

# STATISTICS MEMO

## *Inmates with HIV/AIDS*

*June 20, 2007*

*Prepared by:*

Stephanie Beckett  
Social Research Associate

This memo provides information on North Carolina inmates with HIV/AIDS. On December 31, 2006, there were 696 inmates in the North Carolina prison system who were known to have HIV/AIDS. This number comprises 1.8% of the total inmate population. The following tables provide demographic information as well as information on behaviors considered to increase the likelihood of contracting HIV/AIDS.

### **Characteristics of HIV/AIDS population compared to general inmate population**

Inmates with HIV/AIDS were older, less educated, and there were more black inmates than in the general population. The gender ratio was almost identical to the general inmate population, as was the marital status of males. However, females with HIV/AIDS were more likely to be single than female inmates in the general population.

### **Risky behavior**

Over half the inmates with HIV/AIDS responded to a questionnaire about HIV/AIDS risk behaviors. This questionnaire was developed by Health Services and has been administered to inmates at processing for over 20 years. The items on this questionnaire are about behaviors which increase one's likelihood of contracting HIV/AIDS, such as certain sexual behaviors, needle sharing, and blood transfusions between the years of 1978-1985. Based on answers to the items on the questionnaire, inmates considered high risk are offered HIV/AIDS testing.

Inmates processing into the system attend a prevention education class on HIV/AIDS. In order to receive an HIV/AIDS test, an inmate must receive pre-test counseling and sign a written consent form. Inmates who do have positive test results from an HIV/AIDS test or who indicate that they already have HIV/AIDS are case managed by an HIV/AIDS nurse clinician who follows them throughout their incarceration. Nurse clinicians also arrange discharge for those being released into the community. While incarcerated, HIV/AIDS positive inmates are also seen by infectious disease physicians who provide care in accordance with community standards.

Inmates with HIV/AIDS who responded to the questionnaire, most frequently answered affirmatively to the item about sex with multiple partners (33.5%), followed by sex with prostitutes or having been a prostitute (21.7%) and sharing needles with others (11.3%). Less than ten percent (8.9%) of the inmates with HIV/AIDS who responded to this questionnaire said that they have had sex with persons of the same gender, and 2.9% had a blood transfusion between 1978 and 1985.

The following table provides demographic information as well as results from the questionnaire about HIV/AIDS risky behaviors.

<b>Number of inmates with HIV/AIDS as of December 2006.....696</b>			
<b>Gender</b>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
	91.5%	8.5%	
<b>Race</b>	<i>White</i>	15.6%	
	<i>Black</i>	80.8%	
	<i>Other</i>	3.6%	
<b>Hispanic</b>		2.2%	
<b>Age Distribution as of May 2007</b>			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
13-18	0.2%	1.7%	
19-21	0.3%	0.0%	
22-25	0.6%	5.1%	
26-30	7.5%	8.5%	
31-35	12.9%	13.5%	
36-40	19.6%	28.8%	
41-45	25.3%	27.1%	
46-50	20.7%	8.5%	
51-55	9.3%	5.1%	
56+	3.6%	1.7%	
<b>Marital Status</b>			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
Single	65.0%	64.4%	
Married	14.0%	6.8%	
Separated	5.5%	10.2%	
Divorced	13.6%	16.9%	
Widowed	1.9%	1.7%	
<b>Highest Grade Level Completed</b>			
Grades 0-6	2.7%		
Grades 7-11	59.8%		
Grades 12+	37.5%		
<b>Risky Behaviors by Frequency</b>			
Sex with multiple partners		128	33.5%
Sex with prostitute or been one		83	21.7%
Shared needles with others		43	11.3%
Sex with people of same gender		34	8.9%
Had blood transfusion between 1978 and 1985		11	2.9%