

Addressing the challenges of  
increasing access to HIV  
prevention, treatment, care and  
support among people who use  
drugs

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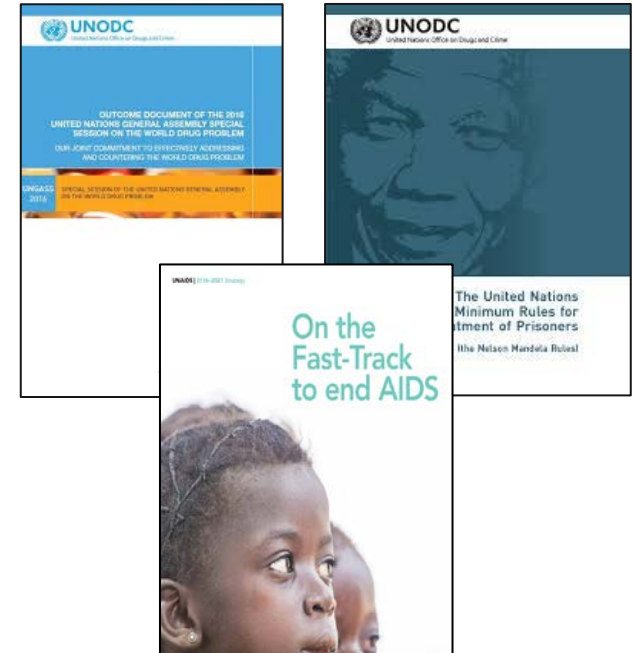


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**ON THE FAST-TRACK TO END AIDS**  
**for people  
who use drugs  
and people  
in prisons**

# International Standards & Global Commitments



- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- UNAIDS 2016 – 2021 Strategy: on the Fast-Track to end AIDS
- 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030
- UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)

# Drug Use and HIV

More than **11 million** people inject drugs

**1.4 million** are living with HIV

**5.5 million** are living with hepatitis C

**1.2 million** are living with both HIV and hepatitis C

# Prisons and HIV

Almost **11 million** people are held in prisons at any given time

**4.6%** are living with HIV

**15.1%** are living with hepatitis C

**4.8%** have chronic hepatitis B

**2.8%** have active tuberculosis

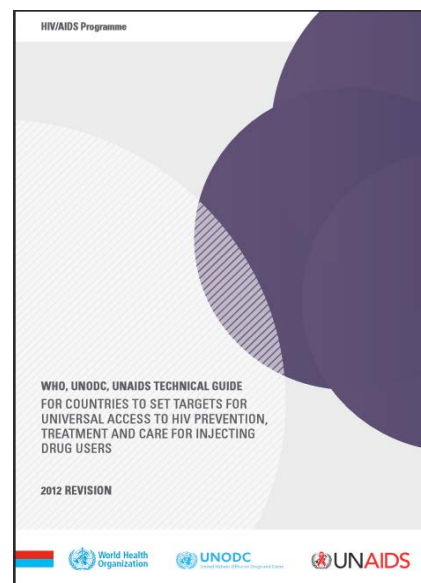
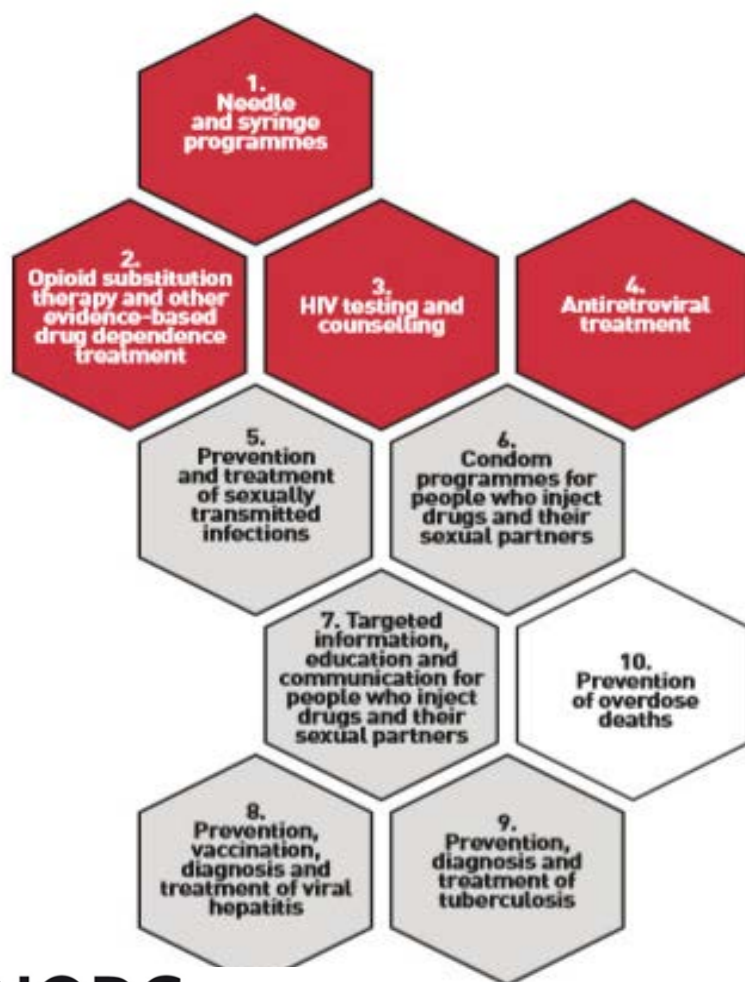


