

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Corrections



Office of the Director

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CONTACT: Sylvia A. Lane
202-671-2137 (Office)

**D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MARKS THE FOURTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTOMATIC INMATE HIV/AIDS TESTING AND
COUNSELING PROGRAM AT THE D.C. JAIL**

(Washington, D.C.) Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Devon Brown, Director of the D.C. Department of Corrections announced that the month of June has major significance for the widely applauded Automatic Inmate HIV/AIDS Testing and Counseling Program operated out of the District's Central Detention Facility also known as the D.C. Jail. The program, which began in June of 2006, has already conducted HIV screening at intake for more than 40,000 inmates arriving at the D.C. Jail, an outcome that represents one of the largest organized testing efforts in the District of Columbia and more importantly, the country as a whole.

According to Director Brown, national data on HIV/AIDS highlights and strongly demonstrates the impact of the program at the jail, a vital component of the Mayor's "Come Together DC, Get Screened for HIV" initiative. Current statistics confirm that the District continues to have the highest rate of AIDS in the country while the prevalence of newly reported cases is higher than comparable urban centers such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago and New York City (D.C Department of Health's Epidemiology Annual Report 2009 Update).

Through the program's unique design, each detainee entering the facility routinely undergoes a two-tiered medical evaluation which includes automatic screening for the HIV virus using Department of Health approved testing procedures. Based on testing results, appropriate medical, counseling, and case management services are offered each impacted inmate. "The program includes a discharge planning and community case management component that ensures affected individuals maintain their post release focus on proper healthcare and medication maintenance," stated Brown.

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The Department continues to receive national attention for this correctional best practice. Based on a multi-year record of successful testing, the Department was recently asked to contribute data, along with three other large jail systems, for an abstract entitled “Implementation of Rapid HIV Testing in Large Urban Jails,” which upon acceptance will be presented at the Infectious Diseases Society of America conference in Canada this coming October. Director Brown emphasizes that “this effort is especially significant because the outcomes and operational feedback will be utilized by other jail systems to effectively address HIV/AIDS in their facilities.”

The Department has also been invited to participate in the upcoming Correctional Healthcare Forum being held in the District for the first time this month, on June 23-24, 2010. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will join the Department of Corrections in holding a roundtable discussion focusing on best practices for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases in correctional systems. In addition, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program, another successful component of the Department’s continuum of health care services, will be presented publicly for the first time during this Forum.

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