

# End-of-life Care in the Prison Environment (Supplement #16)



'Grace Before Dying': <https://bit.ly/3WmGhNR>

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**N.B.** Articles, postings, reports, etc., of particular interest are flagged with this icon:



## [Aging Prison Population](#)

### **Re-examining carceral ageing through meaning: What penology can learn from gerontology**

*PUNISHMENT & SOCIETY (Belgium)* | Online – 28 February 2025 – As a result of worldwide prison populations greying at an unprecedented rate, the penological community has become increasingly aware of the moral and economic implications of carceral ageing. However, research in this emerging field has been largely focussing on the extrinsic aspects of the incarceration experience, with a particular interest in the challenges that such environments pose for older individuals. In contrast, intrinsic processes, such as the drive for a meaningful existence in later life that is central to much gerontological research on (successful) ageing, have garnered limited scrutiny within contemporary prison studies and penological scholarship. **Abstract (w. references):** <https://bit.ly/3QCqzef>



### **Aging behind bars: Barriers and solutions in Norwegian correctional rehabilitation**

*INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRISON HEALTH* | Online – 26 February 2025 – This study reveals that while existing rehabilitation efforts improve some aspects of well-being, significant gaps remain in addressing the unique challenges faced by older inmates. Recommendations emphasize the importance of policy reforms and enhanced collaboration between correctional and healthcare services to develop inclusive, effective rehabilitation strategies. By shedding light on the fastest-growing demographic in Norwegian prisons, this study contributes to a broader understanding of how age-specific approaches can improve rehabilitation outcomes. The findings have significant implications for corrections policy... **Abstract:** <https://bit.ly/3D0LTXt>

## Position statement: Care for aging patients in the correctional setting



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PRACTICE and EDUCATION

(U.S.) | Online – 20 February 2025 – The National Commission on Correctional Health Care recognizes the importance of effectively caring for the growing population of aging patients who reside in carceral settings.<sup>1</sup> Correctional healthcare systems should adopt policies and

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procedures that specifically address the delivery of healthcare to aging patients. Healthcare policies should be informed by input from knowledgeable stakeholders such as healthcare professionals with expertise in geriatric care and community advocacy organizations. Older adults in the carceral setting should be evaluated and treated for healthcare conditions in accordance with evidence-based guidance. **Access position statement at:** <https://bit.ly/4i5kseg>

1. 'Care for Aging Patients in the Correctional Setting,' National Commission on Correctional Health Care (2024): <https://bit.ly/3VF9DpN>

### Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile



#### Older people in prison



(U.K.) | Online – 17 February 2025 – In 2024 ... the Prison Reform Trust called on the government to publish a national strategy for older prisoners as a matter of urgency.<sup>1</sup> HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, the Prisons & Probation Ombudsman, Age UK and other organisations have made the same call over the last decade.<sup>2,3,4</sup> The Justice Committee has also stated: "It is inconsistent for the Ministry of Justice to recognise both the growth in the older prisoner population and the severity of their needs and not to articulate a strategy to properly account for this." The government

later accepted the committee's recommendation to publish a strategy and publication was initially scheduled for summer 2021, then early 2023. At the time of publication no strategy had been published. **Access report (scroll down to p.45) at:** <https://bit.ly/3D73gGi>

1. 'Growing old and dying inside,' Prison Reform Trust (2024). **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/412jvMT>
2. 'Social care in prisons in England and Wales,' Inspectorate of Prisons & Care Quality Commission (2018). **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/4i20jFT>
3. 'Learning lessons from PPO investigations: Older prisoners,' Prisons & Probation Ombudsman (2017). **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/4hESLZV>
4. 'Older prisoners (England and Wales),' Age UK (2019). <https://bit.ly/3X5k9s1>

### Prison Health Services

#### Healthcare behind bars: Addressing the Orange Jumpsuit stigma

*THE MEDUCATOR* (Canada) | Online – 22 February 2025 – Ultimately, the critical need to address healthcare disparities and the stigma toward incarcerated peoples cannot be understated. Equitable healthcare can be achieved only through sustained efforts into research-driven policy reform. Future endeavours should focus on creating robust, evidence-based strategies that reform correctional health policy, address fundamental issues such as stigma, and promote a more rehabilitative approach to incarceration. Such initiatives are vital in addressing the deep-rooted biases and systemic shortcomings that unfairly impact prison healthcare access and equity, echoing the broader societal prejudices often symbolised by the image of the orange jumpsuit. **Full text (click on pdf icon):** <https://bit.ly/3XgcZkL>



