

Rapid review of early guidance to prevent and control COVID-19 in custodial settings

Key findings and implications for a data-driven global response

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Coronavirus: Healthcare and human rights of people in prison

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14 July 2020

Coronavirus

Preventing harm and human rights violations in criminal justice systems

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17 March 2020

Prisons and custodial settings are part of a comprehensive response to COVID-19


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15 March 2020

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



CPT/Inf(2020)13

20 March 2020

Statement of principles relating to the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

issued on 20 March 2020

23 March 2020 (US CDC)

Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities

June 2020

DIGNITY Guidance Document

REDUCING OVERCROWDING IN PRE-TRIAL DETENTION AND PRISON IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

INCREASING THE USE OF NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES

Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention

Interim guidance
15 March 2020

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
UNODC
ENDVAC

6 April 2020

PROTECTING CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

30 April 2020

United Nations Network on Migration
Working Better Together

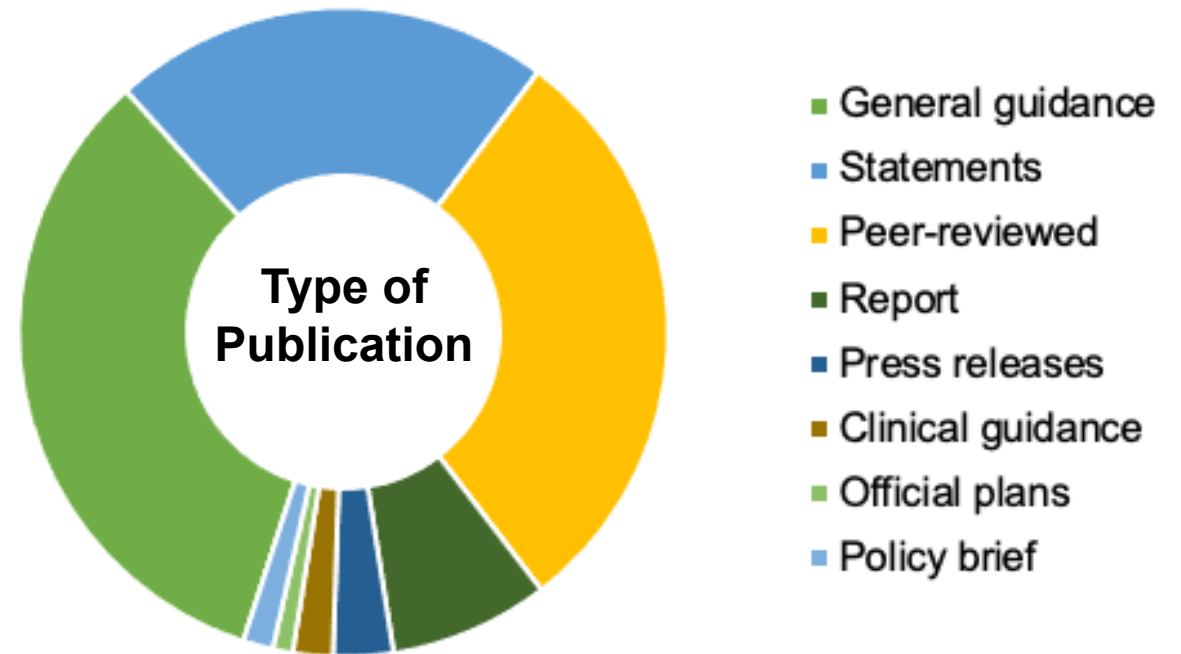
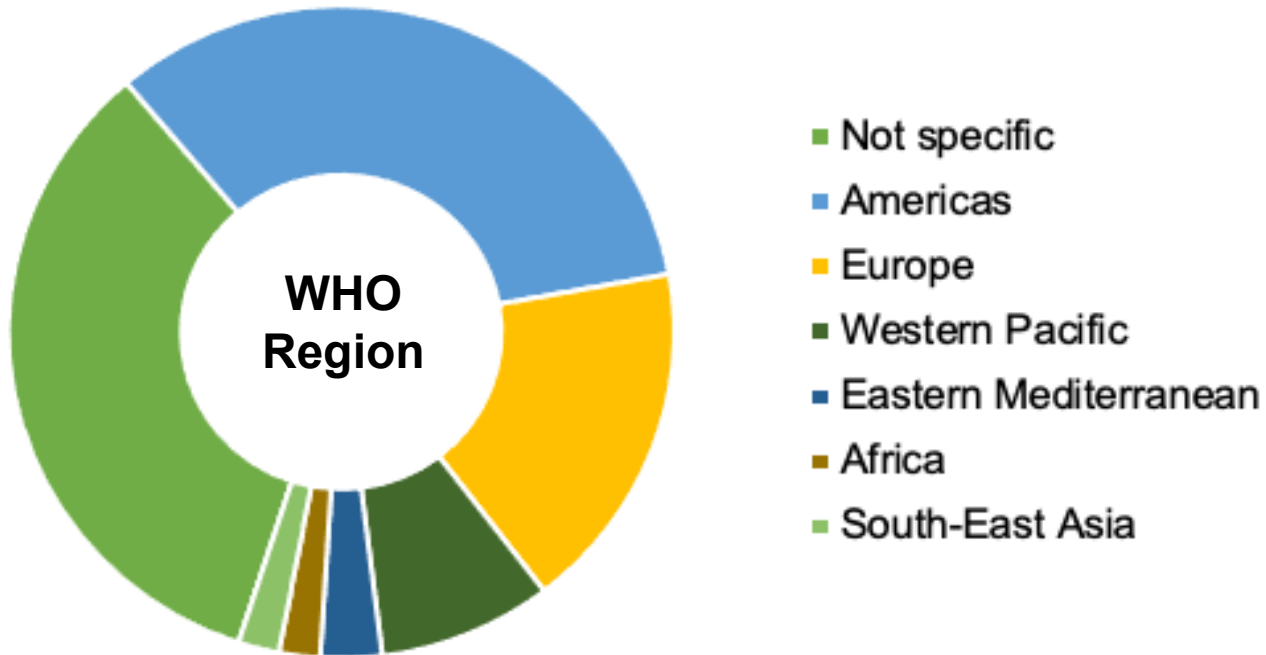
COVID-19 & Immigration Detention: What Can Governments and Other Stakeholders Do?

