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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE AND DETERMINANTS OF HIV INFECTION AMONG BENINESE PRISONERS (WEST AFRICA)

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE:

Existing HIV control programs and public awareness campaigns do not always involve all the exposed populations. Prisoners constitute a marginalized population at risk of AIDS. This study aimed to determine risk factors that encourage the transmission of HIV in civil prisons of Benin

STUDY AREA

9 prisons of Benin: Abomey, Cotonou, Kandi, Lokossa, Misserete, Natitingou, Parakou, Porto-Novo and Ouidah

DATA COLLECTION

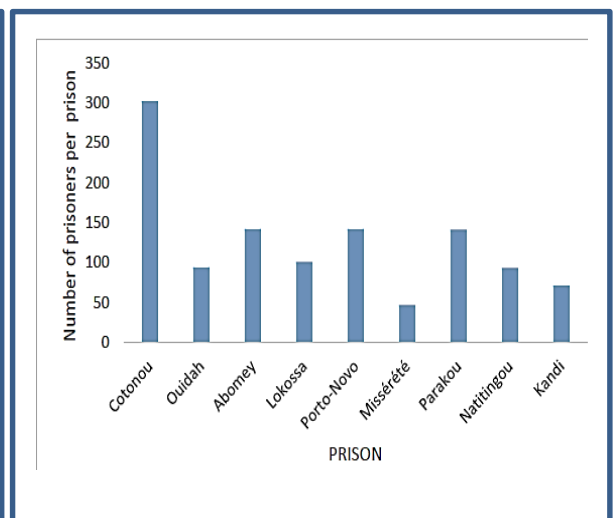
One-on-one interviews using semi-structured questionnaire (1209 prisoners)

Blood sampling for HIV screening test (1211 prisoners)

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The youngest prisoner was 12 years old and the eldest 90. Most of them are male (83.8%) and almost all of them have never gone to University (92.9% [n=652]). The prevalence of HIV infection in prisons is estimated at 2.9% with 95% CI [1.9 – 4.0]. The incarceration rate per Department ranges from 77 to 202 per 100,000 inhabitants. ¾ HIV infected prisoners are more than 24 years old; this shows that the youth remains the most exposed stratum to HIV infection

Public Prisons	Frequency	HIV +	HIV Prevalence (%)
Cotonou	302	7	2,3
Ouidah	94	2	2,1
Abomey	142	7	4,9
Lokossa	101	1	1,0
Porto-Novo	142	6	4,2
Misserété	47	1	2,1
Parakou	141	6	4,3
Natitingou	93	2	2,2
Kandi	71	1	1,4
Total	1133	33	2,9



CONCLUSION

There are poor and overcrowded incarceration conditions in Benin that represent important risk factors of HIV infection among prisoners. The prevalence of HIV was 2.9% and higher than the one of the general population. Particular attention need to be paid to prisoners that are at high risk of HIV infection