

# BELIZE

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**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**



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# BACKGROUND

- 1400 inmates.
- Higher incidence of mental health problems, substance abuse, and communicable diseases than the general population.
- Difficult to reach population: prison is the first point of contact with the health system.

# ACTIVITY

- *Medic Center* offers General Medical consultation and Rx for staff & inmates.
- *Routine screening* of chronic conditions like TB, HIV/AIDS, DM, HTN Asthma
- *Monthly visits by regional health team:* Mental, dental, maternal and child health, STI and HIV, TB units.
- *Special care unit* for HIV and AIDS, mental health.

# POSITIVE OUTCOME

- More control in the institution for the management of the conditions.
- Successful DOTS.
- Better coordination of care between prison and secondary care: referral system.
- Adequate documentation of HIV/TB cases.
- Holistic services to infected inmates.

# CONCLUSION

- Prison population offers an opportunity to evaluate the impact of a program, e.g. DOTS.
- Need for the development of an effective network to follow up on the patient when he/she leaves the institution.
- Need to improve on resources (human, material).