



At Her Majesty's Pleasure...

HIV Prevention & Sexual Health
Promotion in HM Prisons & YOIs

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BBV Rates in Prisons

1997 survey of BBV rates in prisons

Hepatitis C prevalence in general population (2006)	Hepatitis C prevalence amongst adult males in prisons (1997)	Hepatitis C prevalence amongst adult females in prisons (1997)	HIV prevalence in general population (2006)	HIV prevalence amongst adult males in prisons (1997)	HIV prevalence amongst adult females in prisons (1997)
0.53 per cent	9 per cent	11 per cent	0.1 per cent	0.3 per cent	1.2 per cent

1. Weild, Gill et al 'Prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C antibodies in prisoners in England and Wales: a national survey'.
2. Communicable Disease and Public Health Vol 3 No 2 June 2000
Hepatitis C in England: An update 2006. London: Health Protection Agency, Centre for Infections, December 2006

STI Rates in Prisons

- ❧ Data not collected by the HPA so a comprehensive picture is not possible.
- ❧ There is evidence from small studies:
 - Tang & David (2003) - 51.72% of male inmates attending a GUM clinic at a YOI tested positive for STIs.
 - Roberts (2003) – 54% of adult male prisoners (under 35) attending a prison GUM clinic required treatment for an STI.



Sexual Activity in Prisons

- ⚡ Difficult to obtain robust data on sexual activity in prisons. What we do know is:
- ⚡ Green, Strang (2003) - survey of 1,009 male prisoners across 13 prisons
 - 22 reported having sex while in prison;
 - 20 of these had sex with a man before entering prison;
 - 2 had sex for the first time in prison¹

1. Green J.1; Strang J.2; Hetherington J.1; Whiteley C.2; Heuston J.2; Maden T.3
Source: International Journal of STD & AIDS, Volume 14, Number 4, 1 April
2003 , pp. 253-257(5)



Legal Issues

- Ⓡ No specific rule in any nation that sex in prison is a disciplinary offence.
- Ⓡ Cells considered public places in England and Wales so could be an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Ⓡ Cells considered private places in Scotland.



Harm Minimisation

Scotland

- 🚫 Condoms freely available – move to introduce vending machines.
- 🚫 Currently introducing ‘paraphernalia packs’ for injecting drug users, containing everything but the needle & syringe.
- 🚫 Plans for a needle exchange pilot, currently being blocked by the Prison Officers Association.



Harm Minimisation

England & Wales

- Ⓡ Condoms available from healthcare staff if ‘in their clinical judgement, there is a risk of the transmission of HIV, or any other sexually transmitted disease.’
- Ⓡ All prisons must have a protocol available for prisoners on the provision of condoms, dental dams and lubricant.
- Ⓡ Voluntary Prison Health Performance Indicators introduced in 2007. Indicator 29 on sexual health, covering access to condoms, GUM, and SRE.



Harm Minimisation

England & Wales (continued)

- Ⓡ Disinfecting tablets for cleaning injecting equipment have been introduced, available from vending machines.

Northern Ireland

- Ⓡ Condoms and disinfecting tablets are not available.



Healthcare Provision

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

🎗 Responsibility for commissioning healthcare now rests with the local NHS (PCTs or Health Boards).

Scotland

🎗 Healthcare the responsibility of the Scottish Prison Service.

All health care should be of an equivalent standard to that provided in the community.



Tackling BBVs in Prisons

- 🚫 Framework of best practice produced by NAT and an expert working group.
- 🚫 Sent to all UK prisons, NHS commissioners, unions, key voluntary organisations.
- 🚫 Recent evaluation produced positive results, seen as highly useful.

Getting involved

- 🚫 Use framework as a tool to approach prisons and PCTs with suggestions of how you can help them.
- 🚫 Work in prisons benefits the wider community and helps PCTs meet targets.
- 🚫 As well as work inside prisons, what about after release? Continuity of care is vital.



Further information

 Links to levers and useful info sources / websites.

- NAT's Prison framework:

www.nat.org.uk/document/255

- Offender Health's Prison Health Performance Indicators

<http://tinyurl.com/2taamu>

- DH guidance on practical tips for working with people in the criminal justice system.

<http://tinyurl.com/2adl4l>

- Scottish Prison Service: www.sps.gov.uk

- Prison Health Research Network:

www.phrn.nhs.uk