

Barriers to treat viral hepatitis in German prisons

Strategietreffen Virushepatitis in
Deutschland eliminieren

Berlin 30.11.2016

Legal Background – Suspend health Insurance - Equivalence of care

- German Social Law Book 5 (Health insurance)
- Chapter 16
- Part 1 No. 4
- The receivables are suspended as long as the insured is placed in remand prison, prison or forensic detention and gets healthcare from this institution.

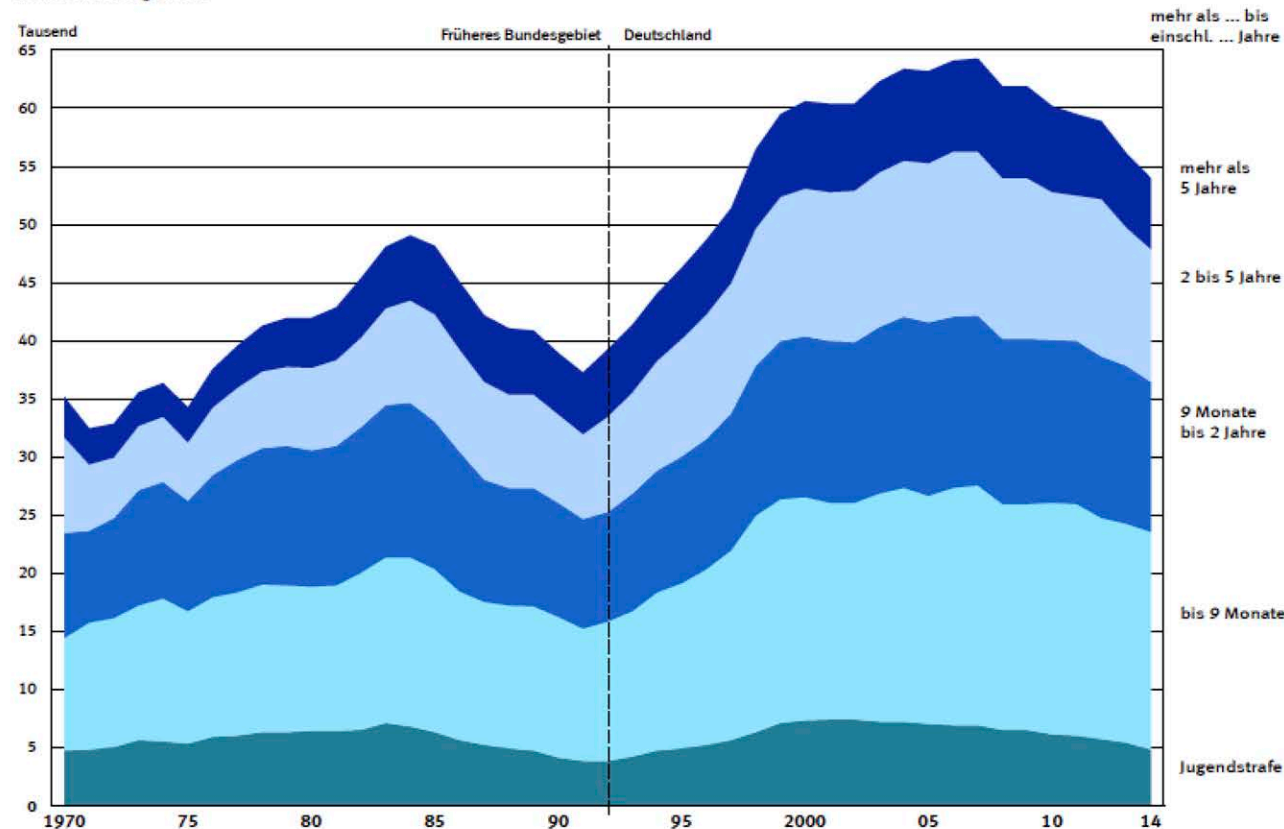
Unofficial personal translation

Federal State Reform 2006

- Responsibility for prison services was given to the 16 German Länder
- Medical care is organized under the principle of Equivalence of care by Ministries of Justice
- Budget and budget control come from local governments/parliaments
- Länder are quite often unable to contract qualified doctors for prison medical care due to low salary and jobs are poorly attractive.
- Budgets for medication are partly limited.

Number of inmates depending on duration of sentence per year, about 70 % less than 2 y

Am 31. März in den Justizvollzugsanstalten einsitzende Strafgefangene¹⁾
nach der Vollzugsdauer²⁾



Medical care is competing against all other professions and their demands for the inmates time:

Prioritization regarding the needs of care is necessary to focus work against the threats of failing Resocialization.

