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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

RISKS FOR HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS AND HEPATITIS OF THE DEPRIVED FROM FREEDOM

RISCOS PARA VÍRUS DA IMUNODEFICIÊNCIA HUMANA E HEPATITES DOS PRIVADOS DE LIBERTADE

RIESGOS PARA EL VIRUS DE LA INMUNODEFICIENCIA HUMANA Y LA HEPATITIS DE LOS PRIVADOS DE LIBERTAD

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ABSTRACT

Objective: analyzing the risk behaviors associated with infection by the Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus and characterizing the serological status of those deprived from freedom of the Presidio de Passos/Minas Gerais. **Method:** a descriptive study with a quantitative approach, developed with 185 deprived of freedom. For data collection, conducted from June to September 2012, it was used a questionnaire with 41. Owing the data, the analysis was performed with the use of non-parametric statistics, with frequency and percentage presented in tables. The study was approved by the research project of the Research Ethics Committee, Protocol 285/2011. **Results:** the majority of the detainees has a high prevalence of risk factors, making them more vulnerable to contamination. Those factors include unprotected sexual practices, drug use, tattooing and sharing of needles inside the prison. **Conclusion:** there was the need to developing prevention activities in prisons, in order to raise awareness and minimize risks. **Descriptors:** Risk; Prisons; HIV; Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

RESUMO

Objetivo: analisar os comportamentos de riscos associados à infecção pelo Vírus da Hepatite B, Vírus da Hepatite C e Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana e caracterizar a situação sorológica dos privados de liberdade do Presídio de Passos/MG. **Método:** estudo descritivo com abordagem quantitativa, desenvolvido com 185 privados de liberdade. Para a coleta de dados, realizada de junho a setembro de 2012, utilizou-se um questionário com 41. De posse dos dados foi realizada a análise com o emprego da estatística não paramétrica, com frequência e percentual apresentados em tabelas. O estudo teve aprovado o projeto de pesquisa pelo Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa, Protocolo 285/2011. **Resultados:** a maioria dos detentos possui alta prevalência de fatores de risco, tornando-os mais vulneráveis às contaminações. Estes fatores incluem práticas sexuais sem proteção, uso de drogas, tatuagem e compartilhamento de agulhas no interior do presídio. **Conclusão:** verificou-se a necessidade de desenvolver ações de prevenção dentro das penitenciárias no intuito de conscientizar e minimizar os riscos. **Descritores:** Riscos; Prisões; HIV; Hepatites B e Hepatite C.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: analizar los comportamientos de riesgo asociados con la infección por el Virus de la Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C Virus y el Virus de la Inmunodeficiencia Humana; y caracterizar el estado serológico de los privados de libertad del Presidio de Passos/Minas Gerais. **Método:** Estudio descriptivo, con enfoque cuantitativo, desarrollado con 185 privados de libertad. Para recopilar los datos, llevado a cabo entre junio y septiembre de 2012, se utilizó un cuestionario con 41. Teniendo la colecta de los datos, se realizó el análisis con el uso de estadística no paramétrica, a menudo presentado en tablas y porcentajes. El estudio fue aprobado por el proyecto de investigación del Comité de la Ética de la Investigación, el Protocolo 285/2011. **Resultados:** La mayoría de los detenidos tiene una alta prevalencia de factores de riesgo, los hace más vulnerables a la contaminación. Estos factores incluyen las prácticas sexuales sin protección, el uso de drogas, el tatuaje y el intercambio de agujas dentro de la prisión. **Conclusión:** hubo la necesidad de desarrollar las actividades de prevención en las prisiones con el fin de dar a conocer y minimizar los riesgos. **Descriptores:** Riesgo; Prisiones; VIH; Hepatitis B y Hepatitis C.

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INTRODUCTION

The populations in prison are characterized by marginalization and consumption of drugs, particularly illicit; these characteristics, along with the terrible conditions of confinement, including overcrowding, in Brazil; resulting in a high prevalence of infectious and communicable diseases¹, particularly concerning the high prevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), hepatitis B and C and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIS) observed among inmates.

Apart from confinement, other risk factors, such as social marginalization, drug addiction, low socioeconomic status and conditions of health services contribute to the high prevalence of these infections. This constitutes a serious public health potential, since the criminal justice system can function as a "hub" of these infections and, therefore, as dispersal focus for the general population.

