Health in Prisons - COVID-19
Minimum Dataset: Summary of data reported from May 2020 to October 2021
Health in Prisons - COVID-19

Minimum Dataset: Summary of data reported from May 2020 to October 2021
ABSTRACT

This report presents data obtained from voluntary submissions of Member States to the WHO Minimum Dataset Reporting System for places of detention. This report is the first of a series to be published monthly updating epidemiological information on COVID-19 in prisons. It contains longitudinal data on occupancy rate, standardized cumulative cases in prison, vaccination coverage, testing and isolation practices. Disaggregation of data by sex and age group is also presented whenever available.

Keywords: COVID-19, PRISONS, PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

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# Contents

Acknowledgements ........................................................................................................ iv  
List of Tables ................................................................................................................ v  
List of Figures ................................................................................................................ vi  

METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS ................................................................. 1  
OVERALL RESULTS ..................................................................................................... 4  
INTERPRETATION ......................................................................................................... 8  

Country profiles:  
ESTONIA ...................................................................................................................... 11  
FINLAND ....................................................................................................................... 16  
GREECE ...................................................................................................................... 20  
IRELAND ...................................................................................................................... 24  
LITHUANIA ................................................................................................................ 29  
POLAND ....................................................................................................................... 35  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ....................................................................................... 40  
SLOVAKIA .................................................................................................................... 45  
SLOVENIA ................................................................................................................... 48  
SPAIN ........................................................................................................................ 51  
UNITED KINGDOM ...................................................................................................... 55  
  England and Wales .................................................................................................. 55  
  Scotland .................................................................................................................... 56  
  Northern Ireland ..................................................................................................... 58  

REFERENCES .............................................................................................................. 63
Acknowledgements

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List of Tables

Table 1. 1 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, for the countries with sufficient data for the analysis .......................................................................................................................... 7
Table 2. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Estonia. .................................................................................................................................. 12
Table 2. 2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Estonia, according to last reported data (2021-05-28) .............................................................................................................................. 13
Table 3. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Lithuania, according to last reported data (2021-05-28) .......................................................................................................................... 17
Table 4. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Greece. ........................................................................................................................................ 21
Table 4. 2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Greece, according to last reported data (2021-10-29). .............................................................................................................................. 22
Table 5. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Ireland. ..................................................................................................................................... 25
Table 5. 2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Ireland, according to last reported data (2021-10-08). .............................................................................................................................. 26
Table 6. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Lithuania. .................................................................................................................................... 30
Table 6. 2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Lithuania, according to last reported data (2021-10-29). .............................................................................................................................. 32
Table 7. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Poland ................................................................................................................................... 36
Table 8. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in the Republic of Moldova. ................................................................................................................................ 41
Table 9. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovakia. ................................................................................................................................... 46
Table 10. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovenia. ........................................................................................................................................ 49
Table 11. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Spain. ........................................................................................................................................ 52
Table 12. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in people living in prison and prison staff members, in Northern Ireland. .................................................................................................................. 59
List of Figures

Figure 1. 1 Evolution of the occupation rate in prisons, by country of report. .................................................................5
Figure 1. 2 Evolution of cumulative cases per 100 000 people living in prison, by country of report. .................................5
Figure 1. 3 Vaccination coverage based on the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in people living in prison, by country of report. ................................................................................6
Figure 1. 4 Evolution of vaccination coverage of people living in prison, based on the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, by country of report ................................................................................6

Figure 2. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Estonia. .................................................................11
Figure 2. 2 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 50 or older, in Estonia. .................................12
Figure 2. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Estonia. .................................................................13
Figure 2. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Estonia. .................................................................13
Figure 2. 5 Number of tests for COVID-19 performed in prisons, in Estonia. .................................................................14
Figure 2. 6 Cumulative number of people living in prison, prison staff members and prison health workers vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose), in Estonia. .................................................................15
Figure 2. 7 Evolution of vaccination coverage (first dose) in people living in prison, in Estonia. .................................................................15

Figure 3. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Finland. .................................................................16
Figure 3. 2 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 70 or older, in Finland. .................................................................17
Figure 3. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Finland. .................................................................18
Figure 3. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Finland. .................................................................18
Figure 3. 5 Number of tests for COVID-19 performed in prisons, in Finland. .................................................................19
Figure 3. 6 Number of vaccines administrated in people living in prison, in Finland. .................................................................19

Figure 4. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Greece. .................................................................20
Figure 4. 2 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 65 or older, in Greece. .................................................................21
Figure 4. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Greece. .................................................................22
Figure 4. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Greece. .................................................................22
Figure 4. 5 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Greece. .................................................................23
Figure 8. 2 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 50 or older, in the Republic of Moldova. ........................................41
Figure 8. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in the
Republic of Moldova. ........................................................................................................................................42
Figure 8. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in the
Republic of Moldova. ........................................................................................................................................42
Figure 8. 5 Number of people living in prison, prison staff members and prison health workers vaccinated for COVID-19
(first dose), in the Republic of Moldova. ........................................................................................................43
Figure 8. 6 Evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prison, in the Republic of Moldova. .......................43
Figure 8. 7 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in the
Republic of Moldova. ........................................................................................................................................44

Figure 9. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Slovakia.................................................................45
Figure 9. 2 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in
Slovakia ................................................................................................................................................................46
Figure 9. 3 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovakia. ........................................................................................................................................47

Figure 10. 1 Number of individuals held in custody and the occurrence of overcrowding in prisons, in Slovenia.........48
Figure 10. 2 Proportion of females living in prisons, in Slovenia.................................................................................49
Figure 10. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in
Slovenia ................................................................................................................................................................50
Figure 10. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in
Slovenia................................................................................................................................................................50