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# UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS Comprehensive Package: HIV Prevention, Treatment & Care among People who Inject Drugs

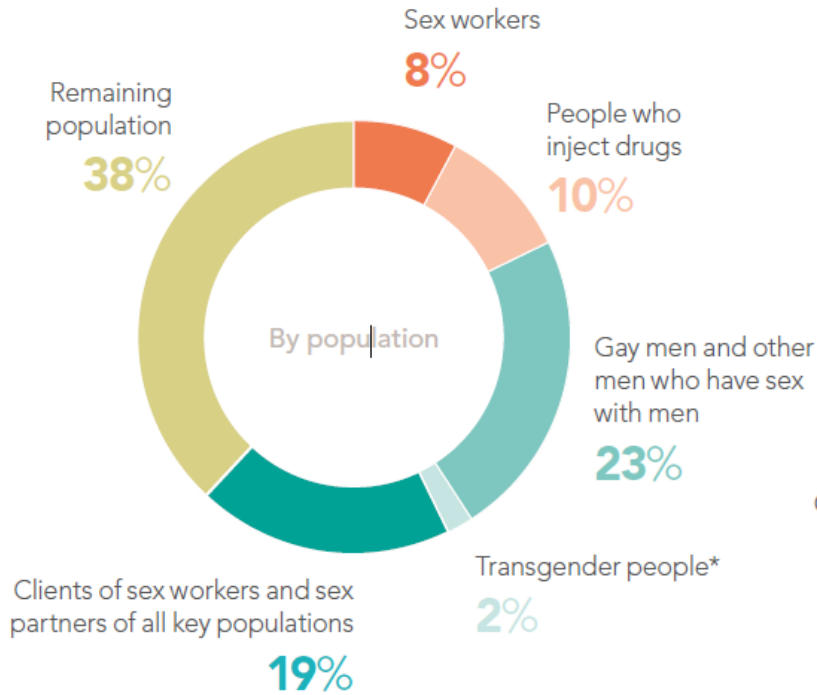


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# 10 % of the new HIV infections among PWID



