A review of Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus care provided to inmates at reception into UK prisons and secure facilities

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Conflict of Interest

In relation to this presentation, I declare that I have no conflict of interest.

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Sexual healthcare in UK secure facilities

- Prisons
- Young offenders institutes (YOI)
- Secure hospitals
- Immigration removal centre (IRC)

• Higher prevalence of high risk behaviours
• Increased need for health services
• No standards or guidelines

Equivalence
Aims

- Services available
- Equivalence
- Areas for further support
Research Method

• Cross sectional Study
  • Total facilities 150 in UK

• Questionnaire devised
  • Based on BASHH(2011)/NICE(2017) priorities and recommendations
  • Care received at admission of each inmate into the secure facility
  • Healthcare leads or lead nurses contacted via email or phone

• Results compared to the NHS standards seen in the general population
  • ‘available to everyone, regardless of sex, age, ethnic origin and sexual orientation’
Result characteristics

• 83/150 (55%) of facilities responded
  • 13/17 female prisons

Responses from Secure Facilities in the UK

- England: 62
- Scotland: 15
- Northern Ireland: 3
- Wales: 2
Research findings

• All inmates advised that sexual health services were available within the facility

• 94% of facilities have access to specialist sexual health service
  • 62% have on site access at least once monthly

• 45% reviewed by a sexual health specialist if further assessment was required
• Range of testing offered at secure facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood borne viruses (BBV)</th>
<th>Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)</th>
<th>Pregnancy test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% (83/83)</td>
<td>91% (76/83)</td>
<td>69% (57/83)</td>
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<tr>
<td>100% (83/83)</td>
<td>90% (75/83)</td>
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<tr>
<td>100% (83/83)</td>
<td>87% (72/83)</td>
<td>23% (19/83)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>Routinely</td>
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<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Gonorrhoea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C</td>
<td>Syphilis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Range of risk assessments offered at secure facilities

Risk assessments of UK secure facilities

- Risk assessment for Sexual Health: 12% (21/183)
- Risk assessment for BBV: 80% (67/83)
- Risk assessment for Mental Health and substance misuse: 98% (82/83)
- Risk assessment for Emergency contraception: 38% (5/13)
Limitations

• Lack of response
  • Difficulty contacting appropriate members of staff at the secure facilities
  • Facilities in Wales and IRCs had no responses

• Lack of comprehensive knowledge by staff
  • ‘Don’t know’ answered

• Covid-19 pandemic
Key Messages

• **Equivalent** screening for blood borne viruses and sexual infections, identification of high risk individuals and reproductive health for female admissions were **not equivalent**

• **Variation** seen in services offered dependant on facility

• Further research required into sexual healthcare throughout internment to identify further areas of **collaboration** and **improvement**

• Devise and implement **set of standards** to elevate and homogenise care
Acknowledgements and thanks

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• BASHH Prison Special Interest Group

• Healthcare staff at UK secure facilities