Figure 11. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Spain.................................................................51
Figure 11. 2 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 50 or older, in Spain. .................................52
Figure 11. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in
Spain ................................................................................................................................................................53
Figure 11. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Spain. ........................................................................................................................................53
Figure 11. 5 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in
Spain ................................................................................................................................................................54

Figure 12. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in England and Wales, according to Her Majesty’s Prison
and Probation Service. ........................................................................................................................................55
Figure 12. 2 Monthly number of confirmed cases and deaths related to COVID-19 among people living in prison, in
England and Wales, according to Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service. ............................................56
Figure 12. 3 Daily number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Scotland, according to official sources .........57
Figure 12. 4 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Northern Ireland ..............................................58
Figure 12. 5 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 50 or older, in Northern Ireland. .......................... 59
Figure 12. 6 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Northern Ireland. ................................................................................................................................. 60
Figure 12. 7 Number of tests for COVID-19 performed in prisons, in Northern Ireland. ........................................... 60
Figure 12. 8 Number of people living in prison vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose), in Northern Ireland. ............... 61
Figure 12. 9 Evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prison, in Northern Ireland. .................................. 61
Figure 12. 10 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Northern Ireland. .................................................................................................................... 62
METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The present report aims to summarize information from the Minimum Dataset on COVID-19 in prisons, developed by the WHO Health In Prisons Programme (HIPP), which collects epidemiological information on the evolution of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in prisons and other places of detention. In addition, it aims to provide a longitudinal analysis of the evolution of indicators related to the coronavirus disease in prisons, at a national level. The target audience of this report includes policy makers, the scientific community and the public in general.

This report compiles data at a national level from countries of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and the United Kingdom, from the beginning of the monitoring in May 2020 until the last weekly report of October 2021. It contemplates only data on prisons, with other places of detention such as youth detention centres or immigration detention centres being out of scope. Moreover, due to the longitudinal nature of the analysis, countries with less than eight valid reports during the period of analysis were not included in the analysis. Thus, the countries with enough data to be included in the analysis were 12: Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

By the date of publication, no formal approval had been obtained from Ukraine and therefore this data has been removed.

In the specific case of the United Kingdom, the data used in this report is organized differently in the summary providing the WHO European region estimates and in the detailed country profile. The United Kingdom is a country that comprises four nations: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The prison system in the United Kingdom is administered as three systems: England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. For this reason, the data included in the summary refers to the United Kingdom as a whole, whenever available; when no country-level data exists, the United Kingdom is excluded from the analysis, and this is visible in legends of figures included. In the country profile, detail on data provided by each of the four nations is presented and the level of detail provided varies between nations.
In February 2021 the Minimum Dataset on COVID-19 in prisons was restructured to take account of evolving data and reporting needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From this moment, new variables of interest were collected, hence, certain indicators have only become available since then. Moreover, due to the non-mandatory nature of some variables, not all indicators are available at a national level. One of those indicators is the proportion of older people living in prison, for which the threshold is considered 50 years old unless indicated otherwise\(^1\) (2).

Another indicator only collected since February is the vaccination coverage. One dose coverage is presented as this was the most commonly reported by participating countries. Measuring coverage in people living in prisons is problematic due to the dynamic nature of this population, where the total number of people held in custody varies over time and the turnover can be high. People receiving the first vaccine dose may be released; hence, it is possible that the vaccination coverage, as defined, reaches values above 100%, meaning that during a certain period more people have received the first dose than the total number of people recorded as held in custody. Conversely, there may be a delay until new residents are vaccinated which results in lower coverage. In addition, a number of people recently arriving to prison may have been vaccinated in the community and are often not captured as vaccinated in their prison records in countries where community and prison records are not linked. In future amendments of the dataset, we shall redefine this indicator.

Data collected on testing is presented as an absolute value as individuals may be tested more than once. Moreover, it is important to note that testing in prison systems has been highly variable across the Member States and over time. Often, the numbers presented indicate the known COVID-19 positive cases. Only testing symptomatic individuals can significantly underrepresent the true number of people infected in prison; therefore, we advise for careful interpretation of the data presented.

In the initial version of the dataset, we requested Member States to report the number of people in quarantine and separately the number of people in isolation. The granularity of this data was considered too high by many reporting countries and therefore in the current dataset we request countries to report cumulatively the number of individuals quarantined or isolated for COVID-19 related reasons, regardless of their classification as cases, contacts or new entrants\(^2\). However, even though this variable has been described as mandatory, some countries seem unable to report it

\(^1\) As explained in the protocol, the indicator “Total number of older individuals in the population” is not mandatory, but aims to identify the proportion of the population at higher risk of severe disease outcomes. In prisons the recommended cut-off is persons over 50 years of age and this cut-off should be used whenever available; if the country uses another cut-off and data cannot be converted, there is an option to report the number of older individuals as defined in the country concerned and then give the relevant cut-off age in the following field.

\(^2\) This indicator is defined in the protocol as “Total number of cases in isolation/quarantine due to COVID-19” – this is a mandatory field and should always be reported. Enter the number of cases isolated because they are suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases or in quarantine because they are new arrivals or contacts of cases.
always and therefore graphs presenting such data may have gaps in the lines, which represent weeks of reporting where the variable has not been declared.