## New Prison Policy Initiative report explains notoriously bad correctional healthcare



(U.S.) | Online – 19 February 2025 – Why are terrible prison and jail healthcare systems so resilient against lawsuits and government oversight? How do healthcare providers cut corners with patient care to keep costs down? When and why did corrections agencies start to swing towards contracting out healthcare to companies? In a new report, ‘Cut-Rate care,’ the Prison Policy Initiative answers these questions and others, providing a sweeping explainer of correctional healthcare. The report focuses on the incentives behind notoriously bad care found in prisons, and explain the major changes – in particular, a shift away from control of healthcare by departments of corrections – that would be necessary to reorient these systems toward a

public health approach to care. **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/431tIRZ>

### Carceral healthcare

*THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE*, 2025;392(9):892-901 (U.S.). Mass incarceration in the U.S. has created a public health crisis of incalculable magnitude that demands bold, relentless, and transformative action from healthcare professionals. The effects of Covid-19 in prisons and jails spurred urgent cries for improvements in healthcare by families and people directly affected by incarceration, as well as by healthcare professionals fighting to save the lives of their patients in carceral facilities. **Access full text at:** <https://bit.ly/4hS3FM0>

### Related:

‘**The way hospitals care for incarcerated patients must change,**’ *Time* (U.S.) | Online – 18 February 2025 – Within the walls of a hospital, privacy is sacred – the intimate details of someone’s body and illness are meant to be as carefully guarded, as quietly delivered, as a sacramental confession. But days into my first year as a doctor, I delivered my first diagnosis of cancer in front of two armed correctional officers, to a man shackled to his bed in a hospital room that felt more like a prison cell **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3QsCDP6>

‘**Making correctional healthcare education integral to healthcare training,**’ *Journal of Health Care for the Poor & Underserved* (U.S.) | Online – 14 February 2025 – A growing body of literature links incarceration to negative health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities, yet healthcare learners often have little structured training in this area. Many healthcare training programs ... have not consistently provided training on the impact of incarceration. **First page view:** <https://bit.ly/4jUfAdP>

‘**Healthcare accreditation could reduce inmate deaths,**’ *The Los Angeles Times* (U.S.) | Online – 13 February 2025 –The Harvard study ... looked at 44 midsize jails across the country and found those that earned accreditation from the non-profit National Commission on Correctional Health saw a 93% lower monthly death rate than those that didn’t.<sup>1</sup> Over the course of the study, that education could have saved about 15 lives, the researchers said in a preliminary draft of their work... **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4aX9wNz>

1. ‘The hidden healthcare crises behind bars: A randomized trial to accredit U.S. jails,’ National Bureau of Economic Research, January 2025. **Full text (click on pdf icon):** <https://bit.ly/3EoNTJz>



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## Four in ten who took their lives in prison were denied adequate healthcare

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*THE INDEPENDENT (U.K.)* | Online – 14 February 2025 – 4 in 10 prisoners who took their own lives in custody were denied adequate healthcare before their deaths, according to damning new figures exposing the scale of neglect inside Britain’s crowded prisons. Inmates are legally entitled to receive the same standard of healthcare as someone living in the community. However, official findings uncovered by *The Independent* show in 101 out of 233 self-inflicted deaths investigated by the prisons watchdog between 2020 and 2023, the mental or physical healthcare did not meet this requirement. In each case a clinical reviewer assessed whether the care was equivalent to what they would expect outside of jail as part of investigations into the deaths by the Prison & Probation Ombudsman. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4hWLAw0>

### Should prisoners have the right to die?

*INSIDE TIME (U.K.)* | Online – 17 February 2025 – As a Bill to legalise assisted dying passes through Parliament, MPs have debated whether prisoners should be included. The Terminally Ill Adults (End-of-Life) Bill ... would permit assisted suicide for adults in England and Wales who have been diagnosed with less than six months to live. MPs discussed whether the Bill should be amended to deny prisoners and homeless people the opportunity to choose assisted suicide. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4hZitbm>

