



Public Health  
England

# Infection Inside

Quarterly publication from PHE on public health in  
prisons and other places of detention

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**UK Collaborating Centre for WHO Health in  
Prisons Programme (Europe)**



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

The World Health Organization (European Region) and the UK established a network for the exchange of experience in tackling health problems in prisons 20 years ago. From this network emerged the [WHO Health in Prisons Programme \(WHO HIPP\)](#), which now includes 47 of the 53 member states from the WHO European region. WHO Europe is the only Region to have a prisons programme thereby providing global leadership for health and justice issues. HIPP's main activity is to give technical advice to Member States on:

- the development of prison health systems and their links with public health systems
- technical issues related to communicable diseases (especially HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and tuberculosis), illicit drug use (including substitution therapy and harm reduction) and mental health

As with other WHO programmes, the WHO HIPP is supported in its mission by a UK Collaborating Centre (UK CC). The UK CC was hosted initially by the Department of Health in England. On April 1, 2014, PHE took over this function.

The UK CC, working as part of a multi-disciplinary specialist team within PHE:

- oversees, coordinates and delivers high quality professional input, technical support and advice to the WHO Regional Office in Copenhagen and European partners on a range of health and social care issues
- delivers an international conference on prison health annually (London 2013, Portlaoise, Republic of Ireland 2014)
- supports the coordination of work across the WHO EURO region through the HIPP Steering Group, whose membership includes representatives of Member States, the WHO UK CC (PHE), non-governmental organisations and intergovernmental organisations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

The recent meeting of the Steering Group in Copenhagen in May 2015 agreed [HIPP activities for 2015–2016](#) which include:

- an international conference in Kyrgyzstan 27 to 29 October 2015
- development of a new web-based platform to serve as a clearinghouse for prison health information supplied by WHO and partner organisations
- the development of a new minimum public health dataset for prisons in the WHO European Region

**WHO HIPP Steering Group members, Copenhagen, May 2015**



The meeting also endorsed a proposal by PHE to establish a new WHO Europe Prison Health Research Network (WEPHRen).

The minimum public health dataset for prisons will cover the main areas of prison health, including prison health systems (such as financing and governance); the prison environment; risk factors for diseases; and the screening, prevention, treatment and prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The aim of developing a WHO European Prison Health Research Network is to improve the evidence-base to support effective, efficient, cost-effective and high quality healthcare in prisons and other justice settings. The growth in prison health research from countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia is not matched by that within the WHO European Region. While developments in prison health research have emerged in some Member States it has not been uniform and in others the evidence base remains underdeveloped. Also, even where research is conducted, it is often ‘under-powered’ and/or methodologically weak leading to results remaining in the ‘grey literature’ making it inaccessible to other researchers and those developing the evidence base for prison health. Improving research into the health of prisoners plays an important role in improving their health, driving forward the quality of healthcare and reducing health inequalities.

The plan is to develop a research strategy for prison health across Europe including:

- a capacity building programme to develop skills and resources in all Member States particularly enabling effective collaboration to share good practice

- enabling joint research initiatives
- actively seeking funding for collaborative programmes and support publication in peer-reviewed journals to add to the searchable validated evidence-base

The WEPHReN will provide:

- a forum for researchers to contact other researchers to exchange ideas and experiences but also to enable them to work together to develop funding proposals etc
- a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions between researchers, policy makers, practitioners and other key stakeholders
- a means of disseminating important research findings across the Region
- a platform for developing the skills of health professionals and researchers with an interest in prisoners across all countries in the Region
- a vehicle to drive development of effective collaborative networks within Member States between academic institutions, policy makers, practitioners and public health organisations, as well as between Member States especially enabling academic collaborations between institutions supporting research programmes
- an opportunity for supported professional development of the prison health and wider workforce thus promoting interest in prison health as a professional discipline
- global leadership in prison research including leading the research agenda for this area of scientific and public health interest.

We will continue to provide updates on these developments through Infection Inside but if you have any further enquiries please email [health&justice@phe.gov.uk](mailto:health&justice@phe.gov.uk)

### **European Monitoring Centre for Drugs & Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) meeting on the key indicator on Drug-related Infectious Diseases (DRID) 15-16 June 2015**

On June 15, Dr Éamonn O'Moore in his role as Director of the UK CC to WHO HIPP attended the EMCDDA meeting on drug-related infectious diseases in Lisbon where he co-chaired and presented at a plenary session on "The health of prisoners: a focus on infectious diseases". The presentation included the role of PHE in relation to WHO as well as key datasets on infectious disease surveillance in English prisons which is seen as an exemplar of good practice in Europe.

The meeting also received a presentation from our Italian partners in [Health without Barriers: The European Federation for Prison Health](#). Dr Roberto Monarca presented on infectious disease challenges in prisons across Europe and how prison-based interventions provide an opportunity for engagement with at risk populations which can have a wider benefit for the whole population.