The data contained in intended to inform about the pandemic situation in the specific context of prisons. However, data should be used with caution as it should be highlighted that reports from Member States are voluntary, which has potential implications on the data presented. The first is that the report does not represent the situation in the entire WHO European Region. In addition, it is plausible that countries with lower numbers of infections (which could be perceived as “performing better”) or with higher resources, will tend to be more likely to report or report more often. The sensitive nature of the data presented may also lead countries to not disclose some information even if they report regularly. Furthermore, weekly situational reports from countries may not be appropriate for cumulative analysis. As abovementioned, the voluntary nature of the reporting means some weeks of data could be missed altogether. Weekly situational reports may also omit data that is added or removed retrospectively. The reporting of COVID-19 infections may be delayed, amongst other things, by laboratory delays or weekend and holiday effects. For COVID-19 related deaths, the cause of death may not be immediately established due to delays in post-mortem certificates. This implies that the overall figures presented may suffer from severe underreporting. In order to address this bias, countries have been invited to update their figures.

Two external datasets are being used in this report to provide comparisons with the evolution of the coronavirus disease in the general population, (a) the WHO COVID-19 Global Data Table (2)3, for the analysis of the current situation and (b) the Our World in Data COVID-19 Dataset (3)4, for longitudinal analysis.

4 Available for download at https://covid.ourworldindata.org/data/owid-covid-data.csv
OVERALL RESULTS

It is estimated that 11 million people are living in prison and more than 30 million people worldwide are thought to move between their communities and prisons annually. On any given day, more than 1.5 million people in the WHO European Region are incarcerated (4).

According to the most updated data reported from the European countries included in this report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people in prison</td>
<td>249,074</td>
<td>cumulative COVID-19 cases in prisons</td>
<td>29,741</td>
<td>cumulative COVID-19 related deaths in prisons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures 1.1 and 1.2 show the evolution of occupation rate in prisons and the cumulative cases per 100,000 people living in prison, respectively, by country of the report.

The vaccination coverage based on the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine administered to people living in prison, in each country, is shown in figure 1.3. In addition, figure 1.4 compares countries on the evolution of vaccination coverage, based on the first dose of the vaccine.

Finally, in table 1.1, we compare the overall proportion of people living in prisons by gender and age group with the respective proportion of COVID-19 cases diagnosed, as well as the cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people in prison, for all countries which reported robust data regarding these indicators.

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5 For information on date of last update please see country profiles.

6 Countries included in the analysis by gender and age group: Estonia, Greece, Ireland and Lithuania.
Figure 1. 1 Evolution of the occupation rate in prisons, by country of report.

Figure 1. 2 Evolution of cumulative cases per 100 000 people living in prison, by country of report.

7 No complete national data over time for the United Kingdom is available, as information for Scotland was not reported.
**Figure 1. 3 Vaccination coverage based on the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in people living in prison, by country of report.**

![Bar chart showing vaccination coverage by country](chart1)

**Figure 1. 4 Evolution of vaccination coverage of people living in prison, based on the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, by country\(^8\) of report.**

![Line chart showing vaccination coverage by country](chart2)

---

\(^8\) No national data over time for the United Kingdom.
Table 1. Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, for the countries with sufficient data for the analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Younger individuals*</th>
<th>Older individuals*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people in prison, n (%)</td>
<td>21309 (95.5%)</td>
<td>1012 (4.5%)</td>
<td>20336 (91.1%)</td>
<td>1985 (8.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases, n (%)</td>
<td>3020 (99.2%)</td>
<td>24 (0.8%)</td>
<td>2759 (90.6%)</td>
<td>285 (9.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p-value*<0.001 **0.414**

total cases/100 000 pop. | 14172 | 2372 | 13567 | 14358

* Older individuals considered as aged 50 or older for all countries included in the analysis except for Greece which considered a cut-off of 65 years old.

** Proportion test comparing the proportion of people by gender or age group with the respective proportion of COVID-19 cases.
INTERPRETATION

This is the first public report presenting COVID-19 related data exclusively for prisons. The main finding is that only a few countries are able or willing to report this data to WHO-HIPP in a timely manner and further efforts must be developed for full integration of prison health into public health, which includes health information systems. The countries here portrayed are likely to be those performing better in their response, which advises for cautious interpretation of data. The main points suggested by data presented are:

1. Following initial efforts to comply with international recommendations to decrease the prison population in order to increase prisons’ ability to implement public health and social measures, witnessed by a decreasing trend in the occupancy rate of all countries observed in 2020, over the course of 2021 most countries resumed back to their normal functioning. In some cases, occupancy rates even increased further than the baseline and for two countries currently exceed the official capacity (Greece and Slovenia).

2. Cumulative cases have steadily increased during these past 18 months, with a sharper increase in early 2021, then plateauing in most countries during the second half of 2021. Most changes mimicked community transmission. Nonetheless, out of the 11 countries included in this report, only four experienced periods of excessive COVID-19 standardised cases compared to the community (Finland, Greece, Lithuania and Slovenia).

3. Disaggregation of data by sex and age category was difficult for some countries. The analysis of those able to provide granular data suggests females in prison are at higher risk compared to those in the community. The inability to identify differences by age group is likely a result of the different cut-offs currently used by the different countries. Notwithstanding, in certain countries (e.g., Ireland) where the true cut-off was possible to ascertain, a lower risk for elders in prison compared to counterparts in the community was identified, suggesting good practices are in place to protect the most vulnerable. Further efforts must be pursued for all countries to be able to disaggregate their population by age groups, considering elders in prison those aged 50 or over.

4. Practices, such as quarantine and isolation, were hard to report by participating countries. The observation of the number of individuals segregated, compared to new cases identified in the same time periods, suggests that most countries apply such practices reactively, i.e., when new cases emerge people are isolated, rather than preventively quarantining new entrants and contacts, as recommended by WHO interim guidance “Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention” (5). This was the case of Lithuania, Poland, Spain and Greece, although in Greece in May 2021, preventive practices seem to have occurred.
5. Testing was found to be an indicator hard to report by many countries and data obtained suggests that it is an underutilised practice in prison, even though good examples also exist, notably in Lithuania. In most cases, apparently tests are being reserved only for symptomatic cases that need confirmation of diagnosis. This finding suggests further education, training and financing is likely to be necessary.

