

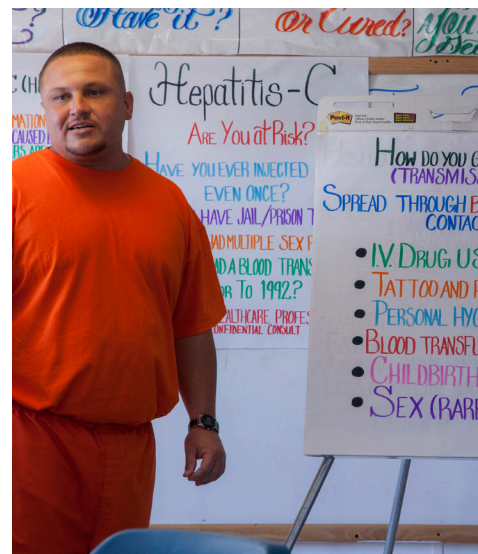
Prisoner Health is Community Health: The New Mexico Peer Education Project (NMPEP)

Providing quality health education and encouraging behavior change in prison settings creates an extraordinary opportunity to improve not only the health of the incarcerated, but also the health of their families and communities.

Over 95% of incarcerated individuals will ultimately return to their communities, bringing with them the burden of their health needs.

The New Mexico Peer Education Project (NMPEP), a collaboration between Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and the New Mexico Corrections Department, leverages the ECHO model™ to make a powerful and lasting intervention in prisoner and prison community health. We train incarcerated individuals to increase their fellow prisoners' knowledge about the most common health conditions impacting prison populations: hepatitis C, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, staph/MRSA skin infections, diabetes and addiction.

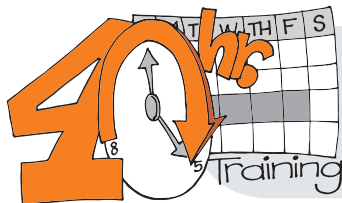
NMPEP peer educators communicate strategies to reduce risk behaviors and become key resources for health information within the prisons. They gain a sense of self-efficacy, responsibility, and leadership which carries over into their post-incarceration lives and the communities to which they return.



NMPEP leverages the ECHO model to make a powerful and lasting intervention in prisoner and prison community health. After intensive onsite training by Project ECHO staff, peer educators are supported in their work through monthly teleECHO™ clinics—videoconference sessions connecting peer educators with a specialist team at Project ECHO, and with peer educators from other prison sites.



NMPEP Includes



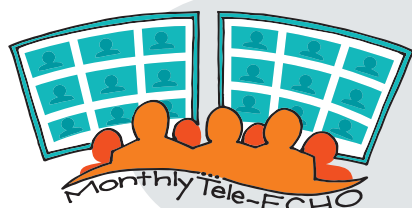
40-hour intensive training for small groups of inmates (12-15), presented by Project ECHO staff.



10-hours of health education training presented by Project ECHO trained peer educators for other inmates at their location.



On-going follow-up and training by Project ECHO to continue skill and knowledge-building, and to discuss and problem-solve issues, concerns or barriers the peer educators are encountering.



Monthly teleECHO clinics with Project ECHO staff and faculty, content experts, and peer educators from other sites. This monthly videoconference allows peer educators to get medical information, build their resource list and discuss training related questions. This videoconference is an excellent tool to enable opportunities for peer educators to collaborate across the state to share teaching strategies and to problem-solve and address barriers.

For More Information

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¹Macmadu A, Rich J. Correctional Health is Community Health. *Issues in Science and Tech* 32:1(Fall 2015). <http://issues.org/32-1/correctional-health-is-community-health/>.

