



## Care of the Older Offender

Last reviewed December 2019

### The Older Prisoner and Complex Chronic Medical Care

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/249208/Prisons-and-Health,-19-The-older-prisoner-and-complex-chronic-medical-care.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/249208/Prisons-and-Health,-19-The-older-prisoner-and-complex-chronic-medical-care.pdf?ua=1)

This chapter from the World Health Organizations publication "Prisons and Health" provides a global perspective to the challenges of caring for aging prisoners in correctional institutions. It reviews the issues of accelerated aging, multimorbidity, polypharmacy, falls, dementia, incontinence, sensory impairment, symptom burden, functional status and environment, mental health issues, end-of-life care and death and re-entry into the community. **(OPEN ACCESS)**

### Forget me not: Dementia in Prison <https://academic.oup.com/gerontologist/article/52/4/441/641314>

This article proposes a proactive, interdisciplinary collaborative approach to improving practice, policy and research to develop effective evidence-based care for the aging population in particular, especially in those with high needs like dementia. **(OPEN ACCESS)**

### Dementia in the Incarcerated Elderly Adult: Innovative Solutions to Promote Quality Care <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/2327-6924.12189>

The author discusses the epidemiology, pathophysiology and diagnostic considerations of Alzheimer's Disease (AD) with a focus on elderly inmates. Challenges of detecting and providing appropriate treatment for AD within a correctional institution are explored. Prison-specific guidelines for AD would be helpful to support clinicians in providing innovative quality care. **(OPEN ACCESS)**

### Losing Track of Time. Dementia and the Ageing Prison Population: Treatment Challenges and Examples of Good Practice

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/losing-track-of-time-2013.pdf>

The aim of this report was to investigate the existing research on treating and managing male offenders with cognitive impairment to identify and share examples of good practice. **(OPEN ACCESS)**

### The Special Needs Program for Inmate-Patients with Dementia (SNPID): A Psychosocial Program Provided in the Prison System

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1471301211432952>

This article discusses a comprehensive psychosocial program developed for a prison in California and how interventions can be appropriately applied in prison settings to make a difference in the quality of life for inmate-patients with dementia. **(PAID ACCESS)**

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### The Impact of Dementia in the Prison Setting: A Systematic Review

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1471301218801715>

This article describes a systematic literature review aimed at identifying the prevalence of dementia in the prison setting and how prison, health and social care providers assess, diagnose, treat, support and care for prisoners with dementia. (PAID ACCESS)

### Cognitive Impairment, Self-Perceived Health and Quality of Life of Older Prisoners

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/cbm.2023>

The study described examined the cognitive performance of older male prisoners and its effect of their perceived health and quality of life. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Aboriginal Prisoners and Cognitive Impairment: The Impact of Dual Disadvantage on Social and Emotional Wellbeing

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jir.12357>

This Australian study sought to ascertain the relationship between cognitive impairment and mental health/cultural needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison. (PAID ACCESS)

### Prison Experiences and Psychological Distress Among Older Inmates

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01634372.2016.1197353>

This Australian study investigated the relationship between older prisoners' social experiences and their levels of distress. Suggestions for strategies to improve safety, social support and level of exercise are included. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Trauma, Stress, and Coping Among Older Adults in Prison: Towards a Human Rights and Intergenerational Family Justice Action Agenda

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2015-08366-001>

The authors examined the experiences of incarcerated older adults to identify what they reported about trauma, stress and coping in prison. (PAID ACCESS)

### Older Men and Older Women Remand Prisoners: Mental Illness, Physical Illness, Offending Patterns and Needs

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4409101/>

The authors completed a retrospective chart review of remands to a male and female prison. They found that the rising number of older prisoners were among male remand prisoners. Older remand prisoners had very high rates of affective disorder and alcohol misuse. High rates of vulnerability were found among those older prisoners and they also had greater need for medical and psychiatric services than younger prisoners. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Psychological Distress Among Older Prisoners: A Literature Review

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1936928X.2015.1075166>

This article reviewed the research examining the level of psychological distress experienced by older prisoners, as well as factors associated with this phenomenon. (PAID ACCESS)

### Psychiatric Disorders Among Older Prisoners: A Systematic Review and Comparison Study Against Older People in the Community

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13607863.2017.1286453?journalCode=camh20>

The authors report on the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among older prisoners compared to community studies of older people. (PAID ACCESS)

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### Disability in Prison Activities of Daily Living and Likelihood of Depression and Suicidal Ideation in Older Prisoners <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/gps.4578>

