



Harm reduction in prison: How Australia compares to the rest of the world

Never Stand Still

Faculty of Medicine

School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Kate Dolan, Babak Moazen, Atefeh Noori, Shadi Rahimzadeh, Farshad Farzadfar and Fabienne Hariga

Program of International Research and Training, NDARC

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Austria

Incarceration has had four possible goals

Conventionally,

retribution (punishment);

deterrence;

incapacitation (stop prisoner offending while in prison); and

rehabilitation (reduce risk of reoffending after release).

The evidence surrounding each of these is much less clear than it is often made out to be.



Outline of presentation

Background to prisons

Aims and Methods

Results Imprisonment rates

HIV levels

UNODC comprehensive package

Condoms, NSP and OST

Effectiveness of OST for prisoners

Recommendations



Background

Prison settings have characteristics that increase HIV transmission

Elevated levels of HIV, HBV, HCV, TB & mental illness

Widespread risky behaviour, few prevention/treatment measures

Unless HIV is controlled in prison it may be uncontrolled in the community

Yet prison settings are a practical point of HIV prevention and treatment



Background

Drug dependence key factor in prison growth

In the US

General population rose by 13%

prison population rose by 33%

PWID in prison rose by 43%

1/3 of 200,000 heroin users in US imprisoned annually

60% of PWIDs in a 12-city study been in prison

Re-incarceration rates very high for PWIDs- In Australia, 84% of PWIDs inmates were re-incarcerated in 2 yrs of release versus 44% of all prisoners. They had a mean of 5 imprisonments.



Aim

Global systematic review of the HIV situation in prisons on

- A. Imprisonment rates**
- B. HIV prevalence**
- C. HIV incidence
- D. AIDS related mortality
- E. HIV programs- UNODC comprehensive package 15**

For male, female, PWIDs, MSM, sex workers and transgender prisoners

The time period under observation January 2008 to April 2014.



Methods

- A multilingual (English, German, Spanish, Croatian, French, Arabic, Portuguese and Russian) desk review of the literature
- A survey of UN staff and experts
- List of Countries from

<http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/>

Imprisonment rates from the International centre for prison studies

<http://www.prisonstudies.org/info/worldbrief/>



Results

Identified 12,500 papers and 8,200 reports and used 481

11 million prisoners - 3 million on pre trial remand in the world
BUT ~ 30 million individuals enter and leave prison - 90% male

Imprisonment rates found for all countries except Eritrea, Equatorial
Guinea, North Korea and Somalia

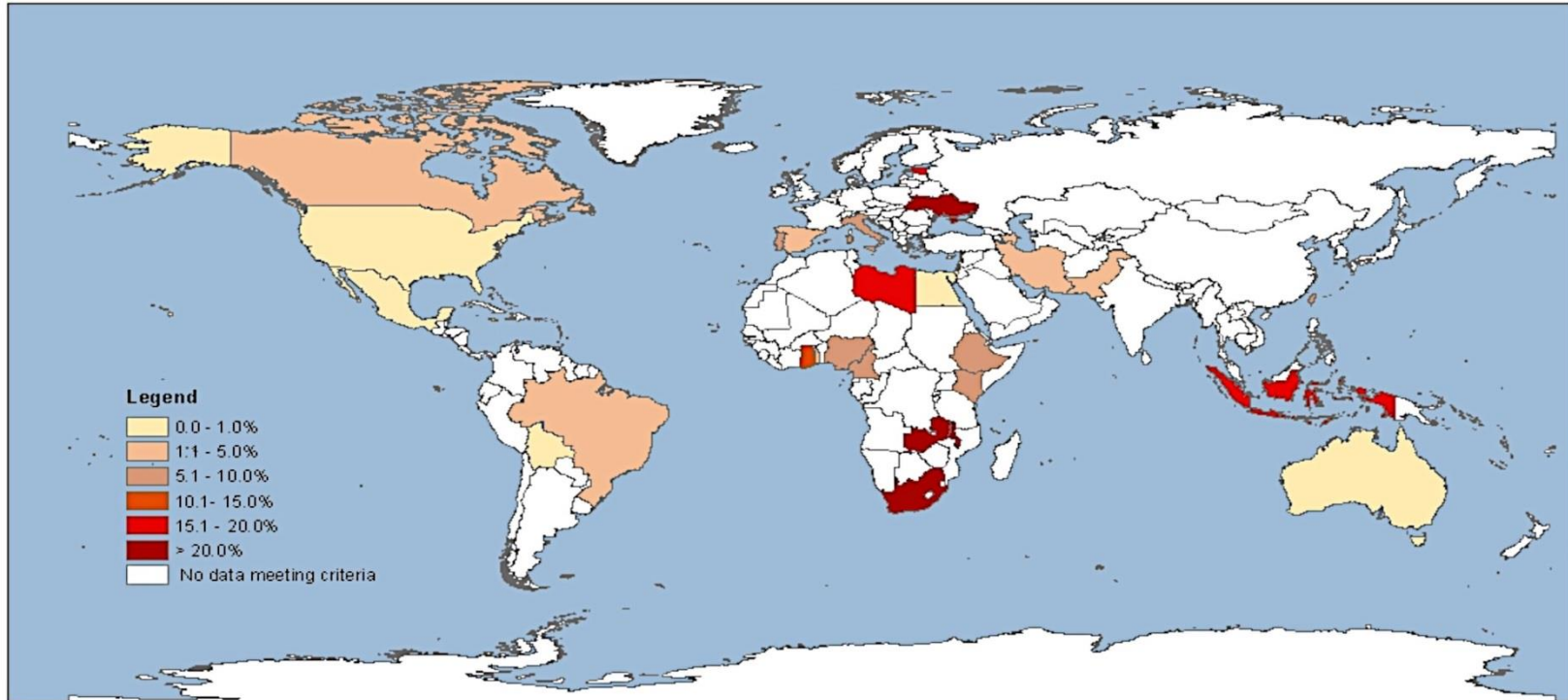
The world average rate of incarceration was 146 per 100,000



