

## Two-year reimprisonment rate after first adult prison episode among men who inject drugs

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**Introduction:** It is estimated that 45% of people released from prison in Australia are reimprisoned within two-years. People who use drugs are overrepresented in prison and have previously been found to be reimprisoned at a higher rate than those without a history of drug use. We aim to determine the two-year reimprisonment rate after release from first adult prison episode among participants of the Prison and Transition Health (PATH) study, conducted in Victoria, Australia.

**Method:** Eligibility for PATH involved being male, aged  $\geq 18$  years, injected drugs prior to study recruitment prison episode, and being sentenced. Participants included in this analysis were first imprisoned between 2000–2014, had two years of follow-up data (Corrections Victoria prison records), and injected drugs prior to first prison sentence (derived from self-reported age of first injection). Time at-risk started on date release from first adult imprisonment and men were censored at two years follow-up. Reimprisonment incidence rate (IR) was determined as total reimprisonments/total PY. IRs were stratified by calendar year (2000–2015).

**Results:** Of the 400 men in PATH, 310 were included in this analysis. Men contributed 454.5 PY, and 218 (70%) men had 344 reimprisonments. The estimated crude reimprisonment rate was 75.8/100 PY (95% CI 68.1–84.1). Annual reimprisonment rates ranged from 113.5/100 PY in 2000 to 152.2/100 PY in 2015.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** We found a substantially high rate of reimprisonment within two years of release from first adult prison episode among a cohort of men who inject drugs.

**Implications for Practice or Policy (optional):** Initiatives supporting successful community reintegration for people who inject drugs is essential. Additionally, non-custodial sentencing for minor non-violent offences incurring typically short sentences is paramount to retain people in-community and prevent challenges associated with cycling in and out of prison.

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