



**TITLE: Segregation in Correctional Facilities and Mental and Physical Health: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines**

**DATE:** 12 August 2015

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding the effects of segregation on mental and physical health of inmates in correctional facilities?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding segregation in correctional facilities?

## **KEY FINDINGS**

No relevant literature was identified regarding the effects of segregation on mental and physical health of inmates in correctional facilities.

## **METHODS**

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including Medline, PsycINFO, PubMed, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2010 and August 6, 2015. Internet links were provided, where available.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

**Disclaimer:** The Rapid Response Service is an information service for those involved in planning and providing health care in Canada. Rapid responses are based on a limited literature search and are not comprehensive, systematic reviews. The intent is to provide a list of sources of the best evidence on the topic that CADTH could identify using all reasonable efforts within the time allowed. Rapid responses should be considered along with other types of information and health care considerations. The information included in this response is not intended to replace professional medical advice, nor should it be construed as a recommendation for or against the use of a particular health technology. Readers are also cautioned that a lack of good quality evidence does not necessarily mean a lack of effectiveness particularly in the case of new and emerging health technologies, for which little information can be found, but which may in future prove to be effective. While CADTH has taken care in the preparation of the report to ensure that its contents are accurate, complete and up to date, CADTH does not make any guarantee to that effect. CADTH is not liable for any loss or damages resulting from use of the information in the report.

**Copyright:** This report contains CADTH copyright material and may contain material in which a third party owns copyright. **This report may be used for the purposes of research or private study only.** It may not be copied, posted on a web site, redistributed by email or stored on an electronic system without the prior written permission of CADTH or applicable copyright owner.

**Links:** This report may contain links to other information available on the websites of third parties on the Internet. CADTH does not have control over the content of such sites. Use of third party sites is governed by the owners' own terms and conditions.

**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

<b>Population</b>	Inmates in correctional facilities
<b>Intervention</b>	Short-term (up to 14 days) or long term (more than 14 days) segregation (excluding solitary confinement)
<b>Comparator</b>	No segregation or after segregation
<b>Outcomes</b>	Q1: Effect of segregation on physical and mental health; Q2: Guidelines and recommendations regarding segregation in correctional facilities; guidelines regarding tools for assessing mental and physical health of inmates in segregation
<b>Study Designs</b>	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

## RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, or evidence-based guidelines regarding the effects of segregation on mental and physical health of inmates in correctional facilities were identified.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

### Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

### Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

### Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

### Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

### Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

### PREPARED BY:

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

Tel: 1-866-898-8439

[www.cadth.ca](http://www.cadth.ca)

**APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Non-Randomized Studies – Patient Characteristics**

1. Giblin Y, Kelly A, Kelly E, Kennedy HG, Mohan D. Reducing the use of seclusion for mental disorder in a prison: implementing a high support unit in a prison using participant action research. *Int J Ment Health Syst.* 2012;6(1):2-8. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3351748>  
[PubMed: PM22487212](#)

**Position Statements**

2. Restricted housing for mentally ill inmates [Internet]. Chicago: Society of Correctional Physicians; 2013. [cited 2015 Aug 10]. Available from: <http://societyofcorrectionalphysicians.org/resources/position-statements/restricted-housing-of-mentally-ill-inmates>
3. Position statement on segregation of prisoners with mental illness. Sacramento (CA): California Department of Health Care Services; 2012.

**Review Articles**

4. Metcalf H, Morgan J, Olikier-Friedland S, Resnik J, Spiegel J, Tae H, et al. Administrative segregation, degrees of isolation, and incarceration: a national overview of state and federal correctional policies [Internet]. New Haven (CT): Arthur Liman Public Interest Program. Yale Law School; 2013 Jun. [cited 2015 Aug 11]. Available from: [http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/Liman/Liman\\_overview\\_segregation\\_June\\_25\\_2013\\_TO\\_POST\\_FINAL%281%29.pdf](http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/Liman/Liman_overview_segregation_June_25_2013_TO_POST_FINAL%281%29.pdf)

**Additional References**

5. Forum on corrections research [Internet]. Ottawa: Correctional Service Canada; 2015 Mar 5. [cited 2015 Aug 11]. Available from: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research/forum/e063/e063n-eng.shtml>
6. Hastings A, Browne A, Kall K, diZerega M. Keeping vulnerable populations safe under PREA: alternative strategies to the use of segregation in prisons and jails [Internet]. Washington: National PREA Resource Center; 2015 Apr. [cited 2015 Aug 11]. Available from: <http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/library/keepingvulnerablepopulations safeunderpreaapril2015.pdf>
7. Browne A, Cambier A, Agha S. Prisons within prisons: the use of segregation in the United States. *Federal Sentencing Reporter* [Internet]. 2011 [cited 2015 Aug 11];24(1):46-9. Available from: <http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/prisons-within-prisons-segregation.pdf>
8. Farber BJ. Racial classifications and inmate housing assignments. *AELE Monthly Law J* [Internet]. 2010 [cited 2015 Aug 11];(1):301-9. Available from: <http://www.aele.org/law/2010all01/2010-1MLJ301.pdf>