

# Positively Palm Beach



Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc., 600 Sandtree Drive, Suite 101, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 33403

## Injection Drug Users in South Florida Have Risky Behaviors, Study Says

Volume 14: 11/12

May/June 2009

By Bob LaMendola  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
April 10, 2009

Injection drug users are not the biggest source of HIV/AIDS infections, but a new federal study that included South Florida reported Thursday that large numbers of them engage in highly risky behaviors and warrant more attention.

One-third of the drug abusers shared needles, two-thirds had unprotected sex and half had multiple partners, something of a triple whammy that sharply raises the risk they would contract or spread the virus, the study found.

"It's definitely troubling," said Marlene LaLota, HIV prevention director at the Florida Department of Health, who was involved in the study. "This group is really showing some high-risk behaviors. The problem has not gone away in injection drug

users. We still need to focus on them."

More than 930 injection drug users in Broward and Miami-Dade counties were among 10,301 users surveyed in 23 cities for the federally funded study published Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Florida results were very similar to the national results, LaLota said.

HIV has been falling among drug abusers, the CDC said, and is lower than average in Florida. State figures show that needle use caused 15 percent of AIDS cases and 8 percent of HIV cases in Florida, about 50 percent lower than nationally. In all, about 20,700 Floridians have been infected due to needle use.

**Injection Drug Users** continued on page 7

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Injection Drug Use</b> ..... 1	<b>Calendar</b> ..... 5
<b>Improved Treatment</b> ..... 2	<b>Resource List</b> ..... 6
<b>Is Anyone Listening?</b> ..... 3	<b>SHARE Menu</b> ..... 7
<b>Mental Health</b> ..... 3	

# Opinion | Improved Drug Treatment Services Needed in Prisons to Address HIV/AIDS, Other Diseases, Editorial Says

*Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report*  
*April 14, 2009*


Increased efforts are needed to curb the spread of HIV and other bloodborne diseases in prisons, "where infection rates are high and inmates can easily spread disease through unprotected sex or by sharing needles," a *New York Times* editorial says. It adds, "Drug treatment in prison is clearly part of the solution. But by some estimates, fewer than one in five inmates who need formal treatment are actually getting it." This is "alarming, given that about half the prison population suffers from drug abuse or dependency problems," according to the editorial. The editorial continues that the "most effective

programs provide inmates with high-quality treatment in prison and continue that treatment when prisoners return to their communities." In addition, treatment programs "have been shown to reduce drug use and recidivism," the editorial says.

According to a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, prisons "typically rely on the abstinence-only model, which fails miserably with heroin addicts," the editorial says. It adds that "prison officials are notoriously hostile toward methadone maintenance and other chemically based therapies that have long been a standard for people addicted to opiates." The editorial says that treatment for drug users in New York state prisons is "particularly disastrous," according to a new report from Human Rights Watch, which says that drug users in prison are "typically shut out of treatment until their sentences are nearly over because of ill-conceived policies that give priority to those who are about to be released."

The editorial continues that "[n]ew rules created earlier this month should help address these problems" in New York. The rules give "oversight responsibility for prison treatment programs to the state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, an agency that develops treatment programs and licenses treatment providers," the editorial says. Under the new rules, treatment programs will be "tailored to inmates' needs," and the agency will monitor the programs and provide annual reports to the governor and Legislature, the editorial adds. It concludes that "[d]rug-policy advocates hope that the new arrangement will improve treatment and provide timely help for

**Improved Treatment** continued on page 7



**Positively Palm Beach**  
 is a Publication of the  
 Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc.  
 600 Sandtree Drive., Suite 101  
 Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33403  
 (561) 844-4220, ext. 14  
 Sonja Swanson, MPH  
 Editor/Features/Design  
 sswanson@tchealthcouncil.org

**Positively Palm Beach** is funded by a grant from The State of Florida, Department of Health.

**DISCLAIMER:** Positively Palm Beach is designed to present information to people living with HIV disease and their concerned family and friends. It is not to be regarded as medical advice. The appearance of information in this publication does not constitute an endorsement of that information by DOH or its sponsors. Consult your health care providers before undertaking any treatment discussed herein. Views expressed herein are those of the byline author and do not necessarily express the views of DOH or its staff. Requests by entities to insert materials will be reviewed by the editorial staff prior to acceptance.

