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Results from the Spanish
experience:

Communicable diseases in
Spanish prisons



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Results from the Spanish experience: Communicable diseases in Spanish prisons

Introduction

Work developed by prison services

- Returning healthier people to the society – both socially and from a medical point of view
- The society must know that part of its safety depends on the success of our management.
- To ensure that its users –inmates- are provided in prison with health care with the same quality standards

Results from the Spanish experience: Communicable diseases in Spanish prisons

Introduction

Early detection and appropriate treatment

- Harm reduction measures and any other measure related to health promotion are available
- Substance abuse and marginalization have caused among inmates before their imprisonment many diseases which are regularly found
- Improve health among those communities which inmates come from and to which they return once they serve their sentence.

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Health action in prisons as extraordinarily valuable tool



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Madrid Recommendation

Opportunity to change unhealthy lifestyles

- **At a meeting held in Madrid, Spain** during 29-30 October 2009 with representatives from **65** countries worldwide, a high number of national and international agencies and experts in prison health and public health issues, including **WHO Regional Office for Europe, and The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**, accepted The MR

- Is a step more towards universal acknowledgement of prison health services as a powerful tool in the fight against social inequalities related to health care.

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Medical care within prisons
is the gateway to the rest
of public assistance



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Spanish prison
health system

A limited group of highly dedicated professionals

- Our prison health care system is based on the work of health units set in every prison still dependent on the Spanish Home Office.
- These units count upon physicians and nursing staff to provide primary health care and transfer inmates in need of specialized assistance to specialized services and hospitals dependent on health care services of each autonomous community

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Spanish prison
health system

Drug treatment in prison system

Therapeutic Units are available, the aims are:

- 1- Prevention of drug use
- 2- Reduction of risk factors of drug use
- 3- Health care in diseases associated to drug use
- 4- Detoxification and treatment for drug dependency
- 5- Rehabilitation

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In the 1980s, one of the highest European prison infection rates regarding Viral Hepatitis or HIV were found in Spain



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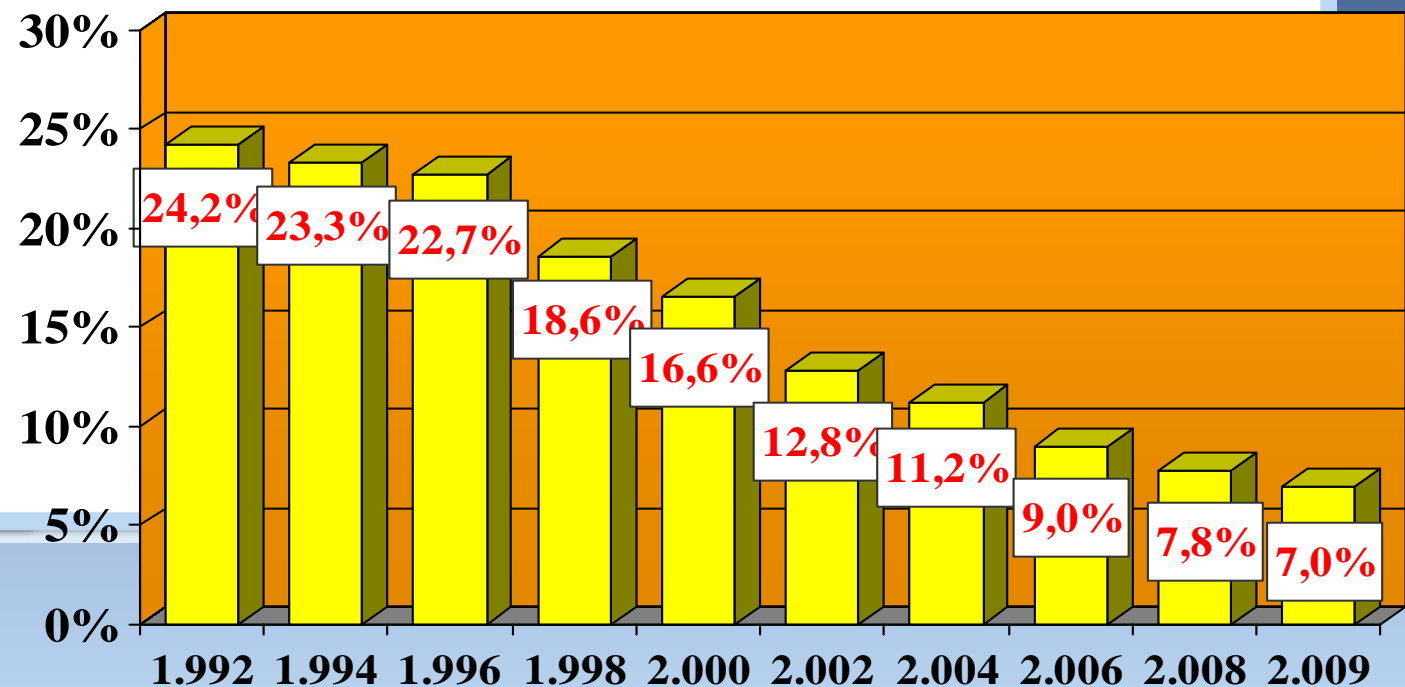
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Results from the Spanish experience: Communicable diseases in Spanish prisons