The issue of voluntary assisted death for prison inmates is gaining traction in the literature and in the lay press. An annotated listing of articles on the issue is available on request at: <https://bit.ly/4cdWVFD> **BRA**

## Colorado Department of Corrections reaches settlement to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing inmates

DENVER 7 (U.S.) | Online – 14 February 2025 – Disability rights advocates and the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDoC) reached a new settlement to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing inmates last month. The case addressed longstanding complaints related to communication accommodations and healthcare access within the state’s prison system. This started in 2019, when students from the Civil Rights Clinic at the University of Denver’s Law Center started investigating reports about inadequate services for deaf inmates. Disability Law Colorado joined the investigation and filed a federal complaint against the CDoC. In 2022, a settlement was reached to provide hearing aids, interpreters, video phones, and other accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/41haeC8>

### Related:

**‘Friendly Signs’: Documentary follows one man’s quest to create community for deaf prisoners,** *The Marshall Project (U.S.)* | Online – 7 February 2025 – Tommy Wickerd found purpose in an unexpected way: teaching fellow incarcerated people and corrections officers American Sign Language. When legal advocates won a 2019 petition to move a group of deaf men from under-resourced prisons to program-rich San Quentin, Wickerd created his class. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3WUj6ea>

**N.B.** See ‘Deaf in prison,’ (Parts 1 & 2), Al Jazeera (2013): <https://bit.ly/3EBgCeD> **BRA**



Checked out the latest postings on the ‘Current Thinking’ page of the End-of-Life Care Behind Bars website <https://bit.ly/45882x8>



## More inmates, fewer doctors: The prison health crisis

**KATHIMERINI (Greece)** | Online – 13 February 2025 – Greek prisons suffer from severe overcrowding, poor infrastructure, and inadequate medical care, according to a damning 2022-2023 report by the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture & Ill-Treatment (**see sidebar**).<sup>1</sup> The report highlights systemic failures, including a lack of coordination among prison officials and the absence of permanent medical staff. At 62% of prisons no permanent doctor is available, while 52% rely on correctional officers for nursing duties. Half of prisons lack a psychologist or psychiatrist. An inspection of Korydallos Prison found conditions “irreversible” without urgent action, citing severe overcrowding, unsanitary food, and inadequate medical access. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3EFey5a>

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THE GREEK  
OMBUDSMAN  
INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY

*The prison administration is liable to ensure that prisoners receive medical and pharmaceutical care equivalent to that available to the general population. The provision of quality and adequate health services to prisoners requires strategic planning that will help clarify the role and responsibilities of the Ministry of Health, focusing on staffing prison healthcare unit with permanent staff.<sup>1</sup>*

1. ‘National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture & Ill-Treatment,’ Greek Ombudsman, September 2024. **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/4gIPpdJ>

### Related:

**‘Prisoners need permanent healthcare,’** *Telegrafi (Northern Macedonia)* | Online – February 2025 – Prisons across the country lack a large number of doctors, and there is [only] a small number of psychiatrists that, by law, must be in every prison. According to Ombudsman Naser Ziberi ... in addition to the problem of the lack of medical staff, the [office of the] Ombudsman regularly receives complaints from prisoners regarding the quality of healthcare. **News brief:** <https://bit.ly/42ZfDim>

**‘Measuring healthcare quality in Southern Ecuador prisons: A focus on health performance indicators,’** *Discover Social Science & Health* | Online – February 2025 – Prisoners’ satisfaction with medical care is remarkably low... Ultimately, addressing deficiencies in the quality of health services for prisoners not only benefits this vulnerable population, but also has the potential to contribute to the reduction of public health problems inside and outside the prison system. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/42ZZ31R>

**‘Right to access healthcare in prisons: International standards and practice,’** Institute for Criminological & Sociological Research (**Serbia**) | Online – February 2025 – Even though international documents governing the treatment of prisoners declare equivalence of healthcare, which implies that prisoners must have access to the same levels of healthcare as the general population and must receive the same level of care as the community, the health of prisoners is often inferior... **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3CZOXTX>