# Is Anyone Listening?

*Lorenzo Robertson  
Palm Beach County HIV CARE Council Member  
May 4, 2009*

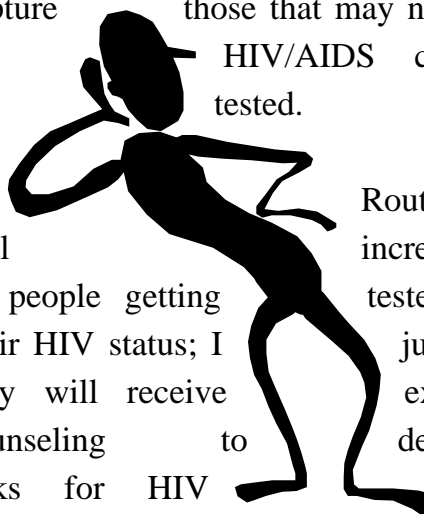
Recently, the Honorable Maxine Waters, Congresswoman from California reintroduced the routine HIV screening Coverage Act (H.R. 822) in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. This bill would require health insurance plans to cover routine HIV tests under the same terms and conditions as other health screenings. This is an awesome plan to make HIV testing routine, however there is only one concern that plagues me with routine HIV testing, will they receive quality pre-test counseling?

The HIV pre-test counseling component of the HIV testing is critical to assisting people with developing risk reduction plans and to understand their risks for HIV infection. I have gone to doctors and in many instances tests are done. Nothing is explained about the test. So to make HIV testing routine is a little frightening to me. I am just very concerned that some of our people that have not been screened by HIV counselors may be in a situation that puts them at continuous risk for HIV infection.

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released more accurate information about the infection rates up 40% from the estimated 40,000 a year to 56,300. In addition, that information 21% of the people in the United States infected with HIV/AIDS are unaware of their HIV/AIDS status. This is one of the positives to having routine testing to

capture those that may not enter into an HIV/AIDS center to get tested.

will Routine HIV testing increase the number of people getting tested and knowing their HIV status; I just hope that they will receive excellent pre-test counseling to decrease their risks for HIV infections...is anyone listening?



## Survey: Most People with HIV Lack Mental Health Services

*PART I*

*By David Evans*

*POZ*

*April 28, 2009*

*The results are in on a groundbreaking survey detailing the mental health and substance use problems faced by people living with HIV. Confirming that both problems are all too common and frequently untreated, the survey is now being analyzed by the American Psychological Association for advocacy efforts to increase the availability of affordable mental health services for people with HIV. But first, we provide a glimpse at the data POZ and AIDSmeds readers and NAPWA members provided.*

The majority of people with HIV experience depression, anxiety, thinking and memory

**Mental Health** continued on page 4

**Mental Health** continued from page 3

problems and substance abuse—but they’re not getting the mental health services they desperately need. That’s the verdict from a survey of 2,052 HIV-positive people, conducted jointly by AIDSmeds, POZ, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) this winter.

The groups joined forces to give HIV-positive people a voice in describing their challenges with mental health and substance use. Survey results will help seed educational programs for HIV-positive people and health care providers. In addition, the data will be a valuable tool in convincing Congress that mental health support needs to be funded as an integral component of HIV prevention and treatment services.

More people than anticipated responded to the survey, which highlights the fact that psychological and cognitive problems are commonplace. In fact, only 4 percent of those surveyed said they had not experienced psychological problems since they were first diagnosed with HIV.

What’s more, three quarters of the respondents say they told their primary health care provider about their mental health concerns—but only two thirds of those were referred to a mental health specialist. This is kind of statistic worries Janet St. Lawrence, PhD, a professor of psychology at Mississippi State University in Meridian, and one of the partners in developing and analyzing the survey. She says untreated or under-treated mental health, cognitive and substance use problems—over and above the suffering endured

by those afflicted—results in poorer physical health and medication adherence

John Anderson, senior director of the Office on AIDS at the APA, and another partner in the study, says he is excited by the collaboration between the groups and sees the survey as an important first step in improving mental health and substance use services for people with HIV. According to Anderson, not only does the survey give people a voice to speak about mental health and substance use—which can be just as stigmatizing as HIV itself—but it also can serve as a catalyst for changing the health care system and what gets funded.

“[We’re going to] translate those findings into both policy recommendations in terms of funding for services and service delivery systems up on Capitol Hill,” Anderson says. He adds the survey results will serve as a foundation to “[train] mental health workers and primary health care providers in terms of what they need to be doing differently to be more responsive to the needs of people living with HIV who have mental health and substance abuse problems.”

**Partnering to Give People with HIV a Voice**

The survey is not the first time researchers have explored how commonplace mood disorders and substance use problems are among people with HIV. A large nationwide study by the HIV Cost and Services Utilization Survey (HCSUS) found nearly 50 percent of people with HIV in the study suffered from depression and anxiety and that 12 percent were screened as being drug dependent.

*Part II will be included in the July/August issue.*

From POZ.com, April 28, 2009. Reprinted with permission. Copyright 2009 CDM Publishing, L.L.C.