The meeting also heard about the prevalence of BBV infection among Irish prisoners, infectious diseases challenges in Spain and Latvia, including HIV infection, and on monitoring harm reduction implementation in European prisons: public health and human rights approaches. The presentations and PHE's contribution to the event will appear on the EMCDDA website shortly – <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/expert-meetings/2015/drd-drid>

## **Health & Justice report 2014, Public Health England**

This report published 15 June 2015 provides details of key changes in the health and justice system and discusses the public health needs of people in prescribed places of detention (PPDs). In addition to demographic details of people in detained settings the report explores some of the key public health initiatives developed in partnership with NHS England, NOMS, the Home Office and the Youth Justice Board.

The focus in 2015 will be ensuring that public health issues affecting this population are identified and sufficiently robust plans are developed to meet them at various levels by stakeholder organisations described in the report.

It is the intention to produce a health and justice report every year to detail the public health needs of people in PPDs and discuss initiatives undertaken to address their needs. We are keen to receive feedback from stakeholders about the report and would encourage people to complete the [short survey](#) on the website.

## **Early lessons learnt from the opt-out blood-borne virus (BBV) testing policy in prisons, 21 May 2015, Birmingham**

This national event followed last year's launch of the BBV opt-out testing in prisons policy. There have been many developments over the past year and the aim of the day was to reconvene to review progress and learn lessons from the initial pathfinder prisons.

The event reached capacity with over 100 delegates and included presentations from pathfinder prisons as well as an update about the new treatments for hepatitis C. A summary from the day will be circulated to stakeholders and all the presentations are available on-line: [https://www.phe-events.org.uk/HPA/media/uploaded/EVHPA/event\\_478/BBV%20Final%20slides.pdf](https://www.phe-events.org.uk/HPA/media/uploaded/EVHPA/event_478/BBV%20Final%20slides.pdf)

## **HCV Action / PHE road shows**

PHE in partnership with HCV Action are running a series of road shows across England to raise awareness about hepatitis C and provide an opportunity for local stakeholders to meet and discuss priorities. So far, two road shows have taken place, one in [Liverpool](#) (6 March 2015) and one in [London](#) (26 June 2015). Both days were attended by over 100 people and involved presentations from local and national experts in hepatitis C. The London event also included a focus on the implementation of the opt-out BBV work in prisons.

At the recent London event the road show was opened by Professor Paul Cosford, Director for Health Protection and Medical Director at PHE, and featured talks by Julie Henderson at HMP Stocken, who spoke about her experiences of implementing opt-out testing for blood-borne viruses. In addition, one of three workshops at the road show was hosted by Dr Éamonn O'Moore, National Lead Health & Justice, PHE where he explored how testing can be increased and treatment pathways improved for hepatitis C in prisons. The workshop was well attended and participants included prison healthcare staff from five London prisons, representatives from NHS England London, community substance misuse teams, a pharmaceutical company and PHE. It began with a brief discussion around the background and rationale of testing in prison and an acknowledgement that BBV testing in prisons was a huge public health opportunity to help reduce the prevalence of hepatitis C, treat people already infected and pass on important harm reduction messages. Ongoing work around the opt-out BBV pathfinders and the partnership (NHS England, NOMS and PHE) commitment to move to routine opt-out testing in all English Prisons by 2016/17 were also highlighted. Discussions at the workshop were largely driven by staff from the prison healthcare teams who shared their experiences around BBV testing in their prisons. Key themes that emerged from the discussion included a lack of clarity around funding for dry blood spot testing kits and issues around variable implementation of hepatitis C specifications. A key outcome of the workshop was that HMP Pentonville who are about to begin BBV opt-out testing agreed to formally join Phase 3 of the pathfinder programme. It is hoped that learning from this pathfinder will help inform the roll out in other prisons.

Also at the London event, the London Joint Working on hepatitis C announced that they plan to hold a conference in London on 19 October 2015.

Two further road shows are being planned for the remainder of 2015 throughout the UK to enhance local service provision and showcase and share good practice in the prevention, testing, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C.

## **News**

### **The implementation of an immunisation programme using the combined MenACWY vaccine**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that immunisation should be offered to all 14- to 18-year-olds to prevent the transmission of meningococcal group W (MenW) disease.

This advice follows the continuing rise in cases of MenW in England since 2009. Whilst the number of MenW cases and overall risk remains very low, there has been an increase from 22 cases in 2009 to 117 in 2014. The Department of Health has accepted JCVI's advice and, in collaboration with PHE and NHS England, is now planning the implementation of an immunisation programme using the combined MenACWY vaccine, subject to vaccine availability. The Men ACWY vaccine protects against four different causes of meningitis and septicaemia – meningococcal (Men) A, C, W and Y diseases. This programme will include the children and young people secure estate and young adults in YOIs and HMPs and IRCs.