Crimes registert by Police Statistic 2012
5.997.000

Enlightened cases
3.260.000

Suspect Persons
2.094.000

At the age of criminal respocebility
2.019.000

Condemned
770.000

Convicts
607.000

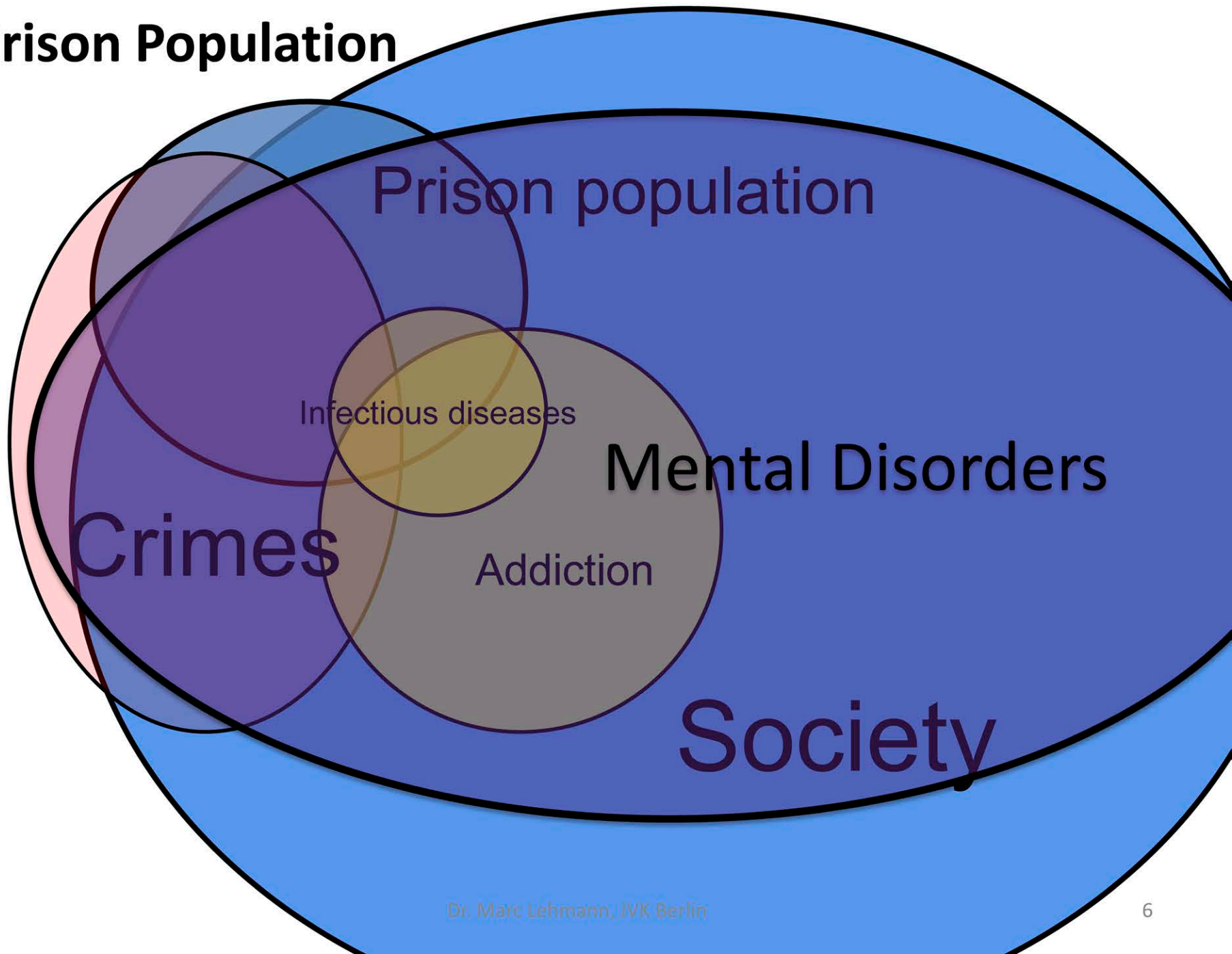
400
00

Sentenced
without probation

Selektion of Inmates by criminal Investigation

2012 German Federal
Office of Criminal
Investigation

Prison Population



Prioritization of needs and primate of Rehabilitation

- Tasks of imprisonment are:
- Prepare for a future life without crime
- Prevent society from further Crime
- Punishment
- Compensation of loss for the victim
- And not to get inmates to „perfect“ health.

Undefined duration of stay

- Remand prison can be terminated at every time
- Sentence can be reduced or extended
- Imprisonment for failure to pay a fine
- Termination by medical reasons, unable to sustain imprisonment
- Mercy

Specific interest of the inmate

- Fighting for Liberty in the first Phase after Imprisonment
 - Shocked by imprisonment
 - Loss of social contact, withdrawing symptoms, loss of income, etc.
- Need to find a place in Prison Hierarchies
- No trusting the medical Confidentiality
- No time for Treatment, not priority

Factors affecting the Treatment and Treatment-Decision

- Medical problem is not of highest Priority in the complex life situation of inmates
- Cases are underdiagnosed
- Duration of Stay is undefined
- Inmates react often spontaneous and are no proper candidates as compliant treatment partners.
- To reach medical care is not that easy as outside
 - Difficulty even to get an simple contact, you normally must be guided by a guard to the appointment passing several doors because you are locked up.
 - Do you Trust the System of Prison Healthcare?
- Treatment for Persons with **long sentences** and preventive Detention is easily to achieve!