

Pilot Condom Distribution in Czech Prison

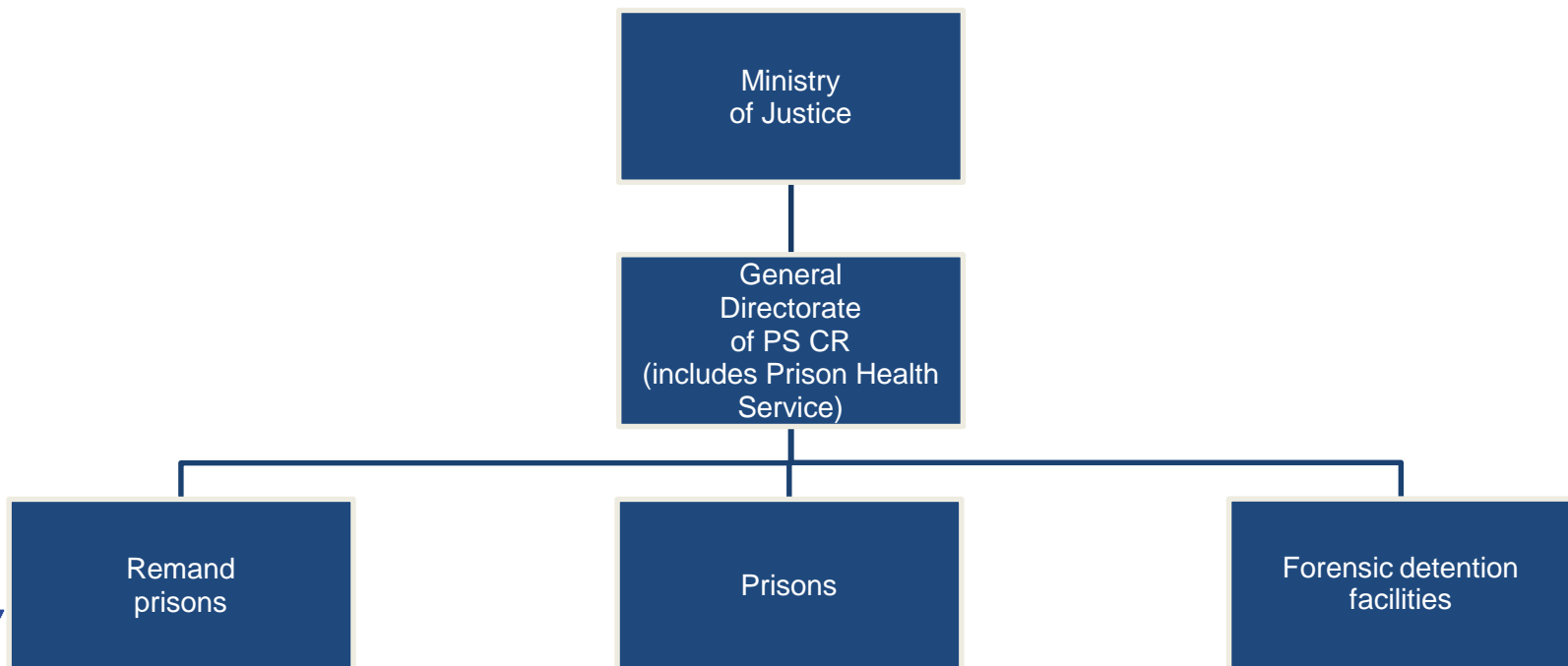
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National Monitoring
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Background (2): Czech Prison System

- Inhabitants: 10,5 million
- Prisons: 35
- Prisoners: 21 708 (11 April 2016)
- Foreigners: 1 722 (11 April 2016)

