



Promote the use of harm reduction services

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Background

- ▶ Ukraine
- ▶ People who inject drugs (PWID)
- ▶ HIV (21.5% among PWID)

To provide insight in the potential role of the family of the PWID in the utilization of harm reduction services in order to contribute to increase the uptake of harm reduction services by the PWID in Ukraine

Theory & Methods

- ▶ Emotional support
- ▶ Practical support
- ▶ Knowledge
- ▶ Attitude

- ▶ Semi structured interviews
- ▶ Surveys

Results

- ▶ Good family relationships
- ▶ Emotional support (mother)
- ▶ Negative attitude
- ▶ Knowledge
- ▶ Practical support

- ▶ The role of family

“They do not tell me that I am a junky or that my life is over, they instead support me, let’s do something, let’s try to change something in that way they support me a lot” [IDU, male, 33 years old, 17 years of drug usage experience]

“As I see it, in the harm reduction services, family members see only negative side and effects, mostly. Even evil I would say” [professional from Kyiv, male, 6 years of experience]

Recommendations

- ▶ Education about harm reduction services
- ▶ Create positive attitudes
- ▶ Family members should promote the positive image of harm reduction services themselves

“And another very important part how the family members can be involved, they should be involved in harm reduction to promote its positive image of this programs” [professional from Sumy, male, 15 years of experience]

Before we invest millions, maybe we should test it and see if it works.



