

Infographic

DEATH IN FRENCH PRISONS TW: VIOLENCES, SUICIDE

DEFINING "VIOLENT DEATHS"

Various natures:



Violence, homicide



Suicide



Medical poisoning

According to a study by CESDIP and CNRS researchers published in Population in 2018, in 2011 there were 178 'violent' deaths in prison. Of the 178 deaths, 123 were suicides, 28 were related to substance abuse and medical intoxication, 10 were homicides, and the causes of 17 deaths were not specified.

PREVENTING SUICIDE IN PRISON

National action plan of prevention and fight against suicide in prisons, June 15th, 2009

- Training prison staff
- Improving protection measures for suicidal prisoners
- Developing practices adapted to the specific characteristics of the prison environment
- Combating the sense of isolation and mobilising the entire "prison community"

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN PRISON

20

The number of physical assaults per day in French prisons.

8 300

The number of physical assaults between 2011 and 2018.

NATURAL DEATH IN PRISON

1990

0.98% of detainees were aged over 60.

2015

3.90% of detainees were aged over 60.



This growth reinforces the emergence of chronic diseases and pathologies causing loss of autonomy.

Since 2009: the possibility of daily support by a caregiver.

SUICIDES IN PRISON

125

is the number of prisoners who committed suicide in prisons in 2022.

The suicide rate in prisons is 7 times higher than in the general population.

France has one of the highest suicide rates in prisons in the EU-15.

Several factors :

overcrowding, lack of privacy, isolation, violence

CONMENDATIONS IN FRANCE FOR PRISON CONDITIONS LEADING TO THE DEATH OF DEFENDANTS AND DETAINEES

2006

RIVIÈRE V. FRANCE

The ECHR concludes that it is the responsibility of the State to ensure that its conditions of detention do not cause distress to its detainees, and that the State must even ensure an adequate level of psychological as well as physical well-being.

2010

RAFFRAYTADDEI V. FRANCE

Violation of article three of the Convention, as the State was responsible for providing her with appropriate medical care, and it repeatedly refused her requests to have her sentence adjusted. These refusals and the lack of appropriate facilities for her pathologies caused Virginie Raffray Taddei more distress than that inherent in detention.

2008

RENOLDE V. FRANCE

The ECHR unanimously condemns the French government for violating articles two and three of the Convention following the suicide of a prisoner.

2016

ISENC V. FRANCE

The ECHR nevertheless concluded that, given the prisoner's known history and the absence of a medical examination, the French government had failed in its obligation to protect the prisoner's right to life.