Study of tuberculosis cases registered among prisoners in south Santa Fe (Argentina).

Dr. Fernando Biasutti (1); Esteban Rossi (1); Dra. Andrea Moro (2); Bioq. Romina Huancu (3); Dr. Mariano Lodigiani (3); Dr. Enrique Crochet (3); Dr. Ernesto Careno (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
It is widely known that certain infections, such as tuberculosis (TB), present much higher health impact among imprisoned people than in general population. Thus, WHO reported the TB prevalence for prisoners is 100 times higher than in the general population. Several factors, like socioeconomically disadvantages or overcrowding in prisons, lead this particularly vulnerable population to a critical condition with an increased risk to their health.

Methods
The present work studied TB 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) have been imprisoned during the analysis period (January 2017 – May 2018). TB diagnosis and treatment is systematically controlled by the medical staff of the prison units.

Results
During the studied period, 35 cases of TB (0.8% of studied population) were notified, being 25 (71.4%) pulmonary TB; 21 (84.0%) presented positive bacilloscopies, with an average of 2 ++ at the diagnosis; 90.0% were new cases or relapses and 3 (8.6%) presented also HIV infection. This number of TB cases would represent an estimated notification rate of 823.5 cases per 100,000 persons, which is much higher than the TB notification rate for the corresponding population in the same area (16.1 per 100,000 inhabitants). Only one case was classified as multireistant TB.
Among the treated patients, a 67.0% presented negative bacilloscopies after two months of treatment. A 77.1% of the treated patients reached the cured/completed treatment condition, with a mean of 7.75 months.

Graphic 1: TBC Notification Fees / 100,000 inhabitants for Argentina (Arg), Santa Fe Province (StaFe) and Penitentary Service Santa Fe South Region (SPSur).

Graphic 2: Distribution of patients with TB, according to the final treatment condition. Penitentary Service Santa Fe South Region. Period: 01/01/2017 to 01/01/2018. (n = 35)

Conclusions
TB 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 carry out an active information campaign to become prisoners aware of the problem and their possibilities of treatment and cure.

e-mail: progranmatbroserio@santafe.gov.ar