

Must prisons remain dangerous to the public's health?

Global imprisonment rates tell an important story

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A global look at national imprisonment rates (1)

Group one No indigenous concept of imprisonment
Many of the developing countries

Group two A complete breakdown in good order; prisons with prisoners in control
Several countries in South America

Group three Wider role for prisons and very large and overcrowded
Many of the countries of the former Soviet Union

A global look at national imprisonment rates (2)

Group four Where imprisonment is regarded as the last resort *Most countries of Western Europe*

Group five Where prisons can be used as much to deal with social problems as with crime *Foremost example is United States of America*

Imprisonment rates are a matter of political and public choice

Levels of imprisonment rarely have anything to do with levels of crime

Society has the choice of creating a greater or lesser dependency on criminal and penal processes

The debate should be about what kind of society do we want to live in?

Is this also the core debate of public health?