# May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass	19 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	20 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group CAP Palm Springs 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	21 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	22
25 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass	26 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	27 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group CAP Palm Springs 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	28 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	29

# June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	2 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	3 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group CAP Palm Springs 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	4 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	5
8 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	9 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	10 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group CAP Palm Springs 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	11 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	12
15 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	16 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	17 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group CAP Palm Springs 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	18 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	19
22/29 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass (June 22 <sup>nd</sup> ONLY)	23/30 2 pm-6 pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	24 11:00 a.m. Drop In Center Potluck Support Group CAP Palm Springs 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeak Support Group Compass	25 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE Rapid Oral HIV Testing Compass	26

**HOTLINES**

A.G. Holley State Hospital TB Hotline.....	1-800-482-4636
CDC Info Hotline.....	1-800-342-2437
Crisis Line (Center Line).....	211
Drug Abuse Hotline.....	662-4357
Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline.....	1-800-352-2437
Gay and Lesbian Hotline.....	1-888-843-4564
Medicare Hotline.....	1-800-638-6833
National Deaf AIDS Line.....	1-800-AIDS-TTY
Project Inform Treatment Hotline.....	1-800-822-7422
STD Hotline.....	1-800-227-8922

**EDUCATION/INFORMATION**

Accessible Life Saving Education for at Risk Teens (ALERT).....	966-4288
American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR).....	1-800-392-6327
CDC HIV/AIDS Treatment Information.....	1-800-448-0440
Children with AIDS Project of America.....	1-602-973-4319
Children's Case Management Org., Inc.....	804-9441
Clinical Trials Information.....	1-800-Trials-A
Farmworker Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida AIDS Action Council.....	1-800-779-4898
Glades Health Initiative, Ind.....	996-0500
National Minority AIDS Council.....	1-202-483-6622
PBC Health Department.....	540-1300
PBC HIV CARE Council.....	844-4430
Red Cross, American.....	833-7711
Senior HIV Intervention Project (SHIP).....	586-4843
Treasure the Children/Charles' Crew Adolescent Speakers, Inc.....	790-6291

**HIV/AIDS TESTING**

Be Encouraged in the Word Ministries.....	738-7888
Compass, Inc*.....	533-9699
Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP)	
Belle Glade*.....	996-7059
Delray Beach*.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach*.....	844-1266
West Palm Beach*.....	472-2466
Glades Health Initiative, Inc*.....	996-0500
Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA).....	844-3556
Jesus People Proclaim Int'l Ministries.....	361-0610
PBC Health Department	
C.L. Brumback Health Center.....	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3105
Lantana Health Center.....	547-6805
Riviera Beach Health Center*.....	804-7909
West Palm Beach Health Center.....	514-5465
Redemptive Life Urban Initiatives.....	832-6077
Repairshop Outreach Ministries.....	502-3173
Riviera Beach Family Resource Center.....	840-1888
St. James Missionary Baptist.....	842-5971
United Deliverance Resource Center*.....	844-7071
Women of Color, Rise Above Your Shame.....	577-3612
Zanmi Lavi.....	752-6239

\*Rapid HIV Testing Available

**DENTAL CLINICS**

C.L. Brumback Health Center.....	996-1636
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3111
Riviera Beach Health Center.....	804-7900
West Palm Beach Health Center.....	514-5310

**PHARMACIES**

Department of Health	
Belle Glade.....	996-1637
Delray Beach.....	274-3107
Riviera Beach.....	804-7940
West Palm Beach.....	514-5380
Commcare Pharmacy.....	615-0564
BioScrip Specialty Pharmacy (Spanish speaking).....	683-0001

**HIV/AIDS SERVICE AGENCIES**

Comprehensive AIDS Program, Inc. (CAP)	
West Palm Beach.....	472-2466
Belle Glade.....	996-7059
Delray Beach.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach.....	844-1266
Pahokee.....	924-7773
Care Resource	
Coral Gables.....	1-305-667-9296
Fort Lauderdale.....	1-954-567-7141
Miami.....	1-305-573-5411
Compass.....	533-9699
Youth Line.....	533-9699
Children's Place at Home Safe, Inc.	
North/Central Palm Beach County.....	832-6185
Southern Palm Beach County.....	995-0490
Farmworkers Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida Lighthouse.....	499-1442
Gratitude Guild, Inc.....	833-6826
HIV Pastoral Care.....	1-305-858-4649
Hospice By the Sea.....	395-5031
Hospice of Palm Beach.....	848-5200
Integrated Healthcare Systems.....	586-7404
Latin American Immigrants & Refugee Org.....	966-4515
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.....	655-8944
Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.....	296-5722
Palm Beach County Home.....	842-6111
Palm Beach Research Center.....	689-0606
Planned Parenthood.....	848-6300
Oakwood Center.....	383-5912 or 383-5777
Social Security Administration.....	1-800-722-1213
Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc.....	844-4220

