

SHOOTING GALLERIES IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

“Do supervised injecting centres have an effect on harm reduction in areas with a high prevalence of intravenous drug use?”

INTRODUCTION

Illicit intravenous drug use/abuse is a global public health issue. One method that has been designed to reduce harm in areas with a high prevalence of intravenous drug use is the founding of Supervised Injecting Centres. Supervised injecting centres are a hygienic and safe place for using which has medical staff available to give education, and provide both primary and emergency care (Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, 2010). There are currently none of these centres in New Zealand.



EVIDENCE & FINDINGS

In the Sydney clinic over the past 10 years there has been 12,600 people access the service, 4,400 drug overdoses with not one single fatality due to the efficient emergency care provided in the clinic (Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, 2010). Statistics show that the number of used needles discarded in public have halved in the vicinity of the centre & the ambulance callouts in the area have reduced by 80% since the opening of the clinic (Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, 2010). There has however been comments from the public regarding increase in drugs & criminal activity & a lowering of the socioeconomic status of the area of the Kings Cross, Sydney Clinic.

IMPLICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Routine counselling after overdoses to prevent reoccurrence
- Provide clean equipment to reduce spread of HIV
- Provide up to date and correct education surrounding safe needle use & hygiene importance to prevent vein damage & infection
- Provide referrals to drug treatment available to address underlying causes of their addiction
- Provide a trusting environment for drug use to encourage use of these clinics & minimise street use



CONCLUSION

Research showed that there was positive effects on harm reduction for both the intravenous drug users accessing the clinic and the general public also. This was shown through overdose correction, the creation of more ambulance availability, health promotion around addiction & safe needle use and the decrease of needles and users on the streets.

REFERENCES

Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. (2010). What we do. Retrieved from <http://www.sydneymsic.com/index.php/what-we-do>

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Although supervised injecting centres have not been directly involved in my clinical experiences I have worked alongside colleagues in detox services, needle exchanges, and other drug related services and professions. My conversation with my RN partner regarding supervised injecting centres was one that really left an imprint. Initially I was shocked by the thought of this type of facility and the fact that these centres were legal but by the end of the conversation I had a much different view on the topic in terms of health promotion and harm reduction not only for users but for the general public in the areas where intravenous drug use is a problem for the community. I felt as though the fact that I am a young adult growing up in a society where illicit drugs seems somewhat socially accepted and very common really fuelled my drive to further my knowledge on these clinics as I believe they have the potential to reduce harm significantly.

I chose to present my research as a poster as I feel that I can create more awareness and increase my target audience this way. I also like the fact that short messages are likely to be remembered. Communication through brief messages are quick and targeted (Saxoprint, 2013) this means that it is more likely to reach my target audience.

REFERENCES

Saxoprint. (2013, June). Benefits of poster advertising. Retrieved from <http://www.saxoprint.co.uk/blog/benefits-of-poster-advertising/>

PICO Category	Information relating to question	Explanation
Intervention	Intravenous drug users and the public where there is a high prevalence of illicit intravenous drug use.	I have focused my population on intravenous drug users and the public where there is a high prevalence of illicit intravenous drug use present to see if having supervised injecting centres available affects harm reduction rates in these areas. I will look at articles that explore the affects that having supervised injected centres available have.
Comparison	Having supervised injecting centres present.	I will look at articles that explore the affects that not having supervised injecting centres have.
Outcome	The outcome of my research will determine if having supervised injecting centres present has a positive or negative impact on harm reduction in these areas.	Reviewing an extensive range of research articles will give me an idea on if these supervised injecting centres have a positive or negative affect on harm reduction rates on areas where illicit intravenous drug use rates are high. I will then look into what can be done to keep supervised injecting centres available or