Two studies reported a high prevalence of HIV in the prison population in Brazil and in the world.²⁻³ Moreover; it is well known that in some prisons the prevalence of risk factors for HIV acquisition may be high; including both sexual risk behavior, and the use of injectable drugs.⁴

Related to low socioeconomic status, poor access to health services factors, inadequate sanitation, sexual contact and multiple sexual partners facilitate the spread of infections in prisoners compared with the general population.

STIs are a major cause of infertility, temporary disability and death, leading to various physical and psychological disorders order for millions of people. Constitute a group of diseases transmitted predominantly by sexual contact and have the highest rates of notifiable infectious diseases in many countries.⁵

There are over 20 sexually transmitted pathogens. Among these are HIV and Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV), often considered more difficult to treat and control, and may cause serious complications. The HIV infection and hepatitis B and C constitute a serious public health problem, responsible for high rates of morbidity and mortality.⁶ Hepatitis B and C can cause acute and chronic liver disease, and may progress to cirrhosis and carcinoma hepatocellular.

The actions to prevent transmission of HIV and Hepatitis B and C in prisons and to providing health services to people living with HIV / AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) in between there are part of

broader efforts to improve the conditions of liberty deprivation.

OBJECTIVE

- Analyzing risk behaviors associated with infection by HBV, HCV and HIV and characterizing the serological situation of persons deprived from liberty in Passos-Minas Gerais.

METHOD

Article compiled from the work presented at the III Forum on Integration of Professional Masters in Nursing, held on 27th, 28th and 29th November, 2013 at the Nursing School of Ribeirão Preto - SP.

This is a descriptive study with a quantitative approach. The research was conducted at the Presidio of Passos / MG, with its prison population consisting of 235 inmates and 185 of these (79%) participated in the study, the others refused to participate.

Interviews were scheduled, at times determined by the nurse responsible for the Prison and signed the consent form with study participants. The data were collected by researchers in the period from June to September 2012, through a questionnaire with 41 issues.

For the testing of HIV serology, it was used disposable needles and tubing of type vacutainer. To investigate the samples used the so-called ELISA immunoenzymatic method. After its completion, the tests were sent to the Clinical Laboratory of the Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Passos. The results were presented individually with post-test guidelines, the project team and the prison nurse who filed in the records of every inmate.

Having the data analysis with the use of nonparametric statistics, often presented in tables and percentages was performed.

This study met the requirements of the Resolution of the National Health Council (CNS) 466, 2012, about research involving human subjects and was forwarded to the Research Ethics Committee of the Foundation of Higher Education of Passos (HSPA) with a favorable opinion No. 285 / 2011. Then, there were presented the research objectives for the coordination of the Prison in Passos / MG and subsequently, to the research subjects.

RESULTS

From the 185 respondents, 161 (87%) were male and 24 (13%) were female. Even the amount of women being low compared to

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men, it is known that this number has been much lower in past decades.

Their ages ranged from 18 to 47 years old and the highest incidence was at 30 or older, with 32%; with respect to marital status, 42% were single, 34% were cohabiting, 17% were married and others separated or widowed. Regarding race, it appears that there is a predominance of white, with 44% of respondents, followed by browns with 30%, black 24% and yellow 2%.

Regarding the level of education of inmates, it was identified that 51% have 4-7 years of schooling, 36% 8-11 years, 4% have 12 or more years and 2% are illiterate.

From the data analysis, it appears that the main occupations that respondents had before prisoners were those with little or no professional qualification, such as: hodman (15%), general services workers (11%) and stonemasons (8%). The average income of the

respondents was 46% up to 2 minimum wages. The unemployment rate also was significant, reaching 11% of private from freedom.

From the 185 respondents, 48% are detained because of an infringement of Article 33 of the Penal Code, which refers to the drug trade. Burglary, theft, murder and robbery are the other major violations of the Brazilian Penal Code committed by them. Of everyone involved in the survey, 55% were repeat offenders, often being incarcerated for committing the same crimes and 45% had never been arrested or committed an offense before.

Drug use and its frequency are presented following:

Table 1. Population distribution of deprived from liberty in accordance with the use of drugs and its frequency.

