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## **Local Health Department Involvement in County Jail Health Services, New York State**

Author (s)

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**Objective:** The survey of local health department (LHD) involvement in county jail health services will allow the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to assess the feasibility of LHDs implementing hepatitis vaccination services for all inmates at county jails.

**Methods:** A three-page survey was developed in collaboration with other programs within NYSDOH and sent to each of the 57 local health departments in New York (excluding New York City) about health services that their staff performs in the county jails.

**Results:** All 57 LHDs responded and 28 (49%) reported providing at least one type of health service (tuberculosis, STD, HIV, hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C) in the county jail. Eighteen (32%) LHDs provided hepatitis vaccination services, and thirteen LHDs were interested in offering hepatitis vaccination services in the future. Thirteen (72%) of the LHDs providing hepatitis vaccination services made vaccine available to all inmates. The most common reason for not providing health services at the county jail was due to the county jail having its own health staff.

**Conclusions:** Inmates in the county jail are good candidates for vaccination and other services because they are available and often have risk factors for disease. LHDs already involved with their county jail may have a greater likelihood of implementing hepatitis vaccination services to inmates. Almost half of the LHDs in New York State have a working relationship with their county jails, therefore implementation of hepatitis vaccination may be more successful in these counties.