**1% of PWID in countries with high coverage of NSP and OST**



**33 needles/syringes provided per PWID per year**  
→ target **300 needles/syringes**

**16% PWID receive OST**  
→ target **40%**



**The risk of acquiring HIV is 29 times higher among PWID**

**62% of new HIV infections globally among key populations and their sexual partners**

# UNODC Support to Countries: Promoting access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prisons



GUIDANCE



ADVOCACY



POLICY



TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE



CAPACITY  
BUILDING



Gender-sensitive

Day two in Vietnam @UNODC\_HIV workshop to assist harm reduction service providers to expand gender-sensitive and gender-specific services

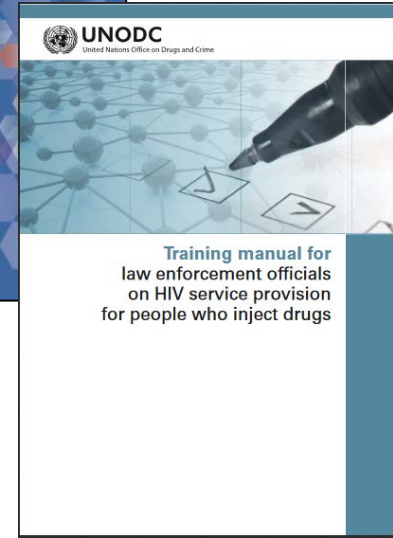
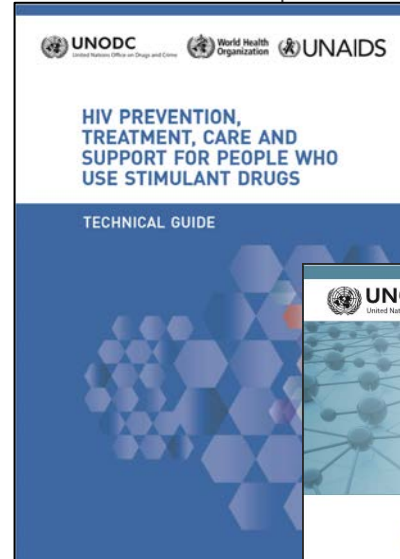
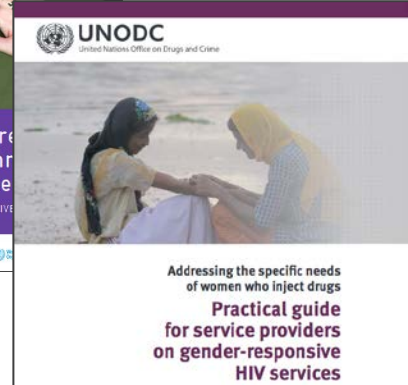
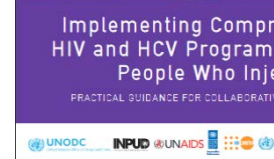
Human rights-based



Evidence-based



- Promoting access to HIV services for people who inject drugs
- Responding to the specific needs of women who inject drugs
- HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use stimulant drugs
- Supporting human rights-based, HIV-sensitive law enforcement practices



# COVID-19: Technical Guidance, Tools, Webinars & Virtual Trainings



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

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### HIV and AIDS

## COVID-19 HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People who Use Drugs and People in Prisons

[All info here →](#)

### COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL AMONG PEOPLE LIVING IN PRISON

People in prison should enjoy quality health care that is at least equivalent to that available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status.

**HOW DOES COVID-19 SPREAD?**

- COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that spreads through respiratory droplets and aerosols.
- It is spread from person to person through direct contact, such as coughing or sneezing into the face, or through indirect contact, such as touching surfaces that have been touched by an infected person.

**WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?**

- The most common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- Other symptoms include loss of taste or smell, sore throat, fatigue, muscle pain, and diarrhea.