To keep abreast of current thinking on palliative and end-of-life care check out ‘Literature Search’ posted each month on the website of the International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care: <https://bit.ly/3WWxUYC>



## Incarcerated women’s right to health: Bridging the gap between policy and reality

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*THE DENNING LAW JOURNAL (U.K.)* | Online – 4 February 2025 – Incarcerated women’s right to health within detention facilities is a critical, yet often overlooked, human rights issue. Gender disparities in global incarceration rates, combined with the challenges in implementing the Bangkok Rules,<sup>1</sup> underscore the urgent need for healthcare reform for incarcerated women (**see sidebar**). It is imperative that their unique healthcare needs are comprehensively met and that systemic failures are not only highlighted but addressed in a sensitive and humane manner, with a clear acknowledgment of the human rights basis of their rightful claims. Nations and international bodies must address these disparities, implement gender-responsive policies, and create an equitable system of care. **Full text (click on pdf icon):** <https://bit.ly/40PKPOB>

1. ‘United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders,’ United Nations (2010). **Download at:** <https://bit.ly/40O2VQX>

**N.B.** See ‘Female prison population growing faster than male, worldwide,’ Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (U.K.), February 2025 – <https://bit.ly/3QCNfv0> & ‘Women’s Mass Incarceration: The While Pie...,’ March 2025, Prison Policy Initiative (U.S.) – <https://bit.ly/43mqitix> **BRA**

### [End-of-Life Care in Prisons](#)

#### Provide decency for those needing end-of-life care in HMP The Verne, says watchdog

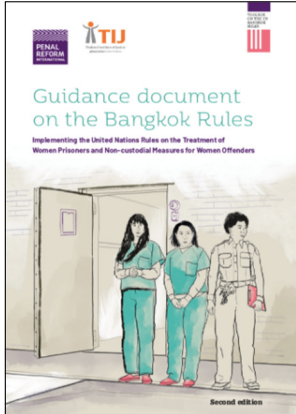


(U.K.) | Online – 28 February 2025 – An end-of-life care centre is needed at HMP The Verne, says the prison’s Independent Monitoring Board in its latest annual report.<sup>1</sup> It says prison officers spent more than 13,000 hours on bed watch duty during 2023-2024, and that a specialist facility would help “given the ageing population” within the prison. The report praises Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, which is responsible for care at the prison, for providing “excellent high quality care,” but adds that the current healthcare building is in a “deplorable state.” It points out that over one-third of prisoners at The Verne are over 60, and many have multiple diagnoses of long term or terminal illnesses. A 16-bed social care suite which opened in September 2023 has been fully occupied since it opened, and is insufficient for the purpose. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4hZrPEs>

1. ‘Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP The Verne,’ February 2025. **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/41jtK0H>

#### Related:

‘Facilitators and barriers to providing good palliative care in a prison setting,’ Strathcarron Hospice (U.K.) | Online – Accessed 9 February 2025 – The prison population is ageing and it is well recognised that there is a growing need for palliative care (PC). People living in prison often have complex PC needs and some people living in prison express a wish to remain there at end of life, viewing the prison as their home and staff and other prisoners as their family. **Poster Presentation:** <https://bit.ly/3CViKNw>



Access Penal Reform International’s ‘Guidance document on the Bangkok Rules’ at: <https://bit.ly/4jPaDml>

See also ‘Prison policies and practices generally remain male-centric and often fail to address the gender specific needs of incarcerated women: A brief overview’ (**recently updated**) at: <https://bit.ly/3Yu8xzL>

## Dying in prison: The need for hospice

OPEN TO HOPE (U.S.) | Online – 26 February 2025 – Existing prison hospice programs are addressing the issues of dying in prison on a limited basis, but there are still insufficient resources to care for dying inmates. Even existing legislation makes it challenging to implement prison hospice programs. While there are financial and legislative forces driving the lack of prison hospice programs, the core issue is that these inmates are part of a population that is deemed permanently criminal and forgotten and neglected until they die, and even afterwards. Given such a high percentage of the population incarcerated, The U.S. naturally sees a shocking number of people die in prison. Each year, nearly 7,000 inmates die in U.S. prisons, many from suicide or terminal illness. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4imovTP>

