

A MULTI-LEVEL ASSESSMENT OF HBV, HCV AND HPV CASCADES AND CORE INTERVENTIONS FOR CANCER PREVENTION IN PRISONS AND JUVENILE DETENTION

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Background: HBV, HCV and HPV are major drivers of preventable cancers. People in detention bear a disproportionate burden, with persistent gaps in continuity of care and follow-up.

Within the PACE project (Path to Equity: Expanding Access to Cancer-Preventing Vaccination in European Carceral Settings, 2025–2028), a Gap Analysis Assessment Tool was developed to evaluate facilities in seven countries: Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Portugal and Romania.

Methods: The assessment tool combines national policy review with facility-level mapping of HBV, HCV and HPV prevention, testing and treatment.

At the national level, the tool collects data on governance, existing guidelines, funding mechanisms and quantitative indicators related to the prison population. It also captures information on prison health information systems, data collection procedures and barriers, and the use of data for surveillance.

At facility level, it collects data on the detained population, staffing capacity and involvement in key interventions, and training for custodial and health professionals. Core interventions- including education, harm reduction, vaccination, testing and treatment, cervical cancer screening- are self-assessed using a four-level framework (0–3), evaluating availability, target population, timing of delivery, service provision, continuity of care and monitoring.

Cascade indicators measure prevalence, coverage and service activity across vaccination, testing, diagnosis, treatment initiation and cure/sustained viral suppression.

Results: The assessment identifies gaps across interventions and monitoring domains, highlighting areas for improvement.

Data collection is ongoing in 15 detention centres (≈7,000 individuals) and will be completed in June. Results will be presented.

Conclusion and Next Steps: This tool enables detention centres to determine their position along HBV, HCV and HPV care cascades. By identifying gaps and prioritising actions, it supports improvements aligned with cancer prevention and hepatitis elimination targets.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: Project Co-funded by the European Union under the call: EU4Health-2024-PJ-03, Grant Agreement n.° 101233635. Consortium Consisting of: Università di Pisa, Azienda Socio-Sanitaria Territoriale Santi Paolo e Carlo, Società Italiana di Medicina delle Migrazioni, Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade de Lisboa, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Montpellier, Prolepsis Institute, Administratia Nationala a Penitenciarelor - Romania, Administratia Nationala a Penitenciarelor – Moldova, Cyprus National Addictions Authority, Cyprus Ministry of Justice and Public Order.