The first Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases program

-Results throughout the years have proved very appropriate, as infection rates have decreased year after year, from 24% in 1992 to 7% in 2009.

Harm reduction
programs



Results from the Spanish experience: Communicable diseases in Spanish prisons

Harm reduction
programs

Based on the WHO recommendations

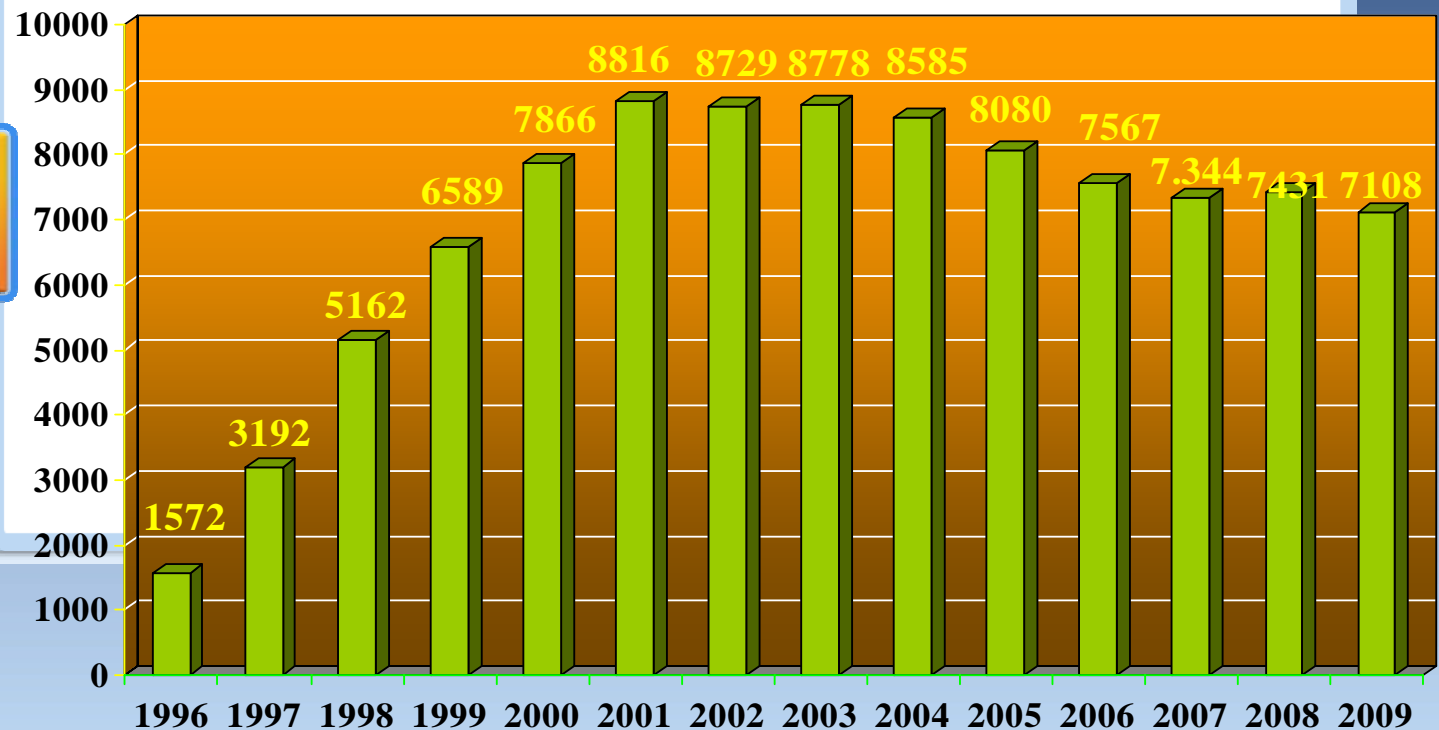
- Antibody detection tests available for all inmates
- Voluntary test taking, confidentiality regarding results,
- No-segregation based on the results,
- Free distribution of condoms and lubricant,
- Access to Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs)
- Health education and information on HIV/AIDS and other infectious agents by means of health agents
- Access to free treatment equivalent to the one provided outside prison
- Access to parole for inmates suffering from terminal illnesses when the penitentiary surveillance judge agrees