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## Ground-up compassion: Supporting peer-led end-of-life care at the Central California Women's Facility

ADVANCING CORRECTIONS (U.S.) | Online – Accessed 21 February 2025 – This paper explores a revolutionary peer-led end-of-life care program at the Central California Women's Facility, initiated by incarcerated women advocating for compassionate care in their community. Aligned with the principles of the United Nations Bangkok Rules,<sup>1</sup> the Comfort Care Program seeks to uphold the dignity of incarcerated people and provide meaningful skill development through caregiving roles (**see sidebar**). Supported by the Humane Prison Hospice Project and a local non-profit hospice organization, this grassroots initiative equips participants with palliative care skills, fosters a culture of empathy and mutual aid, and centers humanity within a challenging environment. **Summary (scroll down to article #13):** <https://bit.ly/438IEcM>

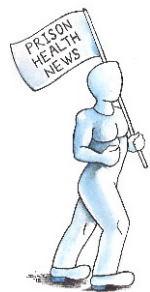
*The Comfort Care Program not only addresses the immediate needs of aging and terminally ill peers, but also enables caregivers to find purpose and emotional healing. By bridging gaps in trauma-informed care and promoting community support, this model reimagines prison culture, demonstrating the empowering and transformative potential of dignity-centered peer-led initiatives in carceral settings.*

1. 'United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders,' United Nations (2010). **Download at:** <https://bit.ly/40O2VQX>

### Peer Caregiving



## Terminal illness in prison infirmaries



(U.S.) | Online – February 2025 – Prison infirmaries are some of the saddest places you will ever visit inside or outside prisons. They are conflicting spaces where confinement and compassion clash over rights and laws. By “rights” I mean the rights of decency, courtesy, and humane compassion. The mere fact that I have to mention the word “human” as an adjective gets right to the point. As a certified peer specialist, I was honored to be among the few incarcerated persons allowed to provide the much needed compassion and support which terminally ill incarcerated patients crave and need. Deaths due to illness in state and federal prisons increased from 2,567 in 2001 to 3,044 in 2019, which represents an 18.6% increase.<sup>1</sup> **Access article (scroll down to p.10) at:** <https://bit.ly/4jJT338>

## Death anxiety among peer caregivers of older persons in two U.S. prisons

SOCIAL SCIENCES | Online – 21 February 2025 – While not developed for such purposes, peer caregiving [in prisons] may offer rehabilitative benefits. The costs associated with peer caregiving in prison are many and distinct from caregiver experiences in the community. While several factors may drive these distinctions, it is the unique relationship between peer caregivers and their care recipients in prisons that is perhaps the most meaningful. This is the first study to examine death anxiety among correctional system peer caregivers. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4bapWCp>

Cont.

1. 'Mortality in State and Federal Prisons, 2001-2019,' Bureau of Justice, December 2021. **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/419Dfzq>

**N.B.** *Prison Health News* is produced by a Philadelphia-based collective of editors and includes the work of imprisoned artists and writers. **BRA**

## [Research in Progress](#)

### [APEX-Prisons Study](#)

#### **Addressing psychosocial and existential wellbeing in prisoners with serious health conditions and their close persons**

**NIHR** | National Institute for Health and Care Research (U.K.) | Online – Accessed 10 February 2025 – In England and Wales, increasing numbers of prisoners aged 50 and older face a rising burden of chronic health issues and complex needs... Ageing prison infrastructure, overcrowding, and a security-focused approach hinder effective healthcare delivery, and staff burnout and turnover are high. Being in prison negatively affects psychosocial and existential well-being, leading to a loss of meaning and purpose which can be compounded by serious ill health. However, little is known about the psychosocial and existential support needs of prisoners with serious health conditions, despite the financial and ethical implications of their incarceration. **Access project details at:** <https://bit.ly/4hO7odg>

#### **Support needs approach for patients to deliver person-centered care for prisoners with progressive conditions**

**MARIE CURIE (U.K.)** | Online – 5 February 2025 – Increasing numbers of prisoners have health conditions that worsen over time and shorten life, (e.g., heart disease and cancer) increasing their need for supportive, palliative, and end-of-life care. Prisoners are entitled to the same care as everyone else but can miss out on support needed to live with these conditions. For example, understanding their illness, knowing what to expect and managing symptoms. Best practice involves listening to, and discussing, patients' views on where they need more support and what might help. This is known as person-centred care. However, former prisoners told us that talking about need can be difficult in prison, and person-centred conversations rarely happen. **Download at:** <https://bit.ly/3COR5Og>

