SARS-COV2 VACCINATION ROLL-OUT IN EUROPEAN PRISONS

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“Current published literature indicate that prison inmates are under-immunized, particularly against HBV, influenza, MMR, and pneumococci. Strengthen immunization programs specifically for this population at risk and improvement of data record systems may contribute to better health care in prisoners.”
COVID-19 vaccination in prison (Sept 2021)

All RISE-Vac countries started COVID-19 vaccination programmes in prison between March-May 2021:
- Healthcare staff working in prison
- Custodial staff
- People living in prison

*Prison data from Milan only
**Prison data from selected lander

https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations
https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/md
Vaccine hesitancy

“A big challenge is reluctance, failure to effectively promote the vaccination, insufficiently motivated medical personnel and the need for more informational materials adapted for the prison context (Moldova)”

Organisational issues

- Purchase of necessary equipment
- Training of staff (HCWs and custodial staff)
- Designation of suitable areas for vaccination services
- Access to Immunization Information System
Turn-over and vaccination schedule

International and inter-prison transfer resulted in challenges to complete the vaccination schedule using the **same vaccine product** (Moldova)

Milan prison post-release vaccination programme (CUP)
March-September 2021, n=373

Source: Milan prison healthcare services, unpublished
Reaching the hard to reach

Vaccination status at prison admission, Milan prison, n=892

March-September 2021
- 97% vaccinated
- 1% previously incarcerated
- 2% community services
- 3% not vaccinated

August-September 2021
- 91% vaccinated
- 3% previously incarcerated
- 6% community services
- 3% not vaccinated

Source: Milan prison healthcare services, unpublished
Future perspectives and opportunities

1. Expand COVID-19 vaccination coverage among people living in prison to tackle inequalities in access, while ensuring appropriate monitoring of impact.

2. From emergency response into routine practice
   Translate COVID-19 vaccination programme into routine vaccination services
   Continuous implementation of vaccine literacy interventions among prison population and prison staff.

3. Increase community vaccination coverage (community dividend) not only for COVID-19 but for the whole life-course vaccination approach.
RISE-Vac Consortium

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## Vaccinating adolescents in juvenile prisons

Main challenges include:
1. Lack of attention paid to adolescents in detention
2. Low perception of health risk and correct assessment of individual risk/benefit balance
3. Obtaining consent for vaccination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Consent for adolescents &lt; 16 express by</th>
<th>Consent for adolescents ≥ 16 express by</th>
<th>COVID-19 campaign status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Director of the penitentiary</td>
<td>Adolescents themselves</td>
<td>Started and ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Both parents. In adolescents with very high-risk conditions, consent by one of the two parents is sufficient.</td>
<td>Both parents. In adolescents with very high-risk conditions, consent by one of the two parents is sufficient.</td>
<td>Started but waiting for parental authorisation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Legal guardian (at the municipal unit of social affairs)</td>
<td>Adolescents themselves</td>
<td>Started and ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Legal guardian or adolescents themselves if deemed ‘Gillick competent’</td>
<td>Adolescents themselves</td>
<td>Ongoing for clinically vulnerable for &gt;16 years and for all &gt;18 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Adolescents &lt;16 not present</td>
<td>Adolescents themselves</td>
<td>Started and ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>Persons under 18 are not subject to the vaccination process</td>
<td>Persons under 18 are not subject to the vaccination process</td>
<td>Started and ongoing for all those &gt; 18 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>