Results from the Spanish experience: Communicable diseases in Spanish prisons

Methadone maintenance program

- One of the main tools in rescuing inmates from harm reduction programs and transferring them to other rehabilitation programs which will enable their social reintegration

Harm reduction programs

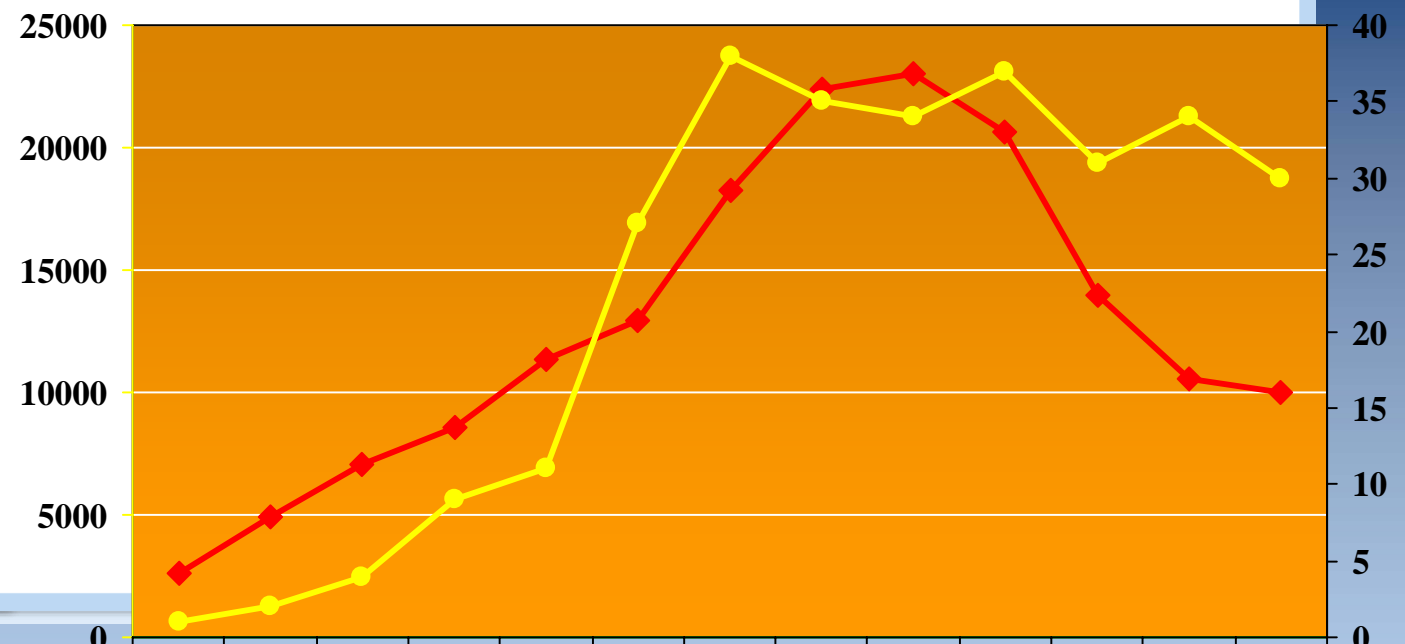


Results from the Spanish experience: A comprehensive approach to HIV and HCV in prisons

Since 1997 the Syringe Exchange Program

- Was aimed from the beginning at reducing the risk of transmission of those diseases which are transmitted by the exchange of syringes,

Harm reduction programs



■ needles
■ centers

