Concerns: Ex-Inmates Aren’t Retained in Care

February 21, 2013 By Benjamin Ryan

The opportunity for HIV care is standard in U.S. jails, but only about 38 percent of people who get treatment in jail are retained in care six months after their release, according to a Yale University School of Medicine study. Researchers followed 867 jail detainees in 10 urban areas for half a year post-release and found that about 34 percent were immediately lost to care, while 27 percent made only one of two quarterly follow-up appointments. Of those who were newly diagnosed, 39 percent were lost to follow-up. On the bright side, several factors helped increase the likelihood of staying in care: discharge planning and a disease management session while in jail, and HIV education and transportation assistance after release. Men were twice as likely than women to stay in care.

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