

Sosman J, MacGowan RJ, Margolis AD, Eldridge G, Flanigan T, Vardaman J, Fitzgerald C, Kacanek D, Binson D, Seal DW, and the Project START Study Group. The feasibility of STD and hepatitis screening among 18-29 year old men recently released from prison. *Int J STD AIDS* 2005;16(2):117-122.

Men entering prisons have high rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STD), hepatitis, and HIV. This study sought to determine the acceptability and feasibility of screening for STD and hepatitis in young men released from prison. Participants were interviewed 6 months after release and offered free screening. Of 42 (56%) eligible men who participated in the qualitative interview 33 (79%) provided at least a blood or urine specimen. Eight of 33 (24%) men tested, had chlamydia, trichomoniasis, hepatitis B or C virus (HBV or HCV). Three of 32 (9%) had chlamydia; 3/32 (9%), trichomoniasis; 2/28 (7%), prior syphilis; and 2/28 (7%), HCV. Of 28 tested for HBV, 6 (21%) were immune, 2 (7%) had chronic infection, and 20 (71%) were susceptible. Barriers to screening included lack of forewarning, inconvenience, and insufficient incentive. In conclusion, screening for STD and hepatitis among former inmates can be acceptable and feasible. Forewarning, reducing the time burden, and providing monetary incentives may increase screening rates.