Supplementary Box 1: International Comparators

Europe

A European survey showed widely varying incidence rates of new forensic hospital orders across Europe, ranging from 1 to 4 per 100,000 per annum (Salize and Dressing, 2007). Northern European countries are fairly constant at 7 to 12 secure forensic beds (high and medium secure) per 100,000 population (Chow and Priebe, 2016).

UK

In the UK, overall detention rates in all psychiatric in-patient units under the Mental Health Act were higher for males (83.2 per 100,000 population) than females (76.1 per 100,000 population). Known rates of use of community treatment orders for males (11.4 per 100,000 population) were almost twice the rate for females (6.6 per 100,000 population) with wide variations for age groups and for black and ethnic minorities. A third of these (33%) are detained under forensic sections of the Act though not all in secure forensic hospitals. For the four years 2013-2016 admission orders under the forensic part of the Mental Health Act in England averaged 1,815 annually (3.2/100,000 per annum), with hospital orders with restrictions under section 37/41 (used in approximately the same way as not guilty by reason of insanity or not criminally responsible by reason of mental illness in other jurisdictions) averaging 446 annually (0.67/100,000 per annum) (NHS\_Digital, 2017).

Australia, New Zealand and Canada

Australian states and Canadian provinces often appear to have fewer beds and shorter lengths of stay.

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