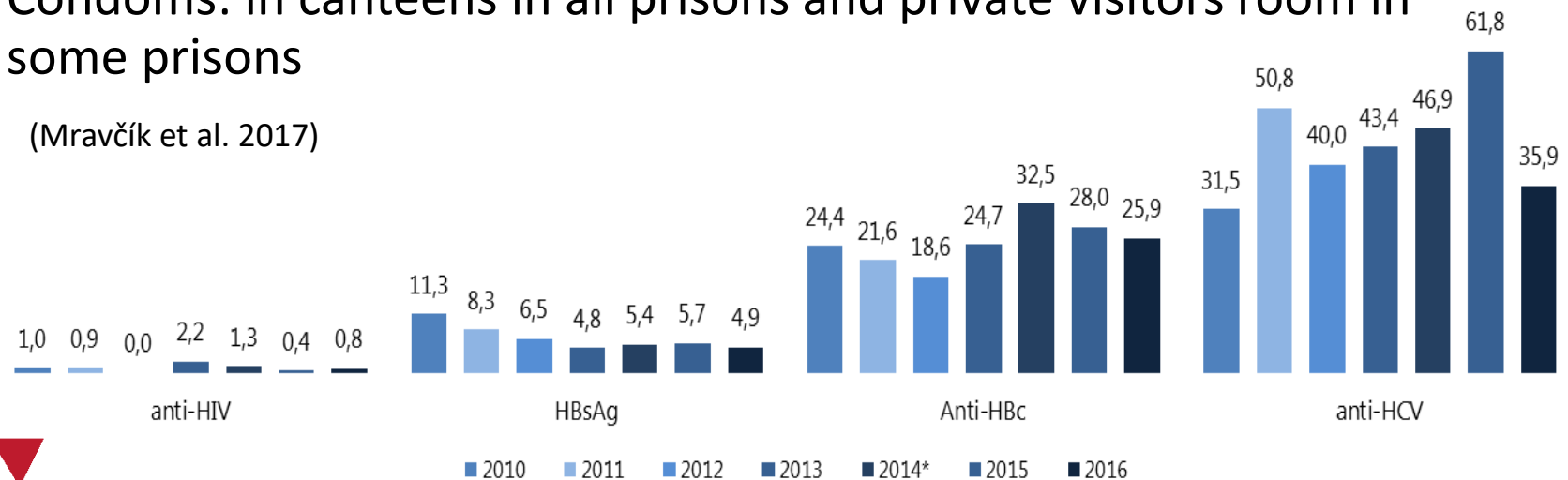


Background (3): Situation in CZ

prisons

- Problem drug users represent 31% of prison population (i.e. drug injecting and/or repeated use of meth, opioids or cocaine)
- Lifetime prevalence of injecting in prisons: 7% of prisoners
- HIV prevalence: 0.8%, HCV prevalence: 35.9% (through diagnostic testing, 2016 data)
- Substitution maintenance treatment: 10 prisons, 53 patients/year
- Needle and syringe programmes: not available
- Condoms: in canteens in all prisons and private visitors room in some prisons

(Mravčík et al. 2017)



Prison Condom Distribution – preparation

- HA-REACT workshop in Prague (18th-19th April 2016)
- Working group meetings with prison service authorities
- Pilot prison identified (Praha Pankrác – 1 000 inmates)
- Concept of pilot implementation of condom distribution
- Written agreement with pilot prison (condom distribution)
- Study visit to Berlin (5th-7th October 2016)



Prison Condom Distribution– implementation

- 12 months pilot started in August 2017
- 2 prison units (240 inmates): 4 vending machines installed in bathroom/toilets
- Other units: condoms available on request at prison educational staff (not guards, not health staff)
- Prison administration preconditions:
 - written agreement
 - information leaflets for staff (about BBDs, STDs and condom distribution) and for inmates (about pilot project and prevention of infectious diseases)
 - special bins for „dangerous infectious waste“



Vending machines for condom distribution



Special bins for dangerous infectious waste



Evaluation design

- Baseline measurement prior start of condom distribution
- Follow-up in months 1, 6 and 12
- Tools:
 - Questionnaire for prisoners and for prison staff
 - Structured interviews with prisoners and with prison staff
 - FGs with prison staff and management
- Topics:
 - Experience and opinions on sex in prisons
 - Opinions on condom distribution and other prevention measures
 - Experience with risk behaviour in prison
 - Expectations from condom distributions
 - Attitudes towards homosexual orientation
- For now, baseline and 1month follow-up available



Results prior: interviews with prison staff

- Consensual sex and sex for goods/services are common in prisons, but hidden from the staff
- Find condom distribution as unnecessary, they see other priority issues (e.g. hygiene, clothes)
- No need of preventive measures
- Concerns about condom distribution: misuse for drug dealing, drug-free urine, fun, weapon etc.
- Did not know about possibility to purchase condoms in canteens



Results after 1 months: distributed condoms



24th August – 3rd October:

- 657 condoms distributed in 4 machines
- 6 condoms distributed by staff on request



Results after 1 months: focus group with prison staff

- No problems, positive evaluation
- One unpacked condom thrown from the window
- Find vending machines as a most anonymous and confident way of condom distribution
- Inmates sending condoms to relatives and inmates in other prisons by post
- Inmates are afraid that their female partners get known about the condoms in ward
- Inmates are afraid to be seen as homosexuals



Conclusions/Lessons learned

- A lot of bureaucratic / technical / formal barriers before start (written agreements, bins etc.)
- Acknowledgement of the measure in the national strategic documents is important
- Informal relationship between project team and prison management (ice-breaking) helps
- Prisoners: quite positive attitudes also before start
- Prison staff: quite conservative/negative attitudes before, changed after 1 months (neutral/positive)
- No major problems during first weeks of implementation, threats of prison staff not confirmed
- Condom distribution works, machines are preferred



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Thank you for your attention!

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