



Addiction and Mental Health Services in Provincial Adult Correctional Institutions

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Why Is This Important?

- There is a high prevalence of addiction and mental health issues in Canadian correctional institutions, and New Brunswick is among the least effective in providing treatment to inmates.
- Inmates are released back into communities without being adequately treated.
- Without treatment inmates pose a risk to themselves and the public.

Overall Conclusions

- Significant shortfalls exist in addiction and mental health services provided to provincial inmates in New Brunswick.
- Responsibilities in providing addiction and mental health services to inmates are not clearly defined.
- Systems, practices, and resources to promote inmate mental health improvement and assist in reintegration are lacking.

What We Found

No Clear Roles and Responsibilities

In regards to providing mental health and addiction services to provincial inmates, there is:

- No clear mandate
- No defined roles and responsibilities
- No service delivery model
- Currently work being done by the Depts. of Health and Justice and Public Safety on an action plan to improve services

Lack of Treatment for Provincial Inmates

- Limited treatment provided only for immediate crisis stabilization
- No addiction treatment
- No counselling or therapy treatment for mental health issues
- Emergency services not consistently available
- Poor information sharing between government entities affects understanding and treatment

Care Ends When Incarcerated

- Discontinued care when individuals transition into custody
- Once incarcerated, prescribed medication is not always continued
- Lack of coordination between government entities to ensure continuity of care
- NB Corrections does not have mental health resources and relies on Regional Health Authority services

No Addiction and Mental Health Screening or Assessment

- Screening and assessment best practice protocols have not been implemented
- Mental health assessments are not done