

## Case Study

### Seeking Higher Education for Inmates

While prison populations in the United States have been significantly increasing, access to college programs within prisons has been essentially eliminated. Primarily because of the “tough on crime” policies of the 1990s, by 1995, only eight of the existing 350 college programs in prisons remained open nationwide (Torre & Fine, 2005). To remedy this situation, Torre and Fine became involved in PAR to facilitate a college and college-bound program at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (BHCF), a maximum-security women’s prison in New York. Michelle Fine was the principal investigator in the study determining the effects of the program, along with four prisoner researchers and four researchers from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. This PAR team asked several questions: