-date information from the Clearinghouse and other sources, NIJ advises that it is dangerous to take either a complacent or an alarmist approach to the issues AIDS presents for the criminal justice system.

Agencies should assess the situation in their departments and seek out both educational materials and examples of how other jurisdictions are responding before making any decisions that have political, social, and public health implications.

AIDS-related materials for criminal justice professionals

National Institute of Justice publications

For free single copies of these publications, call the NIJ AIDS Clearinghouse at 301-251-5500.

AIDS in Correctional Facilities: Issues and Options, by Theodore M. Hammett. Third Edition. NCJ 109943. April 1988.

AIDS and the Law Enforcement Officer: Concerns and Policy Responses, by Theodore M. Hammett. NCJ 105196. June 1987.

AIDS and the Law Enforcement Officer (RIA), NCJ 107541. November/December 1987.

AIDS Bulletin series

The cause, transmission, and incidence of AIDS, by Theodore M. Hammett, Harold Jaffe, and Bruce Johnson. NCJ 106678. June 1987. First in a series.

Risk of infection with the AIDS virus through exposures to blood, by Theodore M. Hammett and Walter Bond. NCJ 107538. October 1987. Second in a series.

Precautionary measures and protective equipment: Developing a reasonable response, by Theodore M. Hammett. NCJ 108619. February 1988. Third in a series.

AIDS and intravenous drug use, by Don Des Jarlais and Dana E. Hunt. NCJ 108620. February 1988. Fourth in a series.

U.S. Public Health Service publications

For multiple copies of the following publications call the National AIDS Information Clearinghouse (NAIC) at 1-800-458-5231 between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. eastern time, or contact the U.S. Public Health Service, Room 721-H, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201. 202-245-6867.

- "Surgeon General's Report on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" (also available in Spanish)
- "What You Should Know About AIDS"
- "AIDS and Your Job—Are There Risks?"
- "Facts About AIDS and Drug Abuse"
- "Facts About AIDS"
- "AIDS: Information/Education Plan To Prevent and Control AIDS in the United States"
- "Protection Against Occupational Exposure to Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)"
- "Update: Universal Precautions for Prevention of Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B Virus, and Other Blood-Borne Pathogens in Health Care Settings"

Additional information

For more information about AIDS, the U.S. Public Health Service operates the National AIDS Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call the AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS.

Videos

To obtain the following videos on AIDS, contact the agencies listed below.

"AIDS: A Bad Way To Die"
Time: 40 minutes
Charles Hernandez, Superintendent, Taconic Correctional Facility, 250 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507. 914-241-3010.

"Beyond Fear"
Time: 60 minutes
American Red Cross General Supply Division, 7401 Lockport Place, Lorton, VA 22079. 703-339-8890.

"AIDS: The Challenge for Corrections"
Time: 18 minutes
"Preventing AIDS: It's a Matter of Life or Death" (available in Spanish)
Time: 15 minutes
National Sheriffs' Association, 1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. 703-836-7827.

"AIDS: Key Facts for Correctional Staff"
Time: 35 minutes
"AIDS: Key Facts for Inmates" (available in Spanish)
Time: 30 minutes
American Correctional Association, 421 Hartwick Road, College Park, MD 20740. 301-699-7600.

"AIDS Bulletin for Law Enforcement"
Time: 23 minutes
Eleanor Crow, Supervisor, Video Communications and Training, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Division of Crime Laboratories and Staff Services, P.O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, FL 32302. 904-488-9432.

NIJ training recommendations for criminal justice professionals:

- Provide training and education to law enforcement personnel, corrections staff, and inmates.

- Develop specific policy guidelines that will ensure the safety of criminal justice system personnel, as well as protect the rights and

health of those within the jurisdiction of the system.

- Counsel caution and follow recommended precautions when involved in incidents where transmission may occur.

To reach the NIJ AIDS Clearinghouse, call 301-251-5500.

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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