**N.B.** Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh developed a partnership with HMP Edinburgh, which focuses on "effective and timely identification of prisoners with palliative care needs." HMP Edinburgh has one of the highest populations of older, long-term prisoners in Scotland... <https://bit.ly/3OtNzLA>. **BRA**

## [Grief & Bereavement](#)



#### **Conducting grief support groups in prison: A pragmatic feasibility and impact study**

**JOURNAL OF CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE (U.S.)** | Online – 10 February 2025 – Unaddressed grief and trauma may precipitate and maintain problematic substance use, criminal behavior, and resultant incarceration. The authors detail the implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based grief support group model conducted in seven groups in the two substance-use disorder treatment programs within a state correctional facility. The aims of this project were to: 1) train Department of Corrections mental health clinicians in the grief support group model; 2) conduct seven grief support groups facilitated by trained clinical social workers in two substance-use disorder treatment programs within the prison; and, 3) evaluate impact of the grief support group model on participant grief. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3Qaoaaj>

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Please report any broken links.



## [Compassionate Release](#)



### Five stories on compassionate release

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PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT

(U.S.) | Online – 19 February 2025 – Adopted by 49 states in varying forms, compassionate release is primarily designed for older incarcerated people with terminal illnesses. In 2022, over 186,000 people incarcerated in state and federal prisons were 55 or older, five times the number three decades ago...<sup>1</sup> Supporters argue there are fiscal benefits to compassionate release, because one less person in prison can result in significant savings for a state government. Moreover, the American Bar Association found that during the [Covid] pandemic, over 11,000 individuals were released from federal prison through compassionate release. By August of 2022, only 17 of those released had committed another offense.<sup>2</sup> **Download stories at:** <https://bit.ly/4gNJwFq>

#### Expanding compassionate release eligibility in a post-COVID world

*MINNESOTA JOURNAL OF LAW & INEQUALITY* (U.S.) | Online – 27 February 2025 – The health and safety risks posed by the pandemic increased pressure on both federal and state lawmakers to expand inmates' access to compassionate release processes. Despite these changes ... the Federal Bureau of Prisons will only grant an incarcerated individual compassionate release for "extraordinary and compelling reasons" such as a terminal illness; a serious medical or physical impairment that diminishes their capacity for self-care or requires long-term, specialized care; or the death or incapacitation of a dependent's caregiver. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4khnQVn>

1. 'Prisoners in 2022 – Statistical tables,' U.S. Department of Justice (2023). <https://bit.ly/4gMtZfZ>
2. 'Compassionate release,' American Bar Association (2023). <https://bit.ly/4i1T2Wx>

#### Related:

**'North Texas clemency recipients failed to win compassionate release. So do many others,'** *Texas Metro News* (U.S.) | Online – 16 February 2025 – The U.S. Sentencing Commission released a 2022 study of compassionate release finding the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, which includes Texas federal courts, had the lowest rate of approval in fiscal year 2020, granting 13.7% of motions.<sup>1</sup> The 1st Circuit, which encompasses parts of New England, had the highest rate, at 47%. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/41j46sY>

1. 'Compassionate Release: The impact of the first step act...,' U.S. Sentencing Commission (2022). **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/430r2OS>

**'Maryland must embrace compassionate release for aging and sick prisoners,'** *The Baltimore Post* (U.S.) | Online – 6 February 2025 – A Justice Policy Institute report exposes Maryland's so-called compassionate release as a failure – keeping aging ... individuals behind bars until they are near death, despite posing almost no public safety risk, costing taxpayers millions, and ignoring common sense reforms like expanded medical parole, geriatric release...<sup>1</sup> **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/41a7G8z>

1. 'Compassionate Release in Maryland: Medical and Geriatric Parole Examined,' Justice Policy Institute (2022). **Download report at:** <https://bit.ly/3QcmXj2>

