



Ordem dos Enfermeiros
Portugal

Nursing Care in Prisons



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Nursing Care in Prisons

Prison - concept

“a place of residence and work where a huge number of individuals, apart from society for a considerable lack of time, lives together a closed life and formally administrated”.

Goffman in Gonçalves, 2002



Nursing Care in Prisons

Prison assumes a double mission, for one side to “punish” and to diminish the evil effects of the prisoners acts and, for other side, tries that during the reclusion time, changes could be operated on the individuals so that they do not engage in **illegalities again** and for the success on their social reintegration.

Foucault, 2000

“Discipline and punish: the birth of the prison”



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In 1991, UN proclaimed the Reclusions Treatment Basic Principles where the 9th Principle says:

“Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation”.

UN, 1991

“Resolution on Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners”



Nursing Care in Prisons

In the majority of European countries, prison health care **are apart** from public health care system, which brings several problems on the recruitment of nurses, motivation and training.

Due to that, the **Moscow Declaration** (2003) suggests that prison health care services should work within the National Health Care System.



Nursing Care in Prisons

PORTUGAL

- Occidental European country with more prisoners - 11008
- 52 prisons along all country and islands (7 with hospital care)
- Occupancy rate round 88%
- 94% male prisoners and 6% female prisoners

DGSP, 2008

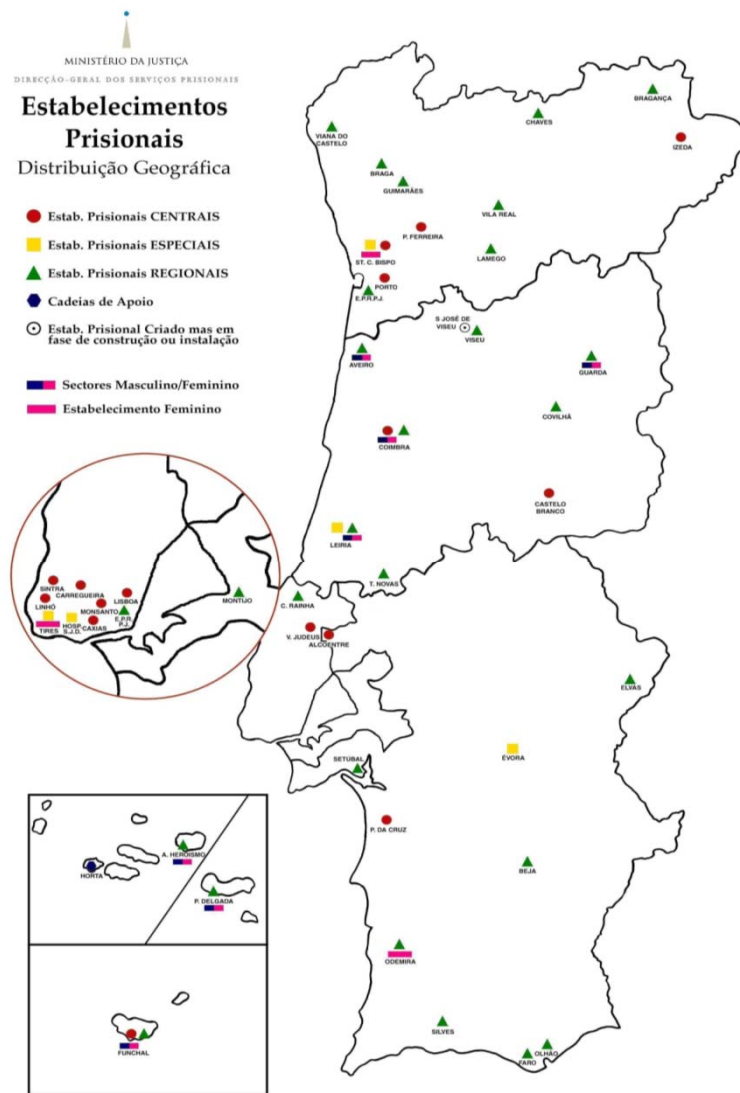


Nursing Care in Prisons





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The Portuguese Prisons Nursing Health Care:

- Small amount of hours for Nursing Care
- Prisons without Nursing Care
- “Nursing Care” made by prison guards (medication)
- In 2007 there were only 99 nurses working in Prisons with permanent contracts. Others were from agencies or with temporary contracts.





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The Portuguese Prisons Nursing Health Care:

- 24 hours Nursing Care only in Hospital Care Prisons
- Absence of conditions for Nursing Care in the majority of prisons
- Absence of Nursing Records in many prisons
- No health promotion and disease prevention



Assessment of the Nursing Professional Conditions in Prisons

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Nursing Care in Prisons

Assessment of the Nursing Professional Conditions in Prisons – Study Purposes

Nursing care necessities

Specialized Nursing Care necessities

Working conditions



Inquiry to all prison nurses

Observation of the 52 prison conditions

Expert auditions



Nursing Care in Prisons

Goals:

- Understand the Portuguese reality on nursing care prisons
- Provide information to the Board of Directors of the Ordem dos Enfermeiros that will support them on political issues and actions
- Provide information to the Regional Boards of Directors and Boards of Nursing on the professional nursing care accompaniment



Nursing Care in Prisons

Difficulties:

- Due to bureaucratic problems concerning to the needed authorization to visit all prisons, the empiric part of this study shall start next August 2009.
- Also is not easy to this group, geographically apart, to work and meet as it was desired.
- We intend to finish this study by the end of 2010, which probably could carry some differences between first and last prisons visited.



Thank you

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