6. Vaccination was initiated late in most countries, compared to dates observed in the community, with a more intense roll-out from June/July 2021, shortly after the launch of WHO’s advocacy brief calling for the inclusion of people working and living in prisons in COVID-19 vaccination plans (6). At the present date, 10 out of 11 countries have more than half the people in prison immunized against COVID-19, but only 3 countries exceed a 70% coverage, falling short compared to what is observed in the WHO European Region for the general population (7).

The main finding, however, is that the efforts developed by all Member States who periodically reported this data over the past 18 months, contributed to a strengthened information system in prisons, which we believe will progressively lead to a more robust health information system that extends beyond COVID-19, increasing capacity to also report on other communicable diseases and on non-communicable diseases. Such systems are essential for informed-based policies that leave no one behind.
Country profiles
ESTONIA

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 10 reports, between 2021-03-26 and 2021-05-28.

Estonia’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 3278 people. According to the last report, 2291 people are living in prisons, which represents 69.9% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Estonia is shown in figure 2.1. In the first report, 2299 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 70.1%. The occupation rate varied from 69.8%, reached on 2021-04-16, to 70.4%, on 2021-04-09.

Figure 2.1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Estonia.

![Graph showing the number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Estonia.](image)

Currently, 93 (4.1%) of people living in prison are female and 466 (20.3%) are aged 50 or older. Figure 2.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.

Figure 2.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
According to the last updated data, there have been 326 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Estonia, which resulted in 6 hospitalizations and 0 deaths. Table 2.1 and figures 2.3 and 2.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members. Additional comparisons by gender and age group are shown in table 2.2.

Table 2.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Estonia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>193969</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>14637.09</td>
<td>14229.59</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>1531</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>115.53</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 2.3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Estonia.

![Graph showing confirmed cases of COVID-19 in prisons.]

Figure 2.4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Estonia.

![Graph showing cumulative cases of COVID-19.]

Table 2.2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Estonia, according to last reported data (2021-05-28).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Aged under 50</th>
<th>Aged 50 or older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people in prison, n (%)</td>
<td>2198 (95.9%)</td>
<td>93 (4.1%)</td>
<td>1825 (79.7%)</td>
<td>466 (20.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases, n (%)</td>
<td>325 (99.7%)</td>
<td>1 (0.3%)</td>
<td>264 (81.0%)</td>
<td>62 (19.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value*</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.629</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>14786</td>
<td>1075</td>
<td>14466</td>
<td>13305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Proportion test comparing the proportion of people by gender or age group with the respective proportion of COVID-19 cases.
According to external data provided by Estonia’s focal point, as of October 3rd, a total of 1284 tests for COVID-19 were performed in people living in prison, and 1943 in staff members and health workers. The number of tests performed over time is presented in figure 2.5. Testing information includes testing that staff or other people working in prison have done outside of prison, in the general medical system, which has been reported when positive.

Figure 2.5 Number of tests for COVID-19 performed in prisons, in Estonia.

Moreover, a total of 1755 people living in prison had been vaccinated, representing 76.6% vaccination coverage. Of those, 1652 received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, 1051 prison staff had been vaccinated (out of 1210, representing 86.9%), 1037 with two doses of the vaccine, including 95 prison health workers. The evolution of the cumulative number of people in prison vaccinated against COVID-19 is shown in figure 2.6 and the vaccination coverage⁹ of people living in prison in figure 2.7.

---

⁹ Vaccination coverage calculated using the last reported number of people living in prisons (n=2291, on 2021-05-28).
Figure 2.6 Cumulative number of people living in prison, prison staff members and prison health workers vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose), in Estonia.

Figure 2.7 Evolution of vaccination coverage (first dose) in people living in prison, in Estonia.
FINLAND

**WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data:** 38 reports, between 2020-12-11 and 2021-10-29.

Finland’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 2961 people. According to the last report, 2381 people are living in prisons, which represents 80.4% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Finland is shown in figure 3.1. In the first report, 2503 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 84.5%. The lowest occupation rate registered was 74.7%, on 2021-02-19, and the highest was 95.4%, on 2021-07-30.

**Figure 3.1** Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Finland.

Currently, 168 (7.1%) of people living in prison are female, but there is no available data for the proportion of people aged 70 or older. Figure 3.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
According to the last updated data, there have been 69 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Finland, which resulted in 5 hospitalizations and 1 death. Table 3.1 and figures 3.3 and 3.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members.

**Table 3.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Finland.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-09-24)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-09-24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>157531</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>2839.23</td>
<td>2897.94</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>1158</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>20.87</td>
<td>42.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 3. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Finland.

A total of 3114 tests for COVID-19 were performed in people living in prison. The number of tests performed over time is presented in figure 2.5. There is no available data regarding the test in prison staff and prison health workers.
A total of 3029 vaccines have been administered to people living in prison in Finland, considering both first and second doses. The number of vaccines administered in prisons over time is shown in figure 3.6. However, information regarding the number of people in prison vaccinated with at least one dose is not available. Thus, this indicator is not directly comparable with other countries.

There is no available data regarding people in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine, in Finland.
GREECE

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 42 reports, between 2020-06-19 and 2021-10-29.

Greece’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 9630 people. According to the last report, 11175 people are living in prisons, which represents 116.0% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Greece is shown in figure 4.1. In the first report, 10856 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 112.7%. The lowest occupation rate was registered on 2021-03-26 (111.1%) and currently presents the highest occupation rate registered. During the period of report, the prison system in Greece was always in a situation of overcrowding.

