International guidance on harm reduction interventions in prisons

Ehah Salah UNODC, HQ 25 Nov 2022

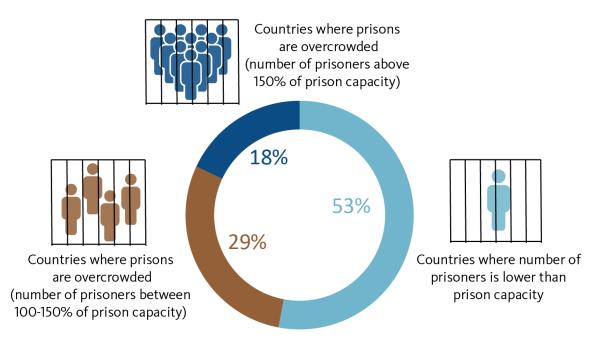




Data matters: Prison population and occupancy rates

Prisoners per 100.000 population









HIV prevalence in prisons

Global data:

- HIV prevalence 4.3% (5.2% in women vs 2.9% in men)
- People in prison 5 times more likely to be living with HIV than adults in the general population

Regional data:

- 3.5% in western and central Africa
- 12% in eastern and southern Africa
- up to 11% in eastern Europe and central Asia
- up to 4.5% in western and central Europe and North America





People who use drugs in prison

- 2.5 million people in prison estimated to be convicted of drug-related offences, 22% of them for drug possession for personal use
- Proportion of women (35%) imprisoned for drug related offences is higher than that of men (19%)
- No or limited provision for alternatives to imprisonment
- Lack of evidence-based harm reduction interventions in prison (only 59 countries reported to provide OAT for people who use drugs and 9 countries for NSPs).
- Risk of fatal drug overdose increases markedly in first 1-2 weeks of release (40 times more likely than general population in 1st week)





Global commitments to responding to HIV in prisons

Global commitments:

Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 - End Inequalities. End AIDS

 Ensure that key populations enjoy human rights, equality and dignity, free of stigma and discrimination

Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030

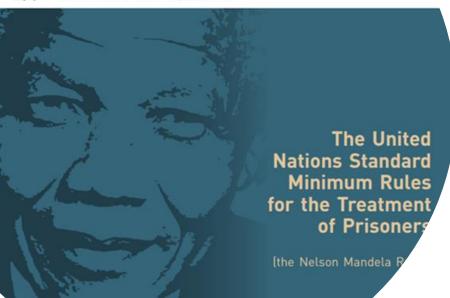
 Prioritize HIV prevention and tailor HIV combination prevention approaches to meet diverse needs of key populations

E/RES/2021/26 adopted by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Scale up HIV services and ensure that they reach key populations
- United Nations System Common Position on Incarceration April 2021







relationship between the physician or other healthrisoners shall be governed by the same ethants as those applicable to patient

THE NELSON MANDELA RULES

Rule 24

- 1. The provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility. Prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community and should have access to health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status.
- 2. Health-care services should be organized in close relationship to the general public health administration and in a way that ensures continuity of treatment and care, including for HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, as well as for drug dependence.





The Comprehensive Package: 15 Key Interventions



services

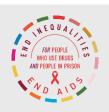


Prevention of HIV, HBV and HCV

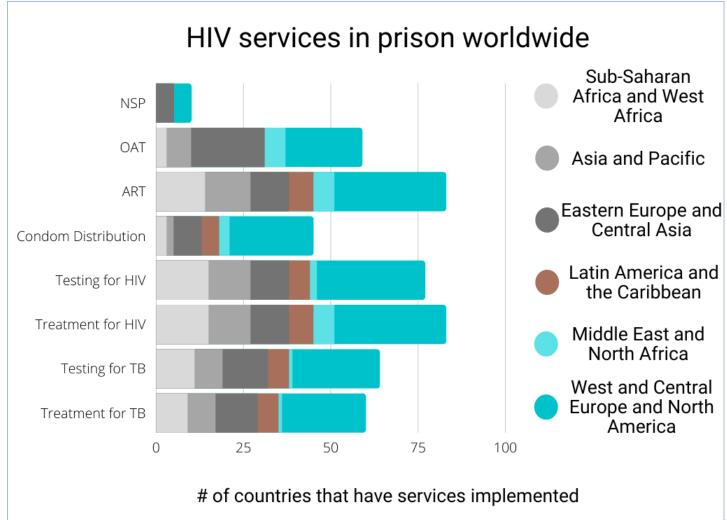
HIV, hepatitis diagnosis and treatment Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB **Gender responsive services** Occupational safety and health



tuberculosis



Global AIDS Monitoring 2020: HIV service coverage







Key messages

- People in prison systemically left behind in the global HIV response
- Availability and sustainability of HIV services in prison threatened by crises
- Need for scaled up gender- and age-responsive services
- Call for legal, policy and criminal justice reform to address overcrowding
- Partnership with civil society organizations for better reach







Technical guidance and tools