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE PHYSICIANS**

<u>Central County</u>	
<i>Riviera Beach Health Center</i>	
Manochehr Khojasteh, MD.....	804-7900
Celeste Li, MD.....	804-7900
Kleper de Almeida, MD (Spanish Speaking).....	967-0101
Kenneth Ness, MD.....	655-8388
Olayemi O. Osiyemi, MD.....	832-6770
Donald Watren, MD.....	655-9660
Larry Bush, MD.....	967-0101
<u>Northern County</u>	
<i>Infectious Disease Associates- Leslie Diaz, MD.....</i>	776-8300
<u>Southern County</u>	
<i>Infectious Disease Consultants.....</i>	499-1442
Hamed A. Komaiha, MD, Jose C. Villalba, MD,	
Jaroslav F. Ondrusek, MD, Cesar A. Randich, MD, Melvin S. Kohan, MD	
<i>Delray Beach Health Center</i>	
Snehprabha Samant, MD.....	274-3178
<i>Guadalupe Medical Center (Spanish Speaking).....</i>	642-0768
<i>Infectious Disease Associates</i>	
Julio Cardenas, MD, Ines Mbagha, MD, Susan Saxe, MD, Jill Howard,	
MD, Sanda Cebular, MD, Kurt Weise, MD	
Delray.....	496-1095
Boca Raton.....	393-8224
<u>Western County</u>	
Lyonel Jean Baptiste, MD.....	992-9216
Juan Carlos Rondon, MD.....	924-7788

**PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE**

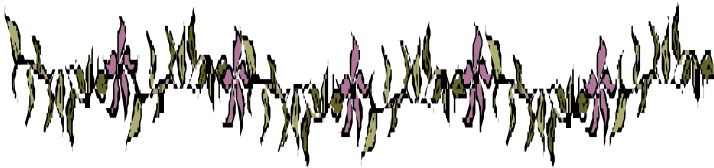
VA Medical Center (for veterans only).....	422-7522
Palm Beach County Health Department	
Riviera Beach Health Center.....	804-7900
C.L. Brumback Health Center (Belle Glade).....	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3100
West Palm Beach Health Center (pediatrics).....	514-5300

**Injection Drug Use** continued from page 1

Health officials should consider increasing access to clean needles, condoms and HIV testing, the study said, but stopped short of endorsing needle-exchange programs. Florida has no such program. The state health department plans to come later this year with its own findings on drug abusers and HIV.

Bob LaMendola can be reached at [blamendola@SunSentinel.com](mailto:blamendola@SunSentinel.com) or 954-356-4526 or 561-243-6600, ext. 4526.

Reprinted with permission from the Sun Sentinel  
Copyright © Sun Sentinel 2009

**Improved Treatment** continued from page 2

addicted inmates. That would be good for public health. It could reduce crime, too" (*New York Times*, 4/13).

Reprinted from [kaisernetwork.org](http://kaisernetwork.org). You can view the entire *Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report*, search the archives, and sign up for email delivery at [www.kaisernetwork.org/dailyreports/hiv](http://www.kaisernetwork.org/dailyreports/hiv). The *Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report* is published for [kaisernetwork.org](http://kaisernetwork.org), a free service of The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. © 2009 Advisory Board Company and Kaiser Family Foundation. All rights reserved.

**May SHARE Menu****Basic Package \$18.00**

3.8 lbs. Chicken Leg Quarters  
12 oz. Deli Sliced Corned Beef  
12 oz. Szechwan Beef Egg Rolls  
1 lb. Ground Beef 85/15  
1 lb. Bone in Center Cut Pork Chops

*Plus a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables*

**May Specials****Stuffed Broccoli Cheese Chicken Breasts \$12.50**

8- 6 oz. portions, 3 lbs. total weight

**Pasta Meal Box Special \$19.00**

2- 2 lb. Lasagna in oven/microwavable tray, 2- 1.25 lb. Chicken Pasta Alfredo, and 2- 1.25 lb. Meat Ravioli in Sauce. 9 lbs. total weight

**Grill Box A \$18.50**

2- 6 oz. Choice Sirloin Steaks, 1 lb. Sirloin Tips for Kabobs, 1 lb. Italian Sausage, 1 lb. IQF Chicken Breasts, 1 lb. Hamburger Patties.

**Grill Box B \$16.50**

1 lb. Boneless Pork Chops, 4- 8 oz. Loaded Twice Baked Potatoes, 1.7 lbs. Tray Pack Chicken Drums, 14 oz. Smoked Sausage w/Cheese, 1 lb. All Beef Hot Dogs, 1 lb. Skinless Boneless Chicken Breasts

**May Select**

12 oz. Deli Sliced Corned Beef \$2.25  
12 oz. Szechwan Beef Egg Rolls \$1.90  
1 lb. Ground Beef 85/15 \$2.25  
1 lb. Bone in Center Cut Pork Chops \$2.40

SHARE website address: [www.shareflorida.org](http://www.shareflorida.org)  
SHARE phone number: 1-800-536-3379.