ONE YEAR OF THE DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOM (DCR) IN THE CITY OF LISBON: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF HCV POSITIVE DRUG USERS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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Introduction

- Intense drug trafficking activities and public drug use occur in some Lisbon (Portugal) areas, leading to diverse negative consequences;
- The Drug Consumption Room (DCR) is placed in a problematic area in which public drug use and deficient personal care hinder public health;
- It aims to promote health education and safer drug use, NSP, as well as other relevant outcomes. This work describes the preliminary results of the DCR;

Methods

- The total sample comprised adult individuals, that routinely attended the service between December 2021 and February 2022. Data reported here was collected from medical charts and DCR's routine records, as well as other Ares do Pinhal clinical records.

Results

144 users positive for Ab-HCV

89% were males

11% were females

Concerning age, 58% were between 45-54 years, 21% between 55-64, 17% between 35-44, 2.8% between 25-34, and, 0.7% was above 65.

Most were Portuguese (N = 142, 98.6%)

1 was Brazilian

1 from Angola

Smoking consumption (64.6%)

Intravenous consumption (35.4%)

59% had fewer than 20, 9.7% between 21-60 visits and, 7% between 61-100 vists,

12% used it between 101-140 times and 2.8% between 141-184 times

Conclusions

- The number of users exceeded the expectations of the project;
- Smoked consumption was more prevalent than expected;
- Nevertheless, the 3-month preliminary follow-up showed a steady increase in injected consumption, which is expected to continue;
- Other positive outcomes, such as referral, reduction in social unrest, and better personal hygiene were identified in the DCR;
- Results highlight the importance of the DCR and its significant contribution to public health, but a continued effort should be pursued to ensure proper screening of all users.

Disclosure of Interest Statement

The authors report no conflict of interest related to the work depicted here.

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