Figure 4.1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Greece.

Currently, 554 (5.0%) of people living in prison are female and 282 (2.5%) are aged 65 or older. Figure 4.2 shows the evolution of this proportion over time.
According to the last updated data, there have been 1742 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Greece, which resulted in 115 hospitalizations and 7 deaths. Table 4.1 and figures 4.3 and 4.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members. It shows that in Greece, since November 2020, the cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100 000 people in prison has been consistently higher than in the general population. Additional comparisons by gender and age group are shown in table 4.2.

Table 4.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Greece.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-04-29)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-04-29)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>742170</td>
<td>1742</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>7156.38</td>
<td>15588.37</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>15938</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>153.68</td>
<td>62.64</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 4.3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Greece.

Figure 4.4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Greece.
Table 4. 2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Greece, according to last reported data (2021-10-29).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Aged under 50</th>
<th>Aged 50 or older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people in prison, n (%)</td>
<td>10621 (95.0%)</td>
<td>554 (5.0%)</td>
<td>10893 (97.5%)</td>
<td>282 (2.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases, n (%)</td>
<td>1728 (99.2%)</td>
<td>14 (0.8%)</td>
<td>1673 (96.0%)</td>
<td>69 (4.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>p-value</strong></td>
<td><strong>&lt;0.001</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.001</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>16270</td>
<td>2527</td>
<td>15358</td>
<td>24468</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Proportion test comparing the proportion of people by gender or age group with the respective proportion of COVID-19 cases.

There is no available data regarding tests for COVID-19 nor vaccination, in people living in prison, prison staff or prison health workers, in Greece.

On 2021-04-29, 29 people living in prison were in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine. The evolution of this indicator over time is shown in figure 4.5.

**Figure 4. 5 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Greece.**

On 2021-10-29, a total of 6442 people living in prison had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 57.6% vaccination coverage, as well as 2464 prison staff members and 85 prison health workers.
IRELAND

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 41 reports, between 2020-05-15 and 2021-10-08.

Ireland’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 4375 people. According to the last report, 3796 people are living in prisons, which represents 86.8% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Ireland is shown in figure 5.1. In the first report, 3779 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 86.4%. During the period of report, the occupation rate varied from 84.0%, reached on 2021-01-15, to 89.3%, on 2021-07-02.

Figure 5.1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Ireland.

Currently, 148 (3.9%) of people living in prison are female and 557 (14.7%) are aged 55 or older. Figure 5.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
According to the last updated data, there have been 171 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Ireland, which resulted in 0 hospitalizations and 0 deaths. Table 5.1 and figures 5.3 and 5.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members. Additional comparisons by gender and age group are shown in table 5.2.

Table 5. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Ireland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-09-10)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-09-10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>445594</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>8942.46</td>
<td>4504.74</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>5436</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>109.09</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 5. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Ireland.

![Graph showing new cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons](image)

Figure 5. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Ireland.

![Graph showing cumulative cases](image)

Table 5. 2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Ireland, according to last reported data (2021-10-08).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Aged under 50</th>
<th>Aged 50 or older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people in prison</td>
<td>3648 (96.1%)</td>
<td>148 (3.9%)</td>
<td>3239 (85.3%)</td>
<td>557 (14.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>166 (97.1%)</td>
<td>5 (2.9%)</td>
<td>132 (77.2%)</td>
<td>39 (22.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(p)-value*</td>
<td>0.657</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>4550</td>
<td>3378</td>
<td>4075</td>
<td>7002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Proportion test comparing the proportion of people by gender or age group with the respective proportion of COVID-19 cases.
A total of 6100 tests for COVID-19 were performed in people living in prison, and 2826 tests on staff members and health workers. The number of tests performed over time is presented in figure 5.5.

Figure 5.5 Number of tests for COVID-19 performed in prisons, in Ireland.

A total of 2383 people living in prison have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 62.8% of vaccination coverage. In addition, 200 prison staff members and 347 prison health workers have been vaccinated. The number of vaccines administered in prisons over time is shown in figure 5.6 and the vaccination coverage of people living in prison in figure 5.7.

Figure 5.6 Number of people living in prison, prison staff members and prison health workers vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose), in Ireland.
Figure 5. 7 Evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prisons, in Ireland.

On 2021-10-08, 185 people living in prison were in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine. The evolution of this indicator over time is shown in figure 5.8.

Figure 5. 8 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Ireland.
LITHUANIA

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 77 reports, between 2020-05-07 and 2021-10-29.

Lithuania’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 7236 people. According to the last report, 5059 people are living in prisons, which represents 69.9% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Lithuania is shown in figure 6.1. In the first report, 5766 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 79.7%. Overall, the number of people living in prison decreased over time smoothly, being the only exception two consecutive reports in late June and early July 2020, when the number of people living in prison reported was 4852 and 4828, dropping the occupation rate to 66%.

Figure 6.1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Lithuania.

Currently, 217 (4.3%) of people living in prison are female and 680 (13.4%) are aged 50 or older. Figure 6.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
According to the last updated data, there have been 805 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Lithuania, which resulted in 7 hospitalizations and 0 deaths. Table 6.1 and figures 6.3 and 6.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members. It shows that since December 2020, the cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100 000 people in prison has been consistently higher than in the general population. Additional comparisons by gender and age group are shown in table 6.2.

### Table 6.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Lithuania.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-09-24)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-09-24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>408715</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>15194.65</td>
<td>15912.24</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>5873</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>218.34</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 6. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Lithuania.