Frequency Drug type	Never used	Used but stopped	Uses sometimes	Uses frequently
Amphetamine	100%	-	-	-
Alcohol	24%	6%	44%	26%
Marijuana	18%	4%	26%	52%
Aspirated cocaine	41%	6%	37%	16%
Injected cocaine	97%	1%	1%	1%
Crack	63%	6%	11%	20%
Heroin	99%	-	-	1%
Other	98%	1%	1%	-

Detainees were classified into the following categories: "never used" for those who do not even experienced that kind of drug; "Used but stopped" for those respondents that a year before prison, there were already more than a year without consuming that substance; "Occasionally uses" for those who used the drug only on weekends and "often uses" for those who consumed the toxic more than 20 times per month.

It perceives a large consumption of licit and illicit substances in the studied population. Were assessed only the types of psychotropic drugs that predispose to infection of HIV and viral hepatitis, and therefore excluded the use of nicotine.

According to each type of substance, we evaluated the frequency of use in the study population, within one year before prison. The drugs used were alcohol and snorted cocaine. None of the respondents reported that they used amphetamine, which is a synthetic drug that affects the central nervous system, widely used especially among women, to be inhibiting appetite as well as by young and

truckers to stay awake, and 99% said no made use of heroin, a substance derived from the opium poppy and extracted and also used for the production of morphine.

Those who cited who used other drugs, ecstasy were mainly related to the use at parties long term, such as raves.

The use of drugs compared with schooling is presented following:

Table 2. Population distribution of deprived from liberty in accordance with the use of drugs and schooling.

Drugs use Schooling	No	Yes
None	-	100%
From 1 to 3 years	7%	93%
From 4 to 7 years	2%	98%
From 8 to 11 years	6%	94%
12 or more	-	100%
Total	15%	85%

Table 3. Population distribution of deprived from freedom according to the number of sexual partners.

Gender	No. of male partner					No. of female partner						
	1	2	a	5	a	<1	1	2	a	5	a	<10
		5		10		0		5		10		
Female	14	5	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Male	3	2	-	-	-	62	42	16	-	35	-	-
Total	17	7	-	-	5	62	43	16	-	35	-	-

It appears that men have a greater amount of sexual partners than women, because those mentioned have only one, while 42% of men reported having two to five partners and 35% reported having 10 or more partners of the opposite sex year.

Regarding gender of the detainee and the type of partner with whom it relates sexually, it appears that five men and a woman have homosexual or bisexual, while others report being heterosexual.

Condom use with casual partner fixed and is presented in sequence:

Table 4. Population distribution of deprived from freedom according to gender and condom use with a regular partner.

Condom use	Regular partner		Possible Partner	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Never used	65%	71%	10%	25%
Used all the time	20%	9%	45%	29%
Used less than a half times	10%	16%	45%	27%
Used more than a half times	5%	4%	-	19%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The previous table shows that many inmates of the male and female sex did not use condoms with a steady partner, but when these are compared with regard to the continued use of the condom, it appears that women care most for its use than men. With respect to sporadic use, we note that was higher among males (20%) than among females (15%).

Regarding condom use with casual partners, there is a change in the behavior of men and women. Among 65% do not use the device with fixed partners, casual partners while this number goes to 9%. Continued use also undergoes changes from 20% between fixed partners to 45% among potential partners, and the sporadic ranges from 15% to 45%.

Among men, also hears changes, while 71% did not use condoms with a steady partner and 25% did not use with a casual partner,

continued use increased from 9% between fixed partners to 30% among the potential partners; have sporadic use was 20% among fixed partners and 45% among the possible partners.

Among the main reasons why detainees did not use a condom, when related to the fixed partner, which is based on trust in the partner (56%), as compared to any partner, it appears the main cause is the fact that they do not like it (47%). This same reason was also alleged by the detainees who already had a fixed partner.

It appears that the fact that the detainee being drunk or drugged, it also greatly influences the case of not using condoms with a casual partner, but do not like the device is the most important factor.

Table 5. Population distribution of deprived from freedom according to the serology test for HIV, hepatitis B and C.

Test	Positive	Negative
HIV	-	100%
Hepatitis B	-	100%
Hepatitis C	-	100%

Table 5 shows that even the inmates presenting several risk factors those predispose to STDS infection, the 185 deprived from freedom those performed the test, none had antibodies in all tests, anti-HIV, HBsAg and anti-HCV. It is considered that these negative results for HIV, HBV and HCV may be due to the fact that many of them had their last risk in a shorter time than six months time needed for the body to produce anti immunoglobulins -HIV, and therefore the chance that the test results may be false-negative.