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
needles	2582	4943	7056	8584	11339	12970	18260	22356	22989	20626	13998	10582	10038
centers	1	2	4	9	11	27	38	35	34	37	31	34	30

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Success in controlling
common communicable
diseases within prison
environment



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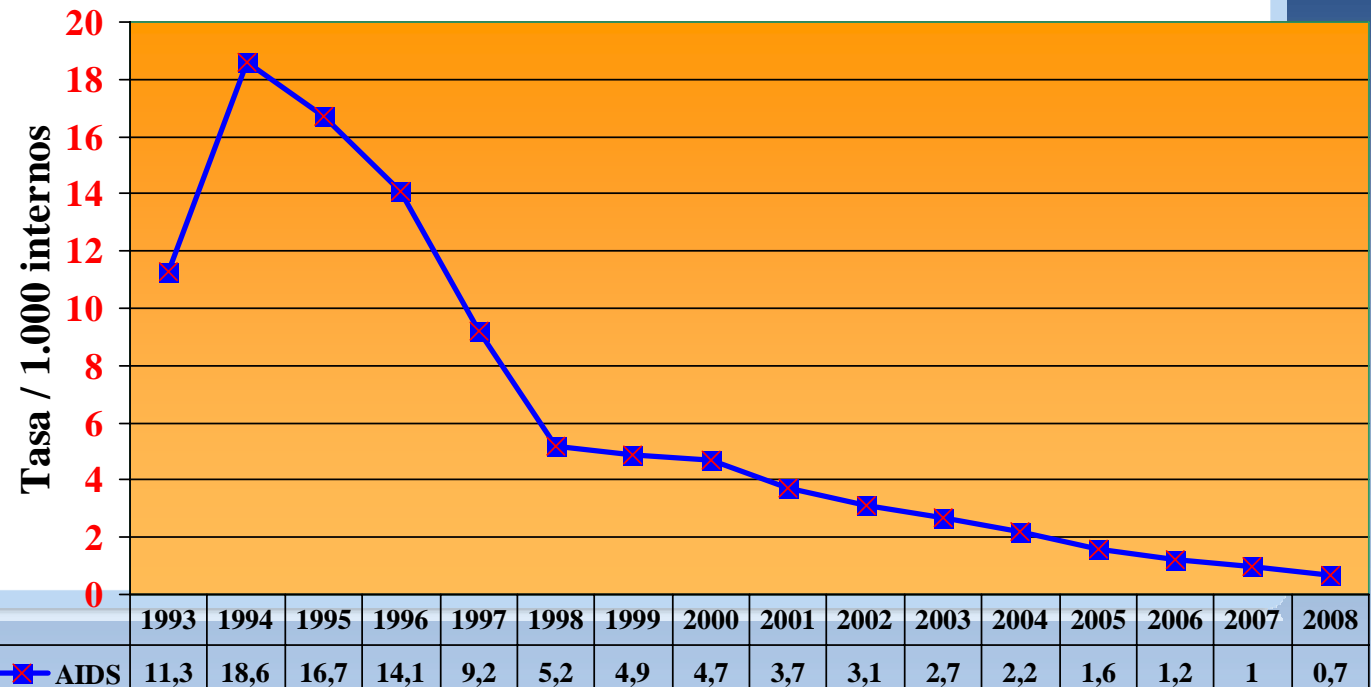
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Results from the Spanish experience: Communicable diseases in Spanish prisons

Reduction of Blood borne infections

- To be precise, HIV infection in Spanish prisons is currently 4 times lower and AIDS today is 25 times less frequent than in 1989.



