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## **The Ten Essential Public Health Services as a model for correctional health care**

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Over the last two decades, the size of the incarcerated population in the United States has increased more than 3-fold. Over 7.2 million adults were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at year-end 2006. The majority of citizens in correctional settings return to the communities from which they came. The public health opportunity in jails is great, because: 1) the health of individuals incarcerated in jails is generally poorer than that of individuals in prisons; 2) many more individuals pass through jails in comparison with prisons; 3) jails are *local* institutions, meaning that the opportunity to establish a continuum of care *from jail to* community exists; and 4) the “revolving door” from jail to community life through which inmates frequently cycle, heightens the potential impact of this population on community health and life.

Despite growing recognition that correctional health *is* community health and despite the high risk status of correctional populations for a large number of health problems, systematic public health approaches have not been widely adopted. The public health model for correctional healthcare has evolved from a model of infectious disease control to a model of comprehensive medical, dental and mental health services that additionally provides continuity of care as inmates’ transition into free-living communities. Since October 2006, the Duval County (Fl) Health Department’s, newly created Division of Institutional Medicine (DIM) has contracted with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office/Department of Corrections to provide health services to inmates in the county’s jails. The public health approach adopted by the DIM is embodied in the Ten Essential Public Health Services. We describe the Essential Services framework as applied to the DIM programs and program evaluation.

### Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the Essential Public Health Services framework for correctional health
2. Recognize the potential scope of public health initiatives in correctional health
3. Use the Essential Services framework as an evaluation tool for correctional health care