Imprisonment rates for each Region per 100,000 adult popn

Region	No. of countries/ with prison rates	Imprisonment rate
East/ Southern Africa	20/19	182
West/Central Africa	25/24	68
Asia and Pacific	35/34	129
Caribbean	16/16	332
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	30/30	220
Latin American	17/17	210
Middle East and North African	21/20	128
Other Countries	22/22	127
Australia	-	144 Non ATSI 2,174 ATSI

Pooled country HIV prevalence in prison



N= 1,595,031

Range of HIV prevalence for each Region by sex and all prison popn

Region	Male %	female %	All %
East/ Southern Africa	0 - 50	2 - 75	6 - 34
West/Central Africa	3 - 5	0 - 17	1 - 19
Asia and Pacific	0 - 2	0 - 30	0 - 29
Caribbean	--	--	4
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	1 - 33	1 - 38	0 - 15
Latin American	0 - 18	1 - 4	0 - 12
Middle East and North African	0 - 1	0 - 4	0 - 4
Other Countries	1 - 4	1 - 2	0 - 8
Australia	0	0	0

Range of HIV prevalence in prison populations

Other Countries Region	%
Italy	4
Luxembourg	1
Netherlands	0
Portugal	6
Spain	6 - 11
USA	1

UNODC package of interventions (n=189)



Region	Asia Pacific	East Europe	Latin	MENA	Other	total
No. of countries	36	30	17	21	23	112
Countries with interventions	18	25	10	7	20	80
Number of different interventions	14	15	10	15	15	
Information Education Communication	12	18	6	5	14	55
Voluntary Counselling Testing	14	22	8	6	13	63
HIV treatment & care	7	19	2	4	11	43
TB	8	22	6	2	9	47
PMTCT	3	13	2	1	7	26
Condoms	5	12	7	1	9	34
STI	9	17	1	4	12	43
Prevent sex violence	3	11	0	1	7	22
OST	6	13	0	1	19	39
NSP	0	7	0	2	4	13
Prevent, treat Hepatitis	6	18	2	4	18	48
PEP	2	11	0	1	7	21
Prevent medical dental trans	3	13	1	1	9	27
Prevent skin penetration trans	2	8	0	1	6	17
Prevent Occupation trans	3	16	1	1	12	33

Implementation of Condoms, NSP & OST in prison

Condom programs 36 countries

Lesotho, South Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Albania, Bulgaria, Czech, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, Finland, France, Germany, Kosovo, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, UK and the USA.

Needle and syringe programs 13 countries

Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

5 countries (Armenia, Belarus, Romania, Iran and Portugal) have stopped NSP. One of the main reasons was that the service was poorly designed and inmates did not use it.

Opiate substitution treatment 40 countries

Mauritius, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, R. Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, Iran, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.



Global increase in prison OST

Year	Number of countries with Prison OST
1996	5
2007	29
2010	39
2014	41

77 countries have Com OST



Prison based OST

OST reduces

injecting (55-75%) and sharing (47-73%) in prison

mortality after prison (75% in the 1st 4 wks)

1050 deaths from 2000-2012 (100,978 person yrs of F/U)

Re-incarceration by 20% (in the 1st 2 yrs)

84% re-incarcerated within 2 yrs

Cost effective: \$3234 /inmate p.a. = offset by avoiding 20 days inside

OST coverage in Prison 2009 in Aust in 2014

country	% of inmates		State	% of inmates
Albania	<1		NSW	15
Austria	7.7		Qld	0.8
Canada	1.8		Victoria	16
Denmark	9.2		WA	6.5
France	6.6		SA	9
Germany	<1		NT	1
Indonesia	<1		Tasmania	3
Iran	5.2		ACT	27
Ireland	14.3			



Conclusions

Australia compares favourably with the rest of the world.

Our imprisonment rate is low but not for ATSI persons

Our HIV levels is exceptionally low

The gaps in prison are

NSP, Adequate OST coverage, Evidence based treatment

Wasted resources on urinalysis, lack of scrutiny, post release support, HCV treatment, universal HBV vaccination



Recommendations

The gaps in the community are

MSIC, heroin maintenance, injectable OST

Adequate OST coverage, evidence based
treatment for other drugs

Reordering of funding priorities

Reducing the prison popn, diversion

ICE epidemic madness



Recommendations

Good prisoner health is good public health:

High turnover of inmates mean diseases contracted inside leave prison

Prisons can create problems, mental illness, women lose their children, unsettling as sentences are typically short

Re assess the use of imprisonment

Punishment, deterrence, incapacitation (stop prisoner offending while in prison); and rehabilitation (reduce risk of reoffending after release).