**ADVICE FOR PRISONERS**

- Stay in your cell as much as possible.
- Avoid contact with other prisoners.
- Avoid touching surfaces in common areas.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Wear a face mask if you are in a common area.
- Avoid sharing food and drinks.
- Avoid sharing personal items.
- Avoid sharing needles.
- Avoid sharing clothing.
- Avoid sharing bedding.
- Avoid sharing towels.
- Avoid sharing hairbrushes.
- Avoid sharing toothbrushes.
- Avoid sharing razors.
- Avoid sharing nail clippers.
- Avoid sharing nail files.
- Avoid sharing nail buffers.
- Avoid sharing nail polish.
- Avoid sharing nail polish remover.
- Avoid sharing nail polish brushes.
- Avoid sharing nail polish sponges.
- Avoid sharing nail polish applicators.
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### COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL AMONG PEOPLE WORKING IN PRISON

People in prison should enjoy quality health care that is at least equivalent to that available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status.

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**WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?**

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**MAIN ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION**

- Direct contact with an infected person.
- Indirect contact with a surface that has been touched by an infected person.
- Airborne transmission through respiratory droplets and aerosols.

**SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Diarrhea

**KEEP AHEAD OF THE LATEST GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19 IN PRISON AT THE UNODC WEBSITE: [WWW.UNODC.ORG/UNODC/COVID19/INDEX.HTM](http://WWW.UNODC.ORG/UNODC/COVID19/INDEX.HTM)**

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### COVID-19 HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recent coronavirus.

**How does COVID-19 spread?**

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**What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

- The most common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
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**Providing Comprehensive HIV Services for men and women who use Drugs During the COVID-19 Outbreak**

THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEES IS ESSENTIAL IN ALL RESPONSE MEASURES

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### HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

**Interventions**

- **Needle and syringe programs (NSPs):** Provide sterile needles and syringes to prevent blood-borne virus (BBV) transmission.
- **Supplies:** Provide sterile needles and syringes, condoms, and other supplies.
- **Education:** Provide information on HIV and BBV risk reduction.
- **Behavioral change:** Encourage safe practices and reduce stigma.
- **Prison-based interventions:** Provide services to people in prison.
- **Community-based interventions:** Provide services to people in the community.
- **Peer education:** Provide information and support from people who have lived experience.
- **Case management:** Provide individualized support and care.
- **Referral and linkage to care:** Connect people to HIV testing and treatment.
- **Retention in care:** Support people to stay in care.
- **Adherence support:** Help people take their medication.
- **Psychological support:** Provide mental health services.
- **Substance use treatment:** Provide services for people who use drugs.
- **Legal support:** Provide information on legal rights and responsibilities.
- **Stigma reduction:** Challenge negative attitudes and behaviors.
- **Community engagement:** Involve people in the design and delivery of services.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Track progress and impact.
- **Research and innovation:** Explore new approaches to service delivery.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with other organizations.
- **Leadership and governance:** Ensure effective management.
- **Accountability:** Be transparent and answerable to the community.
- **Equity:** Ensure services reach the most vulnerable.
- **Quality:** Provide high-quality, evidence-based services.
- **Sustainability:** Ensure services are long-term and cost-effective.
- **Integration:** Link HIV services with other health and social services.
- **Multi-sectoral approach:** Address the complex needs of people who use drugs.
- **Human rights:** Uphold the dignity and rights of all people.
- **Gender equality:** Ensure services are accessible to women and girls.
- **Age-appropriate:** Tailor services to the needs of different age groups.
- **Culturally sensitive:** Respect and incorporate local customs and values.
- **Language accessible:** Provide information in understandable languages.
- **Digital health:** Use technology to improve service delivery.
- **Telemedicine:** Provide remote consultations and support.
- **Mental health:** Address the psychological impact of HIV and substance use.
- **Substance use:** Provide harm reduction and treatment services.
- **Legal and human rights:** Address legal challenges and uphold rights.
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**UNODC** **WHO** **UNAIDS** **OHCHR** **JOINT STATEMENT ON COVID-19 IN PRISONS AND OTHER CLOSED SETTINGS**

**UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS AND OHCHR JOINT STATEMENT ON COVID-19 IN PRISONS AND OTHER CLOSED SETTINGS**

We, the leaders of global health, human rights and development institutions, come together to urgently draw the attention of political leaders to the heightened vulnerability of prisoners and other people deprived of liberty to the COVID-19 pandemic, and urge them to take all appropriate public health measures in respect of this vulnerable population as a part of our collective responsibility.