DISCUSSION

According to the National Penitentiary Department - DEPEN, Brazil has the fourth prison population in the world, with 550.000 inmates, of whom 35.000 are women, which corresponds to 7% of the total, a number that has been growing in a "scary" way mainly by involvement in drug trafficking.⁷ So, what can be seen from the data analysis is that the number of incarcerated women is less than the number of men, it makes that the needs of females be always left in the background in political prisons.

The study showed that most private uses of marijuana and one quarter of them make use of crack. Marijuana is the type most used illicit drug among Brazilians, and the main reason of use, obtaining pleasure⁸, which is also the most abused drug among inmates.⁷ It is noteworthy that the large increase in users and drug addicts is associated with the perpetuation of violence and crime, becoming a major global public health problems.

It appears that use of these substances is directly connected with the ease of access and purchasing power, thus the most used drugs were alcohol, marijuana and crack because they are more abundant in the region of Steps and having low, while cocaine, heroin and amphetamine, were at least listed, being questioned by the study participants the difficulty in acquiring toxic.

Drug use is directly related to the rate of delinquency, and the early use of alcohol and tobacco, make the user susceptible to the use of other drugs, such as marijuana and cocaine and even cause behavioral problems posing as vulnerable as placing vulnerable to STD/AIDS and viral Hepatitis.⁹

During the individual interviews had to be accompanied by a prison guard, a fact that

may have influenced the low reports of homosexual and bisexual relations, since it is known that this practice is common among inmates ⁴ and observe that this may have happened because of fear or fear of same in reporting their actual situation.

Sexuality is a major factor that predisposes the spread of STDS, and condoms and contraceptives is one of the most widespread and well-known preventive methods, but we noticed the lack of the correct way to use it between those deprived from freedom. The fragility of knowledge about male and female condoms among study participants reflects the ineffectiveness of the guidelines being carried.¹⁰

All tests for HIV, Hepatitis B and C were negative. This may have occurred due to high turnover in these private prisons and these can be in the window period because your last risk being in an interval of less than six months time.

During the collective advice on STD/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis was perceived ignorance on these types of STDS and transmission, prevention measures. AIDS was mentioned however when trying to answer many question arose, wrong, insecure and prejudiced.

It is understood that restricted access to information and social and health services directly influence the social and sexual behavior of women. Considering that related to sexuality and reproductive issues aspects as gender, body pleasure, STD/AIDS, behavior/sexual practices, myths and truth about sexuality and use of female/male condom are unknown or several times, not have access to the right information or know more if you have difficulty in incorporating them or understand them.

CONCLUSION

It is known that the population in reclusion has a 20 times greater chance of contracting venereal diseases than the population at large. The data found on the profile of persons deprived of liberty are like the one quoted by the Ministry of Health National Health Plan in Prisons (PNSSP). Brazilian prison population is made up predominantly of young adults, white men, and unmarried, and less than 30 years of age, have a definite profession, most often are convicted of crimes of burglary and theft and most relapses in crime.

Even the questionnaires being administered, it is possible that some deprived of liberty have not been reliable in their responses. This may be due to several factors: shame, distrust of authorities of the prison, memory errors, and censorship, among others.

The present study showed that the population in prison has multiple risk factors that predispose to transmission of HIV and hepatitis B and C, the main of them are not using condoms in sexual relationships, often due to not distrust seropositivity partner, because they do not like such device or by being inebriated or under the influence of psychoactive drugs. Many reported difficulty in initiating condom use with a steady partner, since such a decision could lead to a feeling of mistrust of it. Moreover, it appears that the degree of knowledge of the inmates on the modes of transmission of STDs, especially HIV and hepatitis, were very scarce, having the same, several questions concerning these pathologies. For this to be resolved after the response of individual counseling questionnaire were made to make them more comfortable to express themselves. Few held real and concrete information about, forms of transmission.

For advice, we sought there was a change in behavior between them, but it is known that it is only by reaching a steady job. One can also see the concern only of inmates with AIDS transmission, giving less importance to the cases of hepatitis, which often have no initial symptoms.

Was evident in this study the need to offer shares preventive approach to combat the rise in cases to establish control methods and provide greater access to health services to these inmates, so that, in the prison system actions and health services can migrate to a perspective of health promotion and health prevention.

It is necessary to ensure respect for the human rights of detainees in relation to the health of ourselves, through the promotion of prevention, diagnosis and appropriate care, especially related to HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis, as these people are deprived of their liberty and not human rights inherent in citizenship.

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