### Mental Health in Prisons

Government does intensive how many people in prison have a mental illness, how much it is spending on mental health in prisons or whether it is achieving its objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mental Health</strong></th>
<th><strong>of people in prison report having</strong></th>
<th><strong>of people experiencing</strong> Mental health problems.</th>
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<td>80%</td>
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37% of people in prison report having mental health being issues (Engender Women in Prison)  
10% of people in England received treatment for mental health problems in 2017 (Department of Health and Social Care).

#### There is no good data on the prevalence of mental health problems in prison

Evidence suggests people in prison are more likely to have mental health problems than people in the community, but Government does not have good enough data to understand the level of need.

- An equivalent health and well-being service is not available to the general population.
- Timely health and wellbeing, tackle health inequalities and other indicators of health and contribute to preventing ill public and reducing readmission.
- Prisoners face unique challenges experience impairment in their health and wellbeing.
- Prisons should operate continuity of care.

#### Why England does not know how it should improve mental health in prisons

It is not possible to separate the cost of physical health needs from mental health needs in prison.

- Government does not know if prisoners have mental illness.
- There is no good data on the prevalence of mental health problems in prison.

#### There are weaknesses in the system for identifying prisoners who need mental health services

- Over 120% in the basic health screening questionnaire.
- More than 60% of prisoners have issues with mental health.

#### Recommendations

- The Ministry of Justice, HMPPS, the Department of Health and Social Care should improve their understanding of mental health needs in prison.
- HMPPS and NHS England should ensure that contracts for mental health services are underpinned by appropriate performance management mechanisms.
- The Ministry of Justice and NHS England should review the processes for transferring prisoners to be treated.
- The Ministry of Justice, HMPPS, the Department of Health, NHS England and Prisons need to address the rise in incidents of suicide and self-harm in prisons, as a matter of urgency.

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**When people are experiencing a mental illness in prison they can be more difficult to engage with local health services.**

Community rehabilitation companies responsible for supporting an increasing need in prisons, as well made new staff on their own mental health problems.

**People are often in mental health treatment for 10 weeks to 2 years.**

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**Government does not have good enough data to understand the level of need.**

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**Recommendations**

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