Figure 6. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Lithuania.
Table 6.2 Number of people living in prison and total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, by gender and age group, in Lithuania, according to last reported data (2021-10-29).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Aged under 50</th>
<th>Aged 50 or older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>people in prison, n (%)</td>
<td>4842 (95.7%)</td>
<td>217 (4.3%)</td>
<td>4379 (86.6%)</td>
<td>680 (13.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases, n (%)</td>
<td>801 (99.5%)</td>
<td>4 (0.5%)</td>
<td>690 (85.7%)</td>
<td>115 (14.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-value*</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.552</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>16543</td>
<td>1843</td>
<td>15757</td>
<td>16912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Proportion test comparing the proportion of people by gender or age group with the respective proportion of COVID-19 cases.

A total of 10578 tests for COVID-19 were performed in people living in prison, and 4948 tests on staff members and health workers. The number of tests performed over time is presented in figure 6.5, showing that throughout time, testing has been maintained both in staff and in detainees, despite variations, unlike what is observed in most countries.

Figure 6.5 Number of tests for COVID-19 performed in prisons, in Lithuania.

A total of 3469 people living in prison have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 68.6% vaccination coverage. In addition, 2148 prison staff members and 115 prison health workers have been vaccinated. The number of vaccines administered in prisons over time is shown in figure 6.6 and the vaccination coverage of people living in prison is in figure 6.7.
Figure 6. 6 Number of people living in prison, prison staff members and prison health workers vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose), in Lithuania.

![Graph showing the number of people vaccinated in Lithuania over time](image)

**Figure 6.7 Evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prison, in Lithuania.**

![Graph showing vaccination coverage over time](image)

On 2021-10-29, 9 people living in prison were in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine. The evolution of this indicator over time is shown in figure 6.8.
Figure 6.8 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Lithuania.
POLAND

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 77 reports, between 2020-05-15 and 2021-10-29.

Poland’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 81560 people. According to the last report, 71348 people are living in prisons, which represents 87.5% of total prison operational capacity.

The reported number of people living in prison in Poland is shown in figure 7.1. In the first report, 70791 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 86.8%. Then, until January 2021, the number of people in prison decreased 3.7%, after that increasing 4.6% until the middle of April 2021, and another 0.6% until the most recent report. Overall, the occupation rate varied from 83.1% (lowest value reached on 2020-12-31) to 88.1% (highest value reached on 2021-08-27).

Figure 7.1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Poland.

Currently, 3381 (4.7%) of people living in prison are female and 11804 (16.5%) are aged 50 or older. Figure 7.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
Figure 7.2 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 50 or older, in Poland.

According to the last updated data, there have been 1875 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Poland, which resulted in 4 deaths. Moreover, all diagnosed cases were transferred to COVID-19 specialized care centres. Table 7.1 and figures 7.3 and 7.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members.

Table 7.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Poland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-09-24)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-09-24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>3025247</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>6138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>8003.93</td>
<td>2627.96</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>76999</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>203.72</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 7.3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Poland.

![Graph showing confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Poland.](image)

Figure 7.4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Poland.

![Graph showing cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Poland.](image)

A total of 2661 tests for COVID-19 were performed in people living in prison. The number of tests performed over time is presented in figure 7.5.
A total of 64246 people living in prison have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 90.0% vaccination coverage. There is no data regarding the vaccination of prison staff members and prison health workers in Poland. The number of vaccines administered in prisons over time is shown in figure 7.6 and the vaccination coverage of people living in prison is in figure 7.7.
Figure 7. 7 Evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prison, in Poland.

On 2021-10-29, 49 people were in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine, among people living in prison. The evolution of this indicator over time is shown in figure 7.8.

Figure 7. 8 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Poland.
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 34 reports, between 2020-05-22 and 2021-10-27.

Republic of Moldova’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 6735 people. According to the last report, 6412 people are living in prisons, which represents 94.6% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in the Republic of Moldova is shown in figure 8.1. In the first report, 5795 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 86.0%. The highest occupation rate was observed in the second report, on 2020-11-12, reaching 96.2%. After that, the number of people living in prison in the Republic of Moldova was approximately stable over time.

Figure 8.1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in the Republic of Moldova.

Currently, 372 (5.8%) of people living in prison are female, but there is no information on people aged 50 or older. Figure 8.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
According to the last updated data, there have been 254 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in the Republic of Moldova, which resulted in 80 hospitalizations and no deaths. Table 8.1 and figures 8.3 and 8.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members.

Table 8.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in the Republic of Moldova.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>337768</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>8393.78</td>
<td>3987.44</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>7790</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>193.59</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 8. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in the Republic of Moldova.

Figure 8. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in the Republic of Moldova.

According to the last report, up until now a total of 1191 tests for COVID-19 were performed in people living in prison.

Until August 2021, a total of 2352 people living in prison had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 36.7% of vaccination coverage. In addition, 903 prison staff members and 619 prison health workers had been vaccinated. The number of vaccines administered in prisons over time is shown in figure 8.5 and the vaccination coverage of people living in prison is in figure 8.6.
Figure 8.5 Number of people living in prison, prison staff members and prison health workers vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose), in the Republic of Moldova.

Figure 8.6 Evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prison, in the Republic of Moldova.

In October 2021, the Republic of Moldova reported having 2419 people living in prison (36.8%) fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as well as 1023 prison staff members (20.6%) and 1288 prison health workers.

There is no available data on the number of people living in prison currently in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine. However, the evolution of this indicator over time, whenever available, is shown in figure 8.7.
Figure 8.7 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in the Republic of Moldova.
SLOVAKIA

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 8 reports, between 2020-05-07 and 2020-07-03.

