Study of human immudeficiency virus cases registered among prisoners in south Santa Fe (Argentina).

Dr. Fernando Biasutti (1); Esteban Rossi (1); Dra. Andrea Moro (2); Bioq. Romina Huanca (3); Dr. Mariano Lodigiani (3); Dr. Enrique Crochet (3); Dr. Ernesto Carenó (1)

(1) Programa Provincial de Tuberculosis, Ministerio de Salud de la Provincia de Santa Fe
(2) Sistema Municipal de Epidemiología, Secretaría de Salud Pública, Municipalidad de Rosario
(3) Servicio Penitenciario de Santa Fe, Ministerio de Seguridad de la Provincia de Santa Fe

Introduction
Prisoners used to have disadvantaged life conditions or drug addiction, which become them in a vulnerable population to different infections, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). According to WHO, HIV prevalence for prisoners is 15 times higher than in general adult population.

Methods
The present work studied HIV cases notified among prisoners of the six centers of detention of south Santa Fe region (SSF), Argentina; where 4,250 people (4,145 men and 105 women) were imprisoned during the analysis period (January 2017-May 2018). SSF medical staff offer HIV screening tests to all the prison population, but prisoners accept to take them only voluntarily. In case the screening test results positive, additional tests, such as CD4 and viral load determinations, are carried out. All patients diagnosed with HIV receive the corresponding treatment.

Results
During the studied period, the serological condition for HIV of 835 prisoners was known, which represents only a 19.6% of the total population in SSF prisons. Among them: 72 (8.6%) were HIV (+), being men a 93.1%; 12 (16.7%) were also infected with hepatitis C virus; a 91.6% were put under treatment; and 175 viral load tests were carried out as a mean of treatment control, which represents an average of 2.4 viral load tests/year/patient. After the treatment, the population with undetectable or low grade viremia reached 81.8%, which could be considered a good response. A 7.6% (5 patients) presented virological failure, and all cases corresponded to under NNRTI treatment.

Conclusions
HIV infection among prisoners is a critic health problem which requires a proactive attitude by the medical staff to improve the epidemiological situation in prisons. In SSF, the immediate aim to achieve is being able to carry out a greater number of tests for HIV, which implies an active information campaign to become prisoners aware of the problem and their possibilities of treatment.

-People in prisons and other closed settings. WHO. https://www.who.int/hiv/topics/prisons/en/
e-mail: programatbrosario@santafe.gov.ar

MINISTERIO DE SALUD
www.santafe.gov.ar/salud MinSaludSantaFe
Saludsantafe