

Publication**Accessibility of prison healthcare for elderly inmates, a qualitative assessment****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 4118076**Author(s)** Heidari, Raheleh; Wangmo, Zenzin; Galli, Serena; Shaw, David M.; Elger, Bernice S.**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Shaw, David](#) ; [Wangmo, Tenzin](#) ; [Heidari, Raheleh](#) ; [Elger, Bernice Simone](#) ; [Bretschneider, Wiebke](#) ; [Handtke, Violet Fleur](#) ;**Year** 2017**Title** Accessibility of prison healthcare for elderly inmates, a qualitative assessment**Journal** Journal of forensic and legal medicine**Volume** 52**Pages / Article-Number** 223-228**Mesh terms** Aged; Facility Design and Construction; Female; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Needs and Demand; Humans; Interviews as Topic; Male; Medication Adherence; Middle Aged; Patient Isolation; Prisoners, psychology; Prisons; Sick Leave; Switzerland

Aging in custody and the rising population of elderly prisoners are creating compelling challenges for criminal justice, prison and public healthcare systems. Geriatric syndrome and higher prevalence of co-morbidities amongst older inmates result in heightened vulnerability in prison environments. Empirical research addressing older adults' access to medical care in detention is scarce; therefore, this study assessed access to medical care in prison from the perspective of older prisoners in Switzerland. We interviewed a sample of 35 older inmates (average age 61 years) on their experience of healthcare accessibility in prison; data were qualitatively analysed and major themes regarding evaluation of their access to medical services were extracted. Our findings identified three barriers to accessing health services in prison including psychological obstacles, negative consequences of healthcare utilization, and environmental hurdles. We advocate facilitating older inmates' access to medical care in order to relieve the psychological burden of seeking health services in detention and adequately informing them of their right to demand these services, thereby lessening the negative consequences of their requests. We suggest further training of prison and medical staff for better management of age-related issues in prison can ease the environmental obstacles.

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