



# Access to health care for prisoners

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Research report February 2020

# Locked out? Prisoners' use of hospital care

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Why think about health  
care for prisoners?

# Before prison

Prisoners are more likely than the general population to have experienced:

- Abuse as a child
- Exclusion from school
- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Mental health problems

# In prison

## Living Conditions

“...broken windows, unscreened lavatories in shared cells, vermin and filth should not feature in 21<sup>st</sup> century jails.”

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales Annual Report, 2018-19

**Violence**

**Self-harm**

**Availability  
of illicit  
drugs**

# After prison

What happens when people leave prison?

- Availability of settled accommodation
- Employment opportunities
- Continuity of health care
  
- £46 discharge grant

# Prisoners' use of hospital services in 2017/18

Prisoners' anonymous health records were identified in routine hospital data based on postcode. We looked at:

- How often hospital services were used and when
- Why hospital services were used
- How usage compares to the general population
- Specific analysis looking at women prisoners

# What can't hospital data tell us?

- **What (and how) healthcare is provided in prisons**
- **Wider aspects of the prison environment**

# How often did prisoners use hospital services in 2017/18?

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Admitted patient care

11,908 admissions

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Outpatients

83,176 appointments

(50,189 attended)

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A&E

17,928 attendances

(13,796 not admitted)

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# Why are prisoners admitted to hospital?

# Prisoner admissions to hospital: Top 5 primary diagnoses 2017-18

Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes



Diseases of the digestive system



Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified



Genitourinary system



Neoplasms (Cancer)



0%

5%

10%

15%

20%

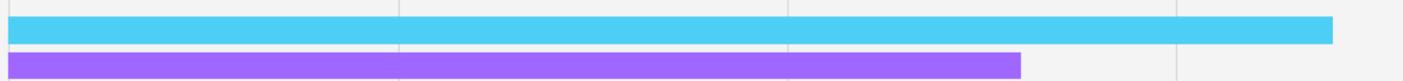
% of all admissions

# Comparing the most common reasons for admissions to hospital

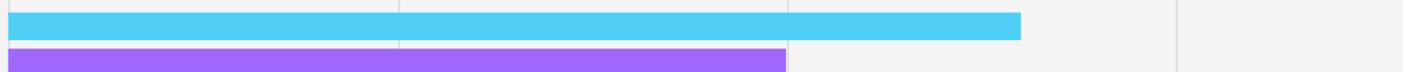
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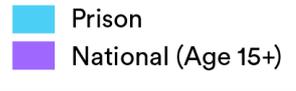
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20%

% of all admissions



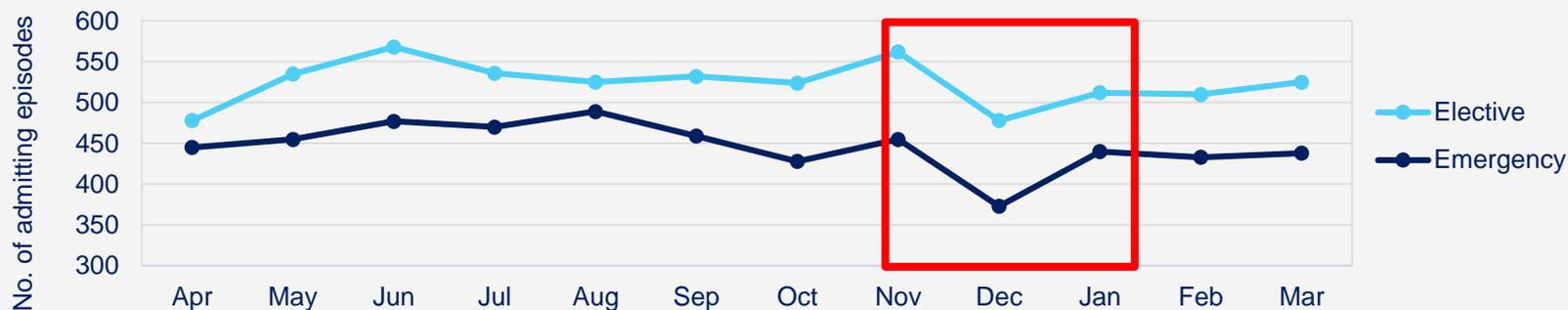
# The three most common types of injury and poisoning affecting prisoners



# Emergency & elective admissions by month

# Emergency & elective admissions

## Prisoners



## General population (age 15+)



# Missed outpatient appointments

# Missed outpatient appointments

| Appointment categorisation                                     | Prison population | General population (aged 15+) |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | % (n)             | %                             |
| Appointment cancelled by, or on behalf of, the patient         | 15 (12,176)       | 7                             |
| Did not attend - no advance warning given                      | 16 (13,523)       | 6                             |
| Appointment cancelled or postponed by the Health Care Provider | 9 (7,288)         | 7                             |

The main title of the slide, "Using hospital data to answer specific questions", is centered in a dark purple font. The background features a large, light purple circle on the left and a dark purple curved shape on the right, set against a white background with a light purple horizontal band at the bottom.

# Using hospital data to answer specific questions

# How many women in prison gave birth in 2017/18?



**6 births outside of hospital**

- Care and examination post birth
- Delivery complications



- Outcome of delivery recorded
- Procedure codes for delivery

# Report recommendations

- Improving prisoners' access to hospital care
- Making better use of hospital data

[www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/spotlight/prisoner-health](http://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/spotlight/prisoner-health)

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