Syringe exchange for intravenous drug users in prison

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Outline

• Evidence of Prison Needle Exchange Programs (PNSP)
• Needle Exchange Program in Switzerland’s largest remand prison
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Study population (N)</th>
<th>Injected in prison (%)</th>
<th>Shared equipment (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (New South Wales)</td>
<td>7 studies</td>
<td>31–74%*</td>
<td>70–94%†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia (South Australia)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>52%*</td>
<td>60%†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4285</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>105 women</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>&gt;1200</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>439 men, 158 women</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe‡</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union, Norway</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>0.2–34%</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1178</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>100 men, 50 women, 50 youth (25 men, 25 women)</td>
<td>10.8% of adults, 2.1% of youth</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>497 IDUs</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1044</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland, UK</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Needle and syringe exchange in prison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>#Prisons with PNSP (2010) total ± 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1 (6 stopped because of political reasons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldavia</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khirgizstan</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarusia</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxemburg</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roumania and Portugal</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2007/9</td>
<td>Pilot studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verster, WHO
## Evaluations

### Prison Needle Exchange Programs (PNSP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Incidence of HIV/HCV</th>
<th>Needle sharing</th>
<th>Drug use</th>
<th>Injecting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am Hasenberge (Germany)</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Strongly reduced</td>
<td>No increase</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basauri (Spain)</td>
<td>No seroconversion</td>
<td>Strongly reduced</td>
<td>No increase</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannöversand (Germany)</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Strongly reduced</td>
<td>No increase</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindelbank (Switzerland)</td>
<td>No seroconversion</td>
<td>Strongly reduced</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin, Germany (Lehrter Strasse</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Strongly reduced</td>
<td>No increase</td>
<td>No increase*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Lichtenberg)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lingen 1 (Germany)</td>
<td>No seroconversion</td>
<td>Strongly reduced</td>
<td>No increase</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realta (Switzerland)</td>
<td>No seroconversion</td>
<td>Single cases</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vechta (Germany)</td>
<td>No seroconversion</td>
<td>Strongly reduced</td>
<td>No increase</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vierlande (Germany)</td>
<td>No seroconversion</td>
<td>Little change or reduction</td>
<td>No increase</td>
<td>No increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Two people who had previously only inhaled heroin reported injecting drug use on single occasions. . . = No data.

Table 2: Assessments of NSPs in prisons (country)  

Jürgens, Lancet Inf Dis 2009
Proof of efficacy of needle exchange programs in prison

- Prevents HIV infection
- No negative consequences
- No increase of drug use or drug injection
- Needles not used as weapons
- Facilitate referral of drug users to drug dependence treatment programs

WHO 2007
Outline

• Evidence of Prison Needle Exchange Programs (PNSP)

• Needle Exchange Program in Switzerland’s largest remand prison
Incarceration in Switzerland

- General Population: 7 Mio
- 115 Prisons: 6084 detainees in 2009
  - 80 detainees/100’000 inhabitants
• 270 places but 570 detainees (>200% !!)  
  200 det./100’000 inhabitants  
• 3000 admissions/year  
• 94% male  
• 60% < 30 years  
• Nationalities:  
  • Swiss 10%  
  • Eastern-Europe 21%  
  • Other Europe 17%  
  • North Africa 21%  
  • Africa others 19%  
• 63% without residency permit  
• Length of stay:  
  30% < 1 week  
  50% < 1 month
Needle exchange at the prison of Champ-Dollon, CH

• Start 1996: principle of equivalence → cantonal law in 2000
• Pragmatic approach (consider the fact that drugs enter each prison in the world)
• Support of prison authorities
• At entry: Information concerning the possibility to obtain injection material for free
• Information at the medical unit (=confidentiality), then distribution at the cell door (=security)
Composition of the prevention kit ("boîte flash")

- 2 sterile syringes 1 ml with filter;
- 2 sterile needles;
- 2 tampons with alcohol;
- 2 dry tampons;
- 2 x NaCl à 1,5 ml;
- 2 x Ascorbic acid 0,5 g;

Hand-to-hand exchange
Syringe exchange at the prison of Champ-Dollon, 2001-2009

- Syringes distributed:
  - 2001: 219
  - 2002: 257
  - 2003: 263
  - 2004: 180
  - 2005: 337
  - 2006: 169
  - 2007: 168
  - 2008: 172
  - 2009: 322

- Syringes returned:
  - 2001: 0
  - 2002: 191
  - 2003: 168
  - 2004: 125
  - 2005: 287
  - 2006: 98
  - 2007: 136
  - 2008: 125
  - 2009: 268

- Number of persons:
  - 2001: 0
  - 2002: 0
  - 2003: 53
  - 2004: 32
  - 2005: 33
  - 2006: 24
  - 2007: 27
  - 2008: 36
  - 2009: 43
Problems and solutions

• Initial mistrust, fear of the syringe as potential weapon (detention officers)
  – Frequent exchanges between stake holders improved acceptance of all
  – Improvement of the culture of dialogue
  – Prison direction implicated in public health strategies

• Proportion of needles returned variable
  – Trust building
  – Let’s ask the detainees (=experts)
Problems and solutions II

• Acceptance by the detainees? Fear of denunciation?
  – Importance of confidentiality
  – Separation of the hierarchies (independence medical / prison staff) helps
  – Participative approach in the improvement process
  – Initiate other ways of syringe distribution

• Syringe sharing still exists
  – Evaluate situation properly
  – Other distribution methods (automates)?
Future

• Retractable syringes
• Different distribution modes (hand-to-hand, distribution machines, peer workers...)?
• Injection facility ??
• Improvements and evaluation of our risk reduction strategies (condom distribution, tattooing, counseling, syringe exchange, VCT,...)
Conclusions

• Needle exchange in prison:
  Is necessary and FEASABLE
  Should be implemented in every prison – worldwide!

• Good prison health is good public health!
Literature


• Prison needle exchange: Lines et al
  – Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network www.aidslaw.ca

• International Harm Reduction Development
  – Open Society Institute www.soros.org/harm-reduction

• European Network on Drugs & Infections
  – Prevention in Prisons www.endipp.net

• WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS

Thank you for your attention