

Education to Reduce HIV/HBV/HCV Transmission in Incarcerated Populations

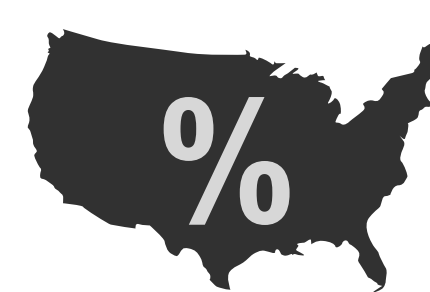
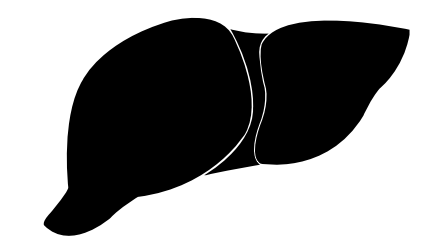

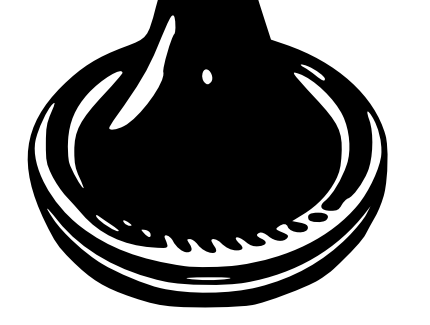

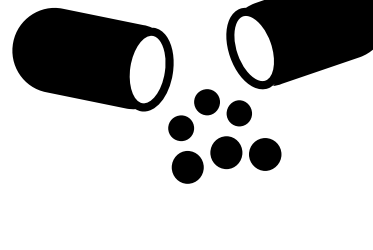
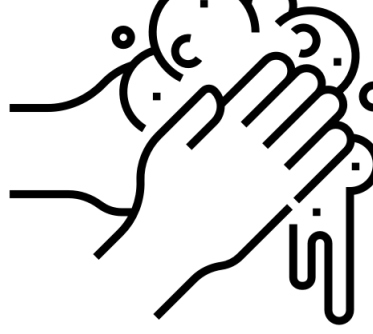
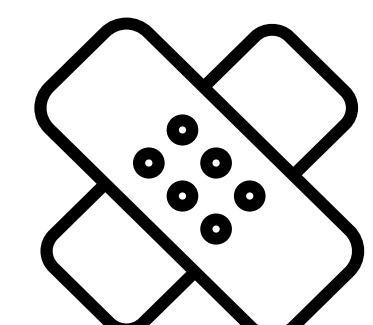
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The US incarcerates more citizens than any other country and nearly half of the prison population has drug-related convictions. HCV rates are twenty times higher in prison and HIV rates are five times higher than the non-incarcerated population.

Over 90% of those impacted by hepatitis C will pass through a correctional setting each year. In order to make meaningful progress eradicating viral hepatitis, programs must expand to address the health of incarcerated citizens in the US.

Description of model of care/intervention

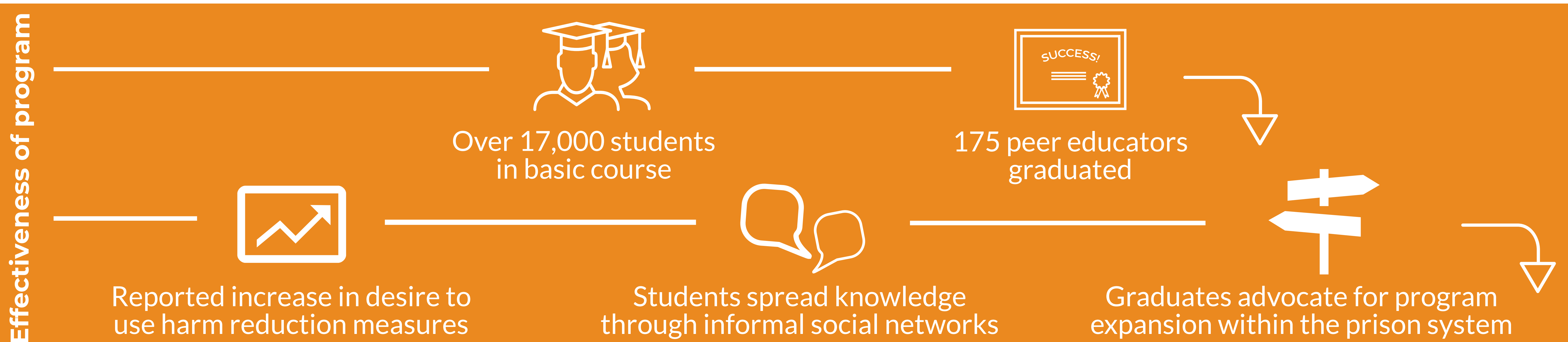
The Hepatitis Education Project (HEP) has provided education in Washington State Prisons for nearly twenty years. HEP visits each prison and conducts a two-hour course reviewing:

-  prevalence of HIV/viral hepatitis
-  basics of immune/liver function
-  overview of vaccines
-  harm reduction principles
-  overdose recognition/response
-  viral hepatitis treatment options
-  transmission/prevention of hepatitis viruses
-  ways to protect one's health

HEP also conducts an intensive peer educator training four times a year to spread awareness of harm reduction practices when using drugs, engaging in sexual intercourse, and tattooing.

The posters provide detailed information on communication skills, sexual risk reduction, injection risk reduction, tattooing risk reduction, and the transmission of HIV, HBV, and HCV through various body fluids.

Students in this class learn harm reduction practices and communication skills. Materials were developed to supplement the course.



Conclusion and next steps

HEP has run an effective educational program to reduce the spread of infectious diseases among the population most impacted by viral hepatitis in the US. HEP continues to expand its program, has begun working on a video to be shown to all new prison residents, has adapted its model for delivering education to include incarcerated teachers, and has expanded to other justice-involved sites in its geographical area.