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A public health registry among prisoners in Switzerland

Submission date	Recruitment status	[_] Prospectively registered
26/03/2020	No longer recruiting	[X] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[_] Statistical analysis plan
01/04/2020	Completed	[_] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[_] Individual participant data
03/05/2024	Other	[_] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Disease frequencies and specific health issues of prisoners and refugees are poorly understood. Many individuals lack the opportunities to discuss their health issues and access to the healthcare system is limited. Physicians working at prisons and detention centres often speak of a "blind spot in society", as it is thought that certain chronic and psychiatric diseases are seen more frequently than the general population.

Currently, there has been no systematic investigation into the health issues of these inmates. Furthermore, little is known on how recent migration flows in Europe may have impacted the health conditions of inmates in recent years.

The aim of this study is to establish an international health registry with detailed data on the health and well-being of the incarcerated population.

Who can participate?
Inmates from the police prison in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland

What does the study involve?
The study will gather anonymised health-related data from prisoners during their stay in prison.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
There are no individual benefits or risks involved in this study. All extracted data is anonymised and therefore cannot be traced back to an individual. On a larger scale, the study will contribute to the understanding of public health problems among prisoners in general.

Where is the study run from?
Police Prison Zurich (Switzerland)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
From January 2015 to December 2021

Who is funding the study?
This is an investigator-initiated trial.
The study is funded by the Waltraud und Gertraud Siegenthaler Foundation and Ida Herzog-Egli Foundation (Switzerland)

Who is the main contact?
Dr. Thomas Gaisl
Thomas.Gaisl@usz.ch

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Dr Thomas Gaisl

ORCID ID
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9017-6143

Contact details
Rämistrasse 100
Zurich
Switzerland
8091
+41 44 255 11 11
Thomas.Gaisl@usz.ch

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
v1.0

Study information

Scientific Title
The Swiss Prison Study (SWIPS) in north-central Switzerland: a public health registry

Acronym
SWIPS

Study objectives
1. The disease profile of inmates substantially differs from that of the general population. Specifically, certain chronic and psychiatric diseases are disproportionately prevalent among inmates and refugees.
2. A large number of drugs (e.g. psychotropic substances) may be used “off label” and the origin of the inmates and the refugee route respectively may have an impact on the disease profile of

the affected.
3. Recent geopolitical changes significantly affected the overall disease profile of inmates in the prisons.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 05/08/2019, the Cantonal Ethics Committee Zurich (Stampfenbachstr. 121 Postfach, 8090 Zurich, Switzerland; +41 43 259 79 70; admin.kek@kek.zh.ch), ref: 2019-01055

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Observational study - Health registry

Study type(s)
Diagnostic

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Health data of inmates (police prison) from the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland

Interventions
This is a cross-sectional observation among approx. 50,000 to 60,000 prisoners in Switzerland. Health-related data such as age, sex, country of origin, duration of imprisonment, medication (incl. drug name, brand, dosage, release), medical history (incl. ICD-codes of all diagnosis and external results which are part of the medical history in prison) will be deposited in a central register over five years (2015-2020). Corresponding health data (incl. as age, sex, medication, medical history) will be gathered from a representative local resident population for comparison. The local resident population will be matched for age and sex. This data will be provided by the insurance companies and will be de-identified.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
Prevalence of diseases according to ICD-codes among prisoners using cross-sectional data from medical records of all prisoners from 2015 to 2020

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Compare the disease prevalence (ICD-codes) of the inmates against a representative sample from the local resident population, using cross-sectional medical records from all inmates at the police prison Zurich from 2015 to 2020.
2. Longitudinal changes in the disease prevalence (ICD-codes) from 2015 to 2020 using cross-sectional medical records from all inmates at the police prison Zurich.

Completion date
31/12/2021

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
Inmates from the police prison in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland

Participant type(s)
Other

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
All

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
51798

Key exclusion criteria
Unwillingness to participate

Date of first enrolment
01/04/2015

Date of final enrolment
01/04/2020

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Switzerland

Study participating centre
Police Prison Zurich
Kasernenstrasse 29
Zurich
Switzerland
8021

Sponsor information

Organisation
University Hospital of Zurich

ROR
https://ror.org/01462r250

Funder(s)

Funder type
Other

Funder Name
Waltraud und Gertraud Siegenthaler Stiftung

Funder Name
Ida Herzog-Egli Stiftung

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The anonymised datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from Dr Thomas Gaisl, thomas.gaisl@usz.ch. No consent from participants was obtained.

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		08/12/2020	03/05/2024	Yes	No