Results and
conclusions

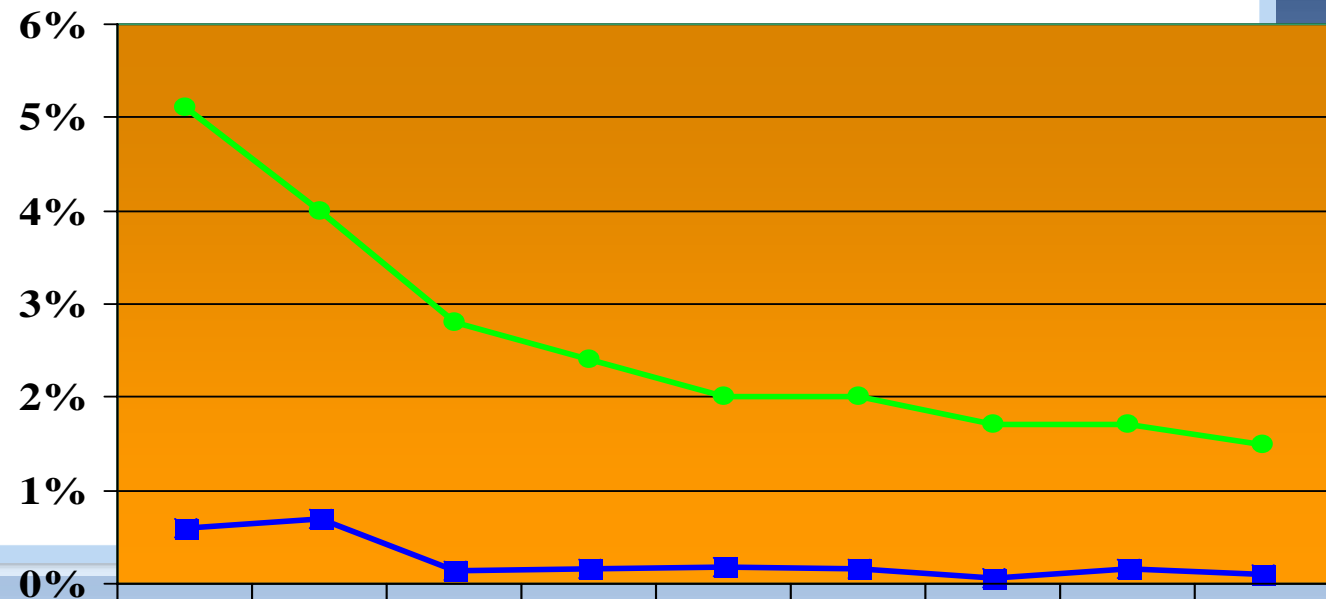
**Rates of AIDS in Spanish prisons
(cases / 1,000 inmates)**

Results from the Spanish experience: Communicable diseases in Spanish prisons

Reduction of Blood borne infections

- Seroconversions to HIV and HCV in prison have dramatically gone down since 2000, first year in which there was evidence of this data.

Results and
conclusions



	2.000	2.001	2.002	2.003	2.004	2.005	2.006	2.007	2.008
■ % Conv. HIV	0,60%	0,70%	0,14%	0,15%	0,17%	0,15%	0,06%	0,16%	0,09%
● % Conv. HCV	5,1%	4,0%	2,8%	2,4%	2,0%	2,0%	1,7%	1,7%	1,5%

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We also need a change
of mentality of all those
authorities concerned



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Thank you very much

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