

Attitudes about Harm Reduction Strategies Among People who Inject Drugs

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Background

Injection drug use has been associated with negative health consequences and increased rates of HIV acquisition for people who inject drugs. Harm Reduction is the idea that negative consequences can be lessened without requiring the person discontinue drug use, some techniques include syringe exchange, Methadone maintenance treatment or Suboxone treatment. Caracole, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing case management and prevention services to those living with HIV, provides syringe exchange services and Narcan distribution to people who inject drugs every Thursday evening.

Participants

Demographic data (n=7):

Age range: 25-54 years

Males: 6 Females:1

Health Data:

HIV Dx: 2

Hepatitis Dx: 3

Data Analysis

Consisted of frequency count and content analysis.

Equipment

A short ten question survey was administered via online link. The survey was also printed and handed out at an syringe service event.

Limitations

The sample surveyed was too small to draw any meaningful conclusions about the data because the target population was difficult to reach.

Methods

A survey link was provided to case managers at an AIDS service organization to administer to clients. Paper surveys were administered to volunteer participants at a syringe exchange program at the same organization.

Purpose

To explore attitudes regarding Harm Reduction techniques among people who inject drugs. This will help to clarify the needs of this population by surveying their thoughts and feelings.

Results

Attitudes regarding Harm Reduction

Have used HR: 7

Positive attitudes: 5

(Very helpful:2,Helpful:3)

Neutral attitudes: 2

Negative attitudes: 0

Conclusions & Future work

From this group surveyed, there are overall positive attitudes about Harm Reduction strategies among people who inject drugs. The difficulty around participation speaks to a bigger issue; the stigma around injection drug use that makes people hesitant to talk about it. Further work could be done in differentiating attitudes about syringe exchange versus Methadone maintenance treatment..

References

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