Why conduct a review?

- To make sense of information overload
- To identify **key elements and principles** of response
- To identify what **additional evidence** is needed regarding effectiveness or implementation
- Provide a starting point to evaluate **what was done versus what was recommended**

What we found

- 201 eligible publications



What we found

- **374** unique recommendations across **19** different ‘domains’

- | | | | |
|----|---|------|--|
| 1 | Planning and preparedness | 11 | Decarceration |
| 2 | Creating safer physical environments | 12 | Release and community reintegration |
| 3 | Case identification and screening | 13 | Workforce logistics |
| 4 | Case management | ★ 14 | Surveillance and information sharing |
| 5 | Communicating to people in custody, staff, families | 15 | Independent monitoring and inspection |
| 6 | External access and visitation | 16 | Compensatory measures |
| 7 | Psychological and emotional support | 17 | Lifting control measures |
| 8 | Adapting health care provision | ★ 18 | Learning systems and evaluative frameworks |
| 9 | Adapting recreation, programming, services | 19 | Key populations and settings |
| 10 | Adapting legal services and processes | | |

Recommendations for better data

★ 14 Surveillance and information sharing ★ 18 Learning systems and evaluative frameworks

- Regional and national surveillance
 - (a) basic epidemiology
 - (b) consequential outcomes
- Information sharing with
 - (a) local health authorities and correctional facilities
 - (b) regional and international stakeholders
- Evaluation to determine
 - (a) effectiveness
 - (b) impacts on health & human rights
- Involve people in custody and staff in evaluation



Guidance is necessary, but not sufficient

“ The way that we collectively manage the COVID-19 crisis that now grips the planet is highly dependent on having a steady stream of timely, high quality data that allow governments... to make life-saving and livelihood saving decisions.

- UN Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities ”

- Shortages of testing capacity, lack of preventive and protective measures, insufficient rates of release, inappropriate use of solitary confinement common
- Few countries had publicly available data on testing, positivity, and deaths; fewer disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity, pre-existing medical conditions
- Reliable data is critical for (a) evidence-based decision making and (b) accountability



18 March 2021

Knowledge and evidence gap

What is needed?	Why is it important?
Timely data collection and public disclosure on basic epidemiology and measures implemented	Basic information to inform an evidence-based response Transparency and accountability
Data disaggregated by population subgroups	To identify and protect at risk subpopulations
National and international surveillance and knowledge sharing	Improved preparedness Allows informed discussions on effectiveness
Effectiveness research	To understand which measures (or combinations of measures) are most effective at reducing COVID-19
Implementation research	To optimize responses by understanding factors facilitating and inhibiting COVID-19 responses, across key populations and settings
Involvement of people with lived experience	To understand the broader health and human rights impacts on people in custody and staff