**Many more older people are leaving prison and face unmet needs for housing and healthcare,'** *The Conversation* (U.S.) | Online – 23 January 2025 – Nearly a quarter of people behind bars in federal and state prisons are over 50. The older they are when released, the harder it can be to reintegrate into society. Older people face greater health, housing and family obstacles after leaving prison than those under 50... There simply isn't enough help out there to meet their needs.<sup>1</sup> **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/4hWX02W>

1. 'Are you willing to help me? An analysis of community supports for elderly people leaving prison,' *Journal of Community Justice*, 2024;33(4):4-10. **Abstract:** <https://bit.ly/4jUFpu5>



Your feedback would be appreciated: <https://bit.ly/4cdWVFD>

## [Interesting Reads You Might Have Missed](#)

### **Motivation and training needs of prison healthcare professionals: Findings from a qualitative study**

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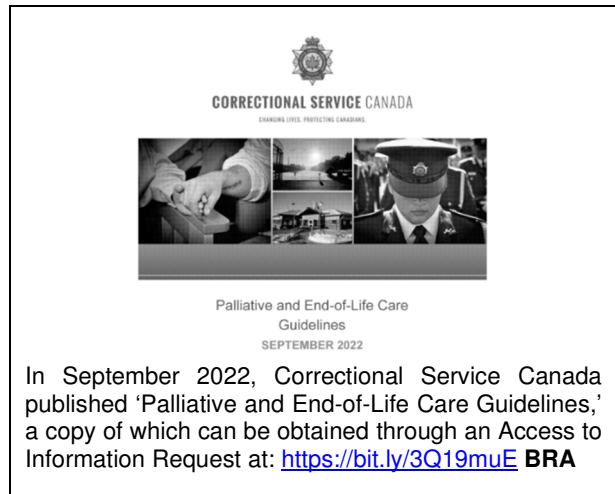
*BMC PSYCHOLOGY* (Switzerland) | Online – 20 May 2023 – Healthcare in prison is a challenging task. The conditions of imprisonment create distinct difficulties for those providing healthcare in this setting. These particular circumstances have led to a shortage of quality professionals, working for the health of imprisoned people. The aim of this study is to elaborate reasons for healthcare professionals to work in a prison environment. The main research question is: why do healthcare workers choose to work in prisons? This study identifies training needs in various fields ... [and] ... points out the need for more specific training programs for healthcare workers in prison and provides suggestions to ameliorate the recruitment and education for future prison healthcare workers. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/45h1wDL>

### **Terminal illness and compassionate release: Lessons for the International Criminal Court from the United Nations tribunals and national jurisdiction**

*JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE* (Ireland) | Online – 2 April 2023 – The practice of granting compassionate release is not new in international criminal law. Persons convicted by the Nuremberg Tribunal and imprisoned in Spandau Prison, Berlin, were granted early release following a diagnosis of terminal illness. Compassionate release is “an ethical and just response to managing terminal illness” in custodial contexts. Despite this, neither the United Nations Tribunals nor the International Criminal Court’s legal framework contain an explicit right or procedure to grant compassionate release to terminally ill prisoners. This lacuna has created legal obstacles for seriously ill prisoners who had not served the required amount of time to be considered for typical early release. **Full text:** <https://bit.ly/3ZHtuVI>

### **Prison inmates deserve access to high-quality palliative care: A call to action to support terminally ill incarcerated people**

*CANADIAN NURSE* (Canada) | Online – 18 July 2022 – Currently, palliative care for inmates in Canada is largely left to Correctional Service Canada, which was never designed or equipped to provide such care. Within prison walls, inmates’ end of life is fraught with fears for personal safety, increased suffering due to unmanaged pain, and feelings of isolation. Just as the number of aging and dying individuals in correctional settings is on the rise ... so is the need to address their health concerns and protect the sanctity of dignifying death. At the same time, a lack of qualified personnel who are trained to provide specialized care within the correctional setting acts as a compounding barrier to the delivery of palliative services and the recognition of holistic needs of terminally ill inmates. **Full text:** <http://bit.ly/3G4LUYU>



**Barry R. Ashpole, Ontario, CANADA**

**Biosketch:** <https://bit.ly/3XMTRs4>