Implication for PPDs:

- prisons, YOIs and IRCs will need to plan to deliver vaccine to all 18 year olds currently in the estate from August-December 2015 and all 19-25 year olds entering the prison from August-April 2016
- from April 1, 2016, the MenACWY vaccine will need to be included in the standard vaccine check/offer for new entrants to prisons, YOIs and IRCs at second reception screening

PHE will be circulating communications to the field about this in the next few weeks including easy to read format leaflets for patients.

### **World Hepatitis Day**

PHE's HCV in the UK report will be published to mark World Hepatitis Day on 28 July. Dr. Éamonn O'Moore, PHE and Archie Christian, The Hepatitis C Trust will also be interviewed on prison radio in the lead up to the day. Further information on how you can use the day to raise awareness about hepatitis is available at:

World Hepatitis Alliance - <http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/>

The Hepatitis C Trust - <http://www.hepctrust.org.uk/>

### **New film on hepatitis C aimed at healthcare professionals**

A new film to raise awareness and increase knowledge of hepatitis C amongst prison healthcare staff, GPs and other primary care practitioners has been launched by the Royal College of GPs, the Hepatitis C Trust and HCV Action. This is detailed in this quarter's BBV bulletin. The film, 'Detecting and Managing Hepatitis C in Primary Care' is available to view for free on the HCV Action website.

## **Publications**

### **Blood-borne viruses: quarterly report on opt-out testing in prisons**

This quarter's issue of the bulletin is now available via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-health-in-prisons#improving-testing-and-treatment-rates-for-bloodborne-viruses>

### **Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment (HNA) Programme – Immigration Removal Centres and Residential Short Term Holding Facilities**

This national summary report was commissioned by the Home Office and supported by NHS England and aims to provide a national baseline for both organisations to inform future service commissioning for healthcare in immigration removal centres.

### **Standards for Prison Mental Health Services, Quality Network for Prison Mental Health Services**

The Royal College of Psychiatrists and The Quality Network for Prison Mental Health Services have published their standards for prison mental health services. The standards in this document address areas which are key to prison mental healthcare.

## **Research**

### **The Lancet Psychiatry: Death rate from alcohol and drug misuse in former prisoners**

Alcohol and drug misuse are responsible for around a third of all deaths in former male prisoners and half in female ex-prisoners, a new study of almost 48000 ex-prisoners published in The Lancet Psychiatry journal has found. Moreover, the research shows that a substantial proportion of these deaths are from preventable causes, including accidents and suicide (42% in men and 70% in women).

For full article: <http://press.thelancet.com/prisonmortality.pdf>

For article appendix: <http://press.thelancet.com/prisonmortalityappendix.pdf>

### **Events (upcoming)**

#### **Compassion in Health in the Justice System Conference, Compassion not Judgment, Friday 17 July 2015, London**

This is a free national NHS conference, focusing on the importance of compassion in the health in the justice system. It is the first national event of its kind since NHS England took over responsibility for commissioning health in the justice services.

The aim of the conference is to share best practice, to inspire and support staff across the health in the justice care pathway and to effect change by sharing and learning together through interactive sessions. Presentations will include real life examples of people who have used health services within the prison and justice system and health care professionals discussing and sharing common current issues from their perspectives.

Further details available at:

<https://www.regonline.co.uk/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1721542&lbrd=1&rtyeid=491319>

#### **Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar, Health in the Justice System - next steps for commissioning, partnerships and continuity of care, Tuesday 8 September 2015, London**

Delegates at this seminar will discuss the future of offender healthcare in England and Wales. Sessions will focus on the next steps for commissioning and delivering effective services across the criminal justice system – both within custody and in the community – and will assess what more criminal justice and health practitioners can do to tackle health inequalities and support rehabilitation.

The agenda includes keynote addresses from Dr Éamonn O'Moore, National Lead for Health & Justice, PHE and Director, Collaborating Centre for Health in Prisons, World Health Organisation; Kate Davies, Head of Public Health, Armed Forces and their Families and Health & Justice Commissioning, NHS England; and Simon Marshall, Head of Health, Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Co-commissioning, NOMS.

Further details available at:

<http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/forums/event.php?eid=976>

### **Public Health England Annual Conference 2015**

The Public Health England Annual Conference 2015 will bring together over 1400 participants from a wide range of organisations to meet, learn and share knowledge and experience.

The theme of this year's conference is Evidence into Action, and the conference will promote and showcase applied science and research, translation and implementation for impact.

#### **Editorial Group**

**Dr Éamonn O'Moore**, National Lead for Health and Justice, PHE & Director UK Collaborating Centre, WHO Health in Prisons Programme (Europe).

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