

PRISONER INFORMATION SHEET

Condom Access Pilot Program

Source: Lucas D., Miller J., Eckert V., Goldsby S., Henry M., Samuel M., Mohle-Boetani J. Evaluation of a Prisoner Condom Access Pilot Program Conducted in One California State Prison Facility. Division of Correctional Health Care Services, Public Health Unit, and the State Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS, and the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Branch; September 2011

What is the history of this program?

- If Assembly Bill (AB) 1334 passed, it would have required CDCR to allow any non-profit or health agency to provide condoms inside CDCR prisons.
- In his Veto Memo, the Governor of California directed CDCR to carry out a one-year pilot program to provide prisoners access to condoms in one prison only.
- The purpose of pilot testing this program in one prison is to see if condoms can help prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD).
- The pilot program will run for one year: from November 5, 2008 to November 4, 2009.

Why CSP Solano, Facility II?

- CDCR chose CSP Solano and Facility II for a few reasons:
- CSP Solano houses General Population prisoners in both cell and dormitory style housing units.
- CSP Solano is close to California Department of Public Health staff who will be evaluating this program.
- Facilities III and IV are already participating in other pilot projects and Facility I has celled housing only.

Why provide prisoners access to condoms?

- As a group, prisoners have higher rates of HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis B and C than the free population.
- This is part of a public health effort to reduce the spread of HIV and other STDs both within prisons and to the community.
- Condoms are highly effective at preventing these diseases.
- CDCR is not condoning sexual activity. It is still illegal to have sex in prison. It's not always possible to stop sex from happening in prisons. In this case, being able to use a condom may help stop the spread of HIV, STDs and Hepatitis.



What agencies are involved in this project and why?

Center for Health Justice

- Community-based organization that works on HIV prevention and treatment for prisoners
- Will provide the condoms and condom dispensing machines during the project.

California Department of Public Health: Office of AIDS & STD Control Branch

- The Office of AIDS and the STD Control Branch are agencies of the Department of Public Health. They work on HIV and STD prevention and treatment in California.
- Public Health staff are interviewing prisoners to ask them to take a voluntary confidential survey. The survey is part of the evaluation of the pilot project. The surveys will be done before and after the pilot project.
- At the end of the project, findings from the surveys will be reported to the Governor to help him decide if inmates in other prisons will be allowed to have condoms.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

- Is working with an advisory group to plan the pilot project, including various options for placing the machines and the rules for inmates to follow.
- Will enforce existing rules about sexual activity and allow exceptions to condoms as contraband.
- Will provide a confidential interview space for the CDPH staff to conduct surveys with prisoners, and a custody staff person to escort the outside researchers and to maintain security of the area. The custody staff will not be able to hear the interviews in progress or have access to any survey materials.

Where will condoms be allowed? Who can carry condoms?

- The rules for the pilot program are given in the box below. These rules will also be posted beside each condom machine.
- There will be exceptions to the contraband rule in order to allow prisoners access to condoms for the one-year pilot program.
- Facility II inmates will be allowed to carry one condom to all areas except the regular visiting area as long as the condom is still inside the inner clear sealed plastic wrapper.



Got something to say about it?

- Staff from the California Department of Public Health are doing a survey with prisoners
- If you are ducated for an interview, you are encouraged to participate to say your opinion. It is very important that all opinions and experiences with the project are heard. It doesn't matter if you are for or against prisoners having condoms or whether you personally have any need of this program.
- Participation in the survey is completely voluntary and confidential. Your name and individual survey answers will not be used in any report.



This document as well as the harmreduction.eu website, was created within the joint action '677085 / HA-REACT,' which has received funding from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020).

