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Politics and Policy | North Carolina Prisons To Begin Testing All Inmates for HIV [Sep 25, 2008]

Prisons in North Carolina will start screening all inmates for HIV beginning in November, the *Raleigh News & Observer* reports. The decision to begin the program is a result of "mounting pressure" on prison officials from legislators, black religious leaders and public health officials, who say inmates are the most at-risk group for HIV transmission, the *News & Observer* reports.

According to the *News & Observer*, prisoners contract the virus at a rate seven times greater than the general population, and [CDC](#) in 2006 [recommended](#) routine HIV testing as part of health screenings. Peter Leone, medical director of the [HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch](#) of the North Carolina [Division of Public Health](#), said that the decision to administer HIV testing to all inmates was a "moral imperative" for both the inmates and the general population, adding that "taxpayers have a reason to be concerned about (prisoners) infecting others out in the community once they're released."

Keith Acree, spokesperson for the North Carolina [Department of Correction](#), said the HIV tests will be part of an annual physical for current inmates and part of routine intake screening for incoming inmates (Locke, *Raleigh News & Observer*, 9/25).

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