The objective of this study was to determine if disability in activities of daily living specific to prison, prison activities of daily living (PADLs), is associated with depression and severity of suicidal ideation in older prisoners, a rapidly growing population at high risk of suicide. (PAID ACCESS)

### Ethical Issues in Caring for Prison Inmates With Advanced Cancer

<https://nursing.ceconnection.com/ovidfiles/00129191-201602000-00003.pdf>

This article includes a discussion of the ethical issues, especially justice issues, encountered in provision of care for prisoners that should, but often does not, approximate that of nonprisoner care. (PAID ACCESS)

### End-of-Life Care Behind Bars: A Systematic Review

<https://nursing.ceconnection.com/ovidfiles/00000446-201603000-00019.pdf>

This publication describes a review which aimed to determine the current state of the science regarding EOL care for prisoners and suggests implications for nursing practice and areas for future research. (OPEN ACCESS)

### End-of-Life Care and Barriers for Female Inmates

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3140619/>

The authors describe the potential barriers to human end-of-life care and offer care strategies that can be useful in a complex organizational system. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Caregiving Behind Bars: Correctional Officer Reports of Disability in Geriatric Prisoners <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1532-5415.2009.02286.x>

The goals of the study described were to assess officers' assessment of disability in their assigned geriatric prisoners and to contrast their views with reports based on geriatric prisoner questionnaires. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Aging and Dying in Prison: An Investigation into the Experiences of Older Individuals in Federal Custody

<https://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/oth-aut/oth-aut20190228-eng.aspx?pedisable=true>

This webpage describes an investigation conducted by the Office of the Correctional Investigator and the Canadian Human Rights Commission. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Treatment of Older and Elderly Inmates Within Prisons

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1078345812458245>

This article in the Journal of Correctional Health Care discusses procedures and programs along with possible solutions in relation to the increase number of older and elderly inmates. (PAID ACCESS)

### The Healthcare Challenges of Older People in Prisons – A Briefing Paper

<http://www.ohrn.nhs.uk/resource/Research/OlderPrisonersReview.pdf>

This National Health Service paper gives an overview of health problems in older inmates, prison healthcare and particular health issues seen in this population. It also includes a section looking at older prisoners in Canada. (OPEN ACCESS)

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### A Resource Pack for Working with Older Prisoners

<https://nicic.gov/resource-pack-working-older-prisoners>

This resource pack is intended to support people to implement good practice in their establishments for older prisoners. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Summary of Issues and Challenges Facing Older and Aging Offenders in Federal Custody

<https://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/comm/presentations/presentationsAR-RA0911Info-eng.aspx>

This backgrounder provided by the Office of the Correctional Investigator in Canada was included in the 38<sup>th</sup> annual report to Parliament. It provides an overview of issues of concern including access to programming, health care, conditions of confinement, post-release supervision, as well as recommendations for a nation older offender strategy. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Older Adult Inmates: The Challenges for Social Work

<https://academic.oup.com/sw/article-abstract/54/2/117/1909871?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

The objective of this article is to help in the preparation of social work practitioners who can engage in older adult prison advocacy work by familiarizing them with a review of relevant literature. (PAID ACCESS)

### New Directions for the Study of Incarcerated Older Adults: Using Social Capital Theory

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01634372.2014.900841>

The purpose of this article was to outline and synthesize the research on older adults living in prison and propose a framework for future research and intervention development based on social capital theory. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Being Old and Doing Time: Functional Impairment and Adverse Experiences of Geriatric Female Prisoners

<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/media/publications/being%20old%20and%20doing%20time%20-%20brie%20williams%20study%202006.pdf>

The study described was undertaken to investigate the prevalence and nature of functional impairment in geriatric female prisoners in California. The authors identify aspects of the prison environment that might exacerbate functional impairments. (OPEN ACCESS)

### Malign Neglect: Assessing Older Women's Health Care Experiences in Prison

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11673-014-9561-0>

This American study explored older incarcerated women's perceptions of prison health care policies and their day-to-day survival experiences. (PAID ACCESS)

### Gray Matters: Gender Differences in the Physical and Mental Health of Older Adults

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08974454.2012.716358?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

The purpose of the study described was to broaden understanding of older inmates by examining gender differences in their physical and mental health. (PAID ACCESS)

### Growing Old Behind Bars: Health Profiles of the Older Male Inmate Population in the United States

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5929998/>

This study examined patterns of multimorbidity among elderly male inmates across four domains of health to understand their complex health care needs. (OPEN ACCESS)