

Know the Issue

It's no coincidence that HIV and imprisonment disproportionately affect the same communities.

Just as the War on Drugs was gaining speed in the 1980s, the AIDS crisis broke. By targeting the people who are at high risk for HIV, anti-drug policy has dramatically increased the number of people with HIV behind bars.

But the intersection of HIV and imprisonment goes far deeper...

Think about these statistics:

- **1 in 100** Americans is currently in prison.
- **1 in 31** adults is currently in prison, on probation or on parole.
- **1 in 7** people with HIV passes through prison each year.

The War on Drugs, mandatory minimums, racial profiling, and other criminal justice policies have resulted in the mass imprisonment of poor people of color—driving HIV vulnerability in communities across the country.

Mass imprisonment disrupts family and social networks, weakening the already fragile emotional, financial and political support systems of entire communities, making it more difficult for people to protect themselves against HIV.

With Project UNSHACKLE, we're challenging mass imprisonment as a root cause of HIV vulnerability, and fighting for the healing our communities need!

For more information,
please contact:

Laura McTighe
Director of Project UNSHACKLE
CHAMP
(Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project)
80-A Fourth Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11217

Email: lmctighe@champnetwork.org
Office: (212) 937-7955, Ext. 20
Cell: (215) 380-5556
Fax: (401) 633-7793

www.champnetwork.org/unshackle



***Building a
Locally-Rooted
National Movement
at the Intersection of
HIV and Imprisonment***

Welcome to Project UNSHACKLE!

Project UNSHACKLE is building a powerful community-based movement at the complex intersection of HIV and mass imprisonment.

We are uniting people who are formerly imprisoned, HIV policy advocates, researchers, AIDS service providers, prison justice organizers, people with HIV and organizers from allied movements. Together we are working to address the ways that imprisonment makes our communities more vulnerable to HIV.

Our Vision and Goals

With Project UNSHACKLE, we want to show how far-reaching the effects of imprisonment are within our communities. The same laws and policies that have drastically increased the number of people imprisoned in the U.S. also facilitate the spread of HIV.

Our national network is dedicated to reducing new HIV infections tied to imprisonment by:

- **Working Inside Prisons** to ensure people's access to standard of care prevention, treatment and education;
- **Supporting People through Reentry** and eliminating the barriers people face when coming home from prison;
- **Rebuilding Our Communities** through projects and campaigns that win policy changes to end the crises of our most vulnerable members.

How We Do It: Building a Locally-Rooted National Movement

Step 1:

Sharing Best Practices

We bring together individuals and organizations working at the intersection of HIV and imprisonment to share best practices.

- Our **HIV and Imprisonment Strategy Listserv** unites people from across the country to work on emerging issues and research areas. Email us to join!
- Our **State-by-State Resource Directory** covers organizations working on HIV and imprisonment. Let us know which projects in your area should be listed!

Step 4:

Building Community Partnerships

We work with individuals and organizations to launch grassroots campaigns on locally critical policy issues.

- Our **Strategic Partnerships** with organizations across the country lend the technical support needed to win policy changes that provide models for organizers in other cities.
- We have community partners in **New Orleans, Chicago** and **Philadelphia**, with emerging partnerships in New York, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, California and beyond.

Step 2:

Providing Skills-Building Resources

We ensure individuals and organizations have the resources they need to engage with the policy issues that impact their work at the front lines of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

- Our **Project UNSHACKLE Organizing Toolkit** is a comprehensive resource for communications strategies and program development.
- Our **Fact Sheets** and **Online Resources** provide additional focused ways to go deeper into the intersection of HIV and imprisonment.

Step 3:

Workshopping Key Local Issues

We offer individuals and organizations a personalized space to workshop the issues they are facing in their work.

- Our **Reaching In/Reaching Out Trainings** are structured around key themes in HIV and prison work, including the prison/reentry cycle, the daily impacts of the War on Drugs and the resources of faith traditions.
- All of our trainings are **customized** to the particular challenges and opportunities of local communities.