

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS

### *Peer Education Program*



The Florida Department of Health (DOH), HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis Section, Prevention Program leads in the provision of prevention, testing and linkage services within the correctional system. DOH funds two programs for inmates preparing to return to their communities: the Jail Linkage Program and the Prison Pre-Release Planning Program. Another program provides prison-based peer education training. Total funding for the corrections programs is approximately \$1.6 million.

The peer education program trains inmate peer educators (IPE) at the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) for males in Orlando. A peer educator trainer (PET) hosts “train-the-trainer” sessions using the Reach One Teach One (ROTO) curriculum, a prison peer health education training program. The goal of the peer educator training is to create a pool of inmate peer educators to conduct HIV prevention programs in prison.

The ROTO training program topics include:

- HIV/AIDS basics
- STDs
- Hepatitis
- TB
- Substance use
- Sexuality and HIV
- Public speaking introduction and practice
- Diversity training

A graduation ceremony and certificate are offered at the end of the training.

Peer educators also provide HIV prevention and risk reduction education to fellow inmates in their dorms or in other permitted settings, in a sense becoming outreach workers within the correctional facility.

When a new inmate has completed orientation, he may request an HIV test through the peer education program.

# DOH Corrections Programs

## Inmate Peer Education, 2012-2015 Summary

The partnership between the Florida Departments of Health (DOH) and Corrections (DOC) for the Peer Education Program (PeerEd) began in mid-2012. Funded by a contract from DOH using federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part B funds, the Peer Education Program trains inmate peer educators (IPE) to provide current, medically correct health information to newly incarcerated inmates to raise awareness about infectious diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis, STDs, TB and other health-related subjects.

Located at the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) for males in Orlando, a peer educator trainer hosts “train-the-trainer” sessions using the *Reach One Teach One (ROTO)* curriculum, a peer health education training program for prison inmates. Once trained, the IPE become outreach workers and provide HIV prevention and risk reduction education to fellow inmates in their dorms or in other permitted settings.

The PeerEd Program performance from 2012-2015 is highlighted below.