Recognizing that the risk of introducing COVID-19 into prisons or other places of detention varies from country to country, we emphasize the need to maximize the containment of the disease in these settings and to guarantee that adequate preventive measures are in place to ensure a gender-responsive approach and protecting large vulnerable groups. We strongly emphasize the need to establish an up-to-date coordination system that brings together health and justice sectors, human rights and other stakeholders and guarantees that all human rights in these settings are respected.

**Reduce overcrowding**

In the light of overcrowding in many places of detention, which undermines hygiene, health, safety and human rights, a health response to COVID-19 in closed settings alone is insufficient. Overcrowding constitutes an insurmountable obstacle for preventing, preventing or responding to COVID-19.

We urge political leaders to consider limiting the duration of detentions, involving general detentions, to a maximum of two months, particularly in the case of overcrowding, and to enhance efforts to invest in non-custodial measures. These efforts should be accompanied by measures that protect people at particular risk of COVID-19, such as older people and people with pre-existing health conditions, as well as other people who could be treated without compromising public safety, such as those sentenced for minor, non-violent offences, with specific consideration given to women and children.

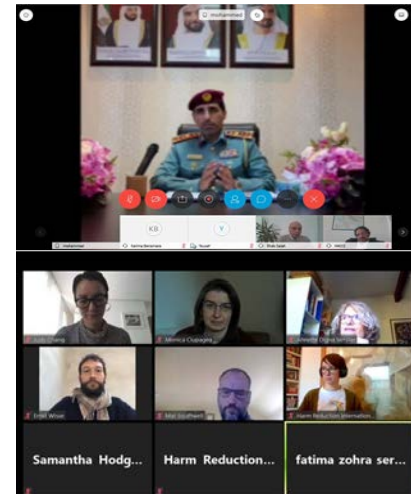
All health and forensic responses aimed at ensuring health and safety, and reducing overcrowding, is essential to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 entering and spreading in prisons and other places of deprivation of liberty, increasing awareness and hygiene in places of deprivation of liberty is paramount in order to prevent the entry of, or limit the spread of, the virus.

Compassionate detention and rehabilitation systems, where people suspended of using drugs or engaging in sex work and detained, without due process, in the name of treatment or rehabilitation should be closed. There is no evidence that such centres are effective in the treatment of drug dependence or rehabilitation of people and the isolation of people in such facilities causes human rights abuses and increases the health of detainees, increasing the risks of COVID-19 outbreaks.

**Ensuring health, safety and human rights**

All states are required to ensure not only the security, but also the health, safety and human rights of people deprived of their liberty, and people working on the ground of detention at all times. This obligation applies irrespective of any state of emergency.

Essential living and working conditions are vital to ensure the health and safety of people in custody. These include the availability of food, water, clothing, shelter, and access to sanitation, including gender-responsive and available care, should be of the highest quality possible, at least equivalent to that available in the community. Priority responses to COVID-19 urgently implemented in the community, such as hand hygiene and physical distancing, are often severely restricted or not possible in closed settings.



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for people who use drugs and people in prisons



# Responding to HIV and COVID-19



**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

- Provided technical support to national COVID-19 response plans
- Supported the procurement of hygiene materials and PPE for HIV harm reduction staff, outreach workers, people who use drugs, people living and working in prisons, and law enforcement officers
- Assisted countries to ensure access to HIV harm reduction services, including OST, and supported the implementation of OST take-home dosages
- Advocated for the early release of people in prison



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# Thank you!



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