



# **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

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

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### **Link into Care Study (LINCS): Qualitative Interviews of Policy and Practice**

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#### Abstract

The purpose of this project is to explore the community, institutional and political factors pre and post-release which influence HIV infected prisoner's linkage to community medical care.

The study will use in-depth semi-structured qualitative interviews with corrections staff in Rhode Island to learn about prison policies, administrative protocols and political factors relating to HIV care and social services inside and outside of prison and linkage to care in the community. NVIVO software will be used to manage and code all transcripts. After coding the transcripts, the study will explore the relationship between groups of institutional and political factors and processes, patterns, trends, and/or themes and will group related themes into broader categories. The study will outline key programmatic and contextual features of successful linkages to care for HIV positive individuals upon release from prison. Findings will help identify what criminal justice systems, HIV providers and communities need to have in place to improve releases access to HIV care.