Slovakia’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 11625 people. According to the last report, 10602 people are living in prisons, which represents 91.2% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Slovakia is shown in figure 9.1. In the first report, 10460 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 90.0%. The lowest occupation rate registered was 86.5%, reached on 2020-06-12.

Figure 9. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Slovakia.

![Graph showing number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Slovakia.](image)

There is no available data on the number of females and people aged 50 or older living in prison, in Slovakia.

According to the last updated data, there has been 1 confirmed case of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Slovakia, which resulted in 0 hospitalizations and 0 deaths. Table 9.1 and figures 9.2 and 9.3 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members.
Table 9. 1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovakia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2020-07-03)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2020-07-03)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>483773</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>8859.13</td>
<td>9.43</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>13034</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>238.69</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available

Figure 9. 2 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Slovakia.
Figure 9.3 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovakia.

There is no available data regarding tests for COVID-19 nor vaccination, in people living in prison, prison staff or prison health workers in Slovakia. Information regarding the number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison is also not available.
SLOVENIA

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 36 reports, between 2020-12-04 and 2021-10-29.

Slovenia’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 1330 people. According to the last report, 1374 people are living in prisons, which represents 103.3% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Slovenia is shown in figure 10.1. In the first report, 1228 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 92.3%. After that and until March 2021, the number of people living in prison decreased around 7%, increasing again 15.4% between April and June 2021, and 5.4% between July and October 2021. According to what was reported, the prison system in Slovenia is in a situation of overcrowding since 2021-07-30.

Figure 10. 1 Number of individuals held in custody and the occurrence of overcrowding in prisons, in Slovenia.

Currently, 75 (5.5%) of people living in prison are female. Figure 10.2 shows the evolution of this proportion over time. There is no available information regarding the number of older people living in prison, in Slovenia.
According to the last updated data, there have been 274 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Slovenia, which resulted in 6 hospitalizations and no deaths. Table 10.1 and figures 10.3 and 10.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members.

Table 10.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovenia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-09-24)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-09-24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>335850</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>16156.55</td>
<td>19941.78</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>4745</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>228.27</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 10.3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Slovenia.

![Graph showing confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Slovenia.]

Figure 10.4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovenia.

![Graph showing cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Slovenia.]

Currently, there is no available data on tests and vaccination for COVID-19 in people living in prison, prison staff or prison health workers in Slovenia.

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10 The decrease observed results from a relatively constant number of cases since March 2021, aligned with a growing prison population (figure 9.1), implying a lower ratio of cumulative cases per 100 000 people in prison.
SPAIN

WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey available data: 73 reports, between 2020-04-30 and 2021-10-14, comprising information of all autonomous communities of Spain except Catalonia. Since 2021-10-01, the information reported also does not include data from the autonomous community of Euskadi.

The approved operational capacity in prisons for all autonomous communities of Spain except Catalonia is 64435 people. On 2021-09-31, 47778 people were living in prisons, which represents 72.0% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Spain is shown in figure 11.1. In the first report, 49436 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 76.7%. From May 2020 to October 2021, the number of people living in prison initially decreased 3.2% during the first two months of reports, increasing again 1% in the remaining period, despite some fluctuations.

Since October 2021, data from the autonomous community of Euskadi no longer figures within the data reported, which resulted in an abrupt decrease of the reported number of people living in prison, which currently is 46369. However, this administrative decision did not impact on occupancy rate, which remains similar, and by the 31st of October was at 73.5% (respectively approved operational capacity: 63100 people).

Figure 11. 1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Spain.

Currently, 3344 (7.2%) of people living in prison are female and 2282 (4.9%) are aged 50 or older. Figure 11.2 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
According to the last updated data, there have been 3546 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Spain, which resulted in 113 hospitalizations and 10 deaths. Table 11.1 and figures 11.3 and 11.4 compare some indicators of the disease in the general population, among people living in prison and prison staff members.

**Table 11.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in the general population and people living in prison, in Spain.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General population (2021-10-31)</th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-08-12)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-08-12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>5011148</td>
<td>3546</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>10720.13</td>
<td>7647.35</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>87368</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>186.90</td>
<td>21.57</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
Figure 11. 3 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in prisons, among people living in prison and prison staff, in Spain.

Figure 11. 4 Cumulative cases of COVID-19/100000 pop. in the general population and people living in prison, in Spain.

On 2021-10-10, a total of 35070 people living in prison had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 87.5% vaccination coverage. Moreover, 34318 (85.7%) people were fully immunized against COVID-19. Spain also indicated that people working in prison were vaccinated between January and March 2021, having 96% of the 1233 prison health workers fully immunized by the end of March.

On 2021-10-14, 794 people living in prison were in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine. The evolution of this indicator over time is shown in figure 11.5.
Figure 11. 5 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Spain.
UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom is a country that comprises four nations: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The prison system in the United Kingdom is administered as three systems: one system in England and Wales, one in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland.

The latest available data for the United Kingdom shows a prison population of approximately 87900, comprising 90.4% of its population in England and Wales, 7.9% in Scotland and 1.7% in Northern Ireland (8).

England and Wales

Data available in the WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey reported by England includes 36 reports submitted between 2020-05-07 and 2021-03-12. However, as these data are not appropriate for cumulative aggregation, the data presented in this section is extracted from such sources as advised by the Member State.

According to data published by the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (9) in October 2021, England and Wales current operational capacity is 80852 people, and there are 79380 people are currently living in prison, which represents 98.2% of total prison operational capacity. The monthly reported number of people living in prison in England and Wales is shown in figure 12.1. Since January 2021, the number of people in custody increased by 1000, which reflects an increase of the occupation rate by 1.9 percentual points (occupation rate in January 2021: 96.3%).

