



# **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

## ***Planning & Research Unit***

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### **HIV/STI Risk Reduction for Incarcerated Women with Interpersonal Violence**

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Brown University

#### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to develop a treatment that addresses the consequences of interpersonal violence on HIV risk behaviors among incarcerated women.

Experts in the field of HIV prevention and services for female offenders have strongly recommended gender specific programs. The empirically supported Women's Coop HIV Prevention intervention (WC) has been successful in reducing sex risk, violent victimization, substance abuse and homelessness in other populations of high-risk women; key concerns in the lives of incarcerated women who have experienced violence, especially in the transition to the community. The study proposes to tailor WC for the context of incarcerated women with lifetime interpersonal violence to maintain sexual safety, and then pilot test it.

Components include enhance and tailor WC for incarcerated women with interpersonal violence utilizing six focus groups; develop and evaluate the intervention training program; feasibility of the tailored WC through a small open trial of incarcerated women with lifetime interpersonal violence nearing release. A randomized pilot trial in a sample of 40 incarcerated women with lifetime interpersonal violence who are 6 to 10 weeks away from release will demonstrate the feasibility and acceptability of the proposed recruitment methods and research design.