Prisoner Reintegration Through Primary Care Practice: The Holyoke Model

3 Results

The practice holds weekly re-entry lunches and offers “Safety Counts”, “Strengthening Families”, HIV, and substance abuse prevention groups. Additionally, clients have access to parenting classes, referral services, a meditation chapel, diabetic education, case management, and other services. The medical division of the practice had just under 5000 visits for calendar year 2009 and the program in conjunction with affiliated Light of Restoration Ministries has served 10,245 since its opening. Preliminary findings indicate that the services provided to the target population are very much needed and continue to have a positive impact:

- The practice staff noted a decrease in certain clients’ use of alcohol and drugs.
- Some of the findings from the first six months of data analysis of all participants demonstrate statistically significant changes in behavior, while other findings without statistical significance either approached significance or indicated how these services should be continued within the target area. For example, the following findings were not statistically significant, yet either follow up or exit had decreases in risk behavior:
  - There was a 4% decrease in the use of heroin (a) and a decrease in the use of alcohol (b) for those who had been tested (n=15). The decrease in alcohol use is a significant finding given that alcohol use in the past 30 days was 21% (10) and the decrease is now reduced to 19% (9).
  - In May 2009, there was a significant decrease in the use of heroin (a) and a decrease in the use of alcohol (b) for those who had been tested (n=15). The decrease in alcohol use is a significant finding given that alcohol use in the past 30 days was 21% (10) and the decrease is now reduced to 16% (6).

4 Conclusion

In summation, this program has been effective in engaging reentrannt prisoners, assisting in their efforts at maintaining sobriety, supporting their overall health, and reintegrating them into the community of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

5 References