Figure 12.1 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in England and Wales, according to Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service.
From the beginning of the pandemic until September 2021, 18917 people living in prison in England and Wales tested positive for COVID-19, and there were 159 deaths related to COVID-19. The monthly evolution of these indicators is shown in figure 12.2.

As of the 24th of September, 50% of staff working in prisons in England and Wales had received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccination and 41% had received a second dose (personal communication, Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service).

As of the 1st of October 2021, 60% of the prison population living in England had received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (85% in those aged over 50) and 51% had received a second dose (81% in those aged over 50) (personal communication, NHS England and NHS Improvement). Also, 66% of the prison population living in Wales had received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 56% had received the second (personal communication, Public Health Wales).

**Figure 12.2 Monthly number of confirmed cases and deaths related to COVID-19 among people living in prison, in England and Wales, according to Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service.**

Scotland

The data presented here has been provided by the Scottish Government and Scottish Prison Service, under the coordination of the UK Health Security Agency, and is not published elsewhere.
Scotland’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 7869 people\textsuperscript{11}. On 30 September 2021, there were 7550 people are living in prisons (of which 4% are females and 15% aged 50 or older), which represents 95.9% of total prison operational capacity. The daily reported number of people living in prison in Scotland between May 2020 and September 2021 is shown in figure 12.3.

Note that the population figures presented were collected daily over the analytical period from the Scottish Prison Service prisoner records system (PR2) and compiled by Scottish Government statisticians at Justice Analytical Services for monitoring purposes during the COVID pandemic. These figures have not been subject to the same quality assurance processes as official statistics and should be treated as management information.

\textbf{Figure 12.3 Daily number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Scotland, according to official sources.}

The date of the first suspected case of COVID-19 within a Scottish prison occurred on 13 March 2020. As per requested date range, from May 2020 to September 2021, there were 1520 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in people living in prison in Scotland, 6 of which resulted in death. There were also 696 confirmed cases and less than 5 deaths\textsuperscript{12} among prison staff members. During this period, there were 13068 instances of people living in prison being isolated or quarantined, including the confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 8754 instances of people isolated as a precautionary measure. It is important to note that some people may have been isolated on multiple occasions. Also, there were 56 cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison who were transferred to the hospital due to COVID-19.

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{11} The Scottish prison population comprises individuals aged 16 years and over.
  \item \textsuperscript{12} Numbers below 5 are marked as “less than 5” to avoid indirect identification of individuals.
\end{itemize}
On 16th of September 2021, 71% of people living in prison had been vaccinated with a first dose, compared to 69% among general population matched controls. Also, on 16 September 2021, 55% of those living in prison had received a second dose, compared to 60% among general population matched controls (10). These vaccination rates represent a point in time only and are subject to change as individuals move in and out of custody.

**Northern Ireland**

Data available in the WHO Minimum Datasets for Prisons Survey reported by Northern Ireland includes 49 reports submitted between 2020-05-22 and 2021-06-11. Northern Ireland advised and authorised the publication of submitted data.

Northern Ireland’s current approved operational capacity in prisons is 1803 people. According to the last report, 1401 people are living in prisons, which represents 77.7% of total prison operational capacity. The reported number of people living in prison in Northern Ireland is shown in figure 12.4. In the first report, 1394 people were living in prison, which represented an occupation rate of 77.3%. This number increased 5.8% until August 2020, then decreased 8.2% until the end of 2020. During the reported period of 2021, the number of people living in prison in Northern Ireland increased again, around 2.4%. Overall, the occupation rate varied from 73.7% (lowest value reached on 2021-01-08) to 83.4% (highest value reached on 2020-08-28).

**Figure 12.4 Number of individuals held in custody in prisons, in Northern Ireland.**

Currently, 60 (4.3%) of people living in prison are female and 212 (15.1%) are aged 50 or older. Figure 12.5 shows the evolution of these proportions over time.
Figure 12.5 Proportion of females living in prisons, and people aged 50 or older, in Northern Ireland.

According to the last updated data, there have been 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among people living in prison in Northern Ireland and 140 confirmed cases among staff members, but no deaths recorded. Table 12.1 and figure 12.6 compare some indicators of the disease among people living in prison and prison staff members.

Table 12.1 Total cases, deaths, and case fatality rate from COVID-19, in people living in prison and prison staff members, in Northern Ireland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>People living in prison (2021-06-11)</th>
<th>Prison staff (2021-06-11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total cases</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total cases/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>1142.04</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total deaths/100 000 pop.</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case fatality rate (%)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N/A: data not available
A total of 53 tests for COVID-19 were performed in people living in prison, and 347 tests on staff members and health workers. The number of tests performed over time is presented in figure 12.7.

A total of 1589 people living in prison have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. However, as there is a high turnover, many of these individuals have been released, implying the vaccination coverage updated on 11th June is 66%. The number of vaccines administered in prisons over time is shown in figure 12.8 and the vaccination coverage of people living in prison is in figure 12.9.

There is no data available regarding the vaccination of prison staff members and prison health workers, in Northern Ireland.
Figure 12. 8 Number of people living in prison vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose), in Northern Ireland.

![Graph showing number of people living in prison vaccinated for COVID-19 (first dose) from February 2021 to June 2021.]

Figure 12. 9 Evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prison, in Northern Ireland.

![Graph showing evolution of vaccination coverage in people living in prison from February 2021 to June 2021.]

On 2021-06-11, 139 people living in prison were in COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine. The evolution of this indicator over time is shown in figure 12.10.
Figure 12.10 New cases of COVID-19 and number of people in isolation or quarantine among those living in prison, in Northern Ireland.
References


WHO Regional Office for Europe

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the countries it serves.

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