SYMPOSIUM

Ayanda Nyathi

Community-based harm reduction services: KwaZulu Natal

[19 March 2024] Phase 2023b [July - December 2023]
Needle & syringe reach, by age
Needle & syringe distribution & return rate

![Graph showing needle & syringe distribution and return rate for eThekwin and Umgungundlovu. The graph displays the number of distributed and returned needles along with the return rate for each area. The return rate for eThekwin is 108%, and for Umgungundlovu is 95%.](#)
HIV testing & treatment cascade

- eThekwini:
  - Tested: 539
  - Newly diagnosed HIV+ve: 93
  - On ART: 89
  - Viral load done: 33
  - % HIV positive: 17%

- Umgungundlovu:
  - Tested: 262
  - Newly diagnosed HIV+ve: 42
  - On ART: 40
  - Viral load done: 13
  - % HIV positive: 16%
TB testing & treatment cascade

- eThekwini:
  - Symptom screen: 828
  - Symptomatic: 55
  - Diagnosed: 2
  - Started Rx: 1
  - Completed Rx: 1

- Umgungundlovu:
  - Symptom screen: 373
  - Symptomatic: 62
  - Diagnosed: 6
  - Started Rx: 5
  - Completed Rx: 1
HCV testing & treatment cascade

- **eThekwini**
  - HCV screen: 39
  - anti-HCV +ve: 25 (64%)
  - Confirmed infection: 20
  - Started Rx: 18
  - SVR12: 0

- **Umgungundlovu**
  - HCV screen
  - anti-HCV +ve
  - Confirmed infection
  - Started Rx
  - SVR12
  - anti-HCV %
HBV testing

HBV screen | HBsAg+ve | HBsAg+ve %
--- | --- | ---
eThekwini | 40 | 3%
Umgungundlovu | 1 | 0%
Human rights violations

Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment
Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and assaulted
Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and arrested
Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and personal photos taken without consent
Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and medication taken
Assaulted
Falsely arrested
Other
Total number of violations reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>eThekwini</th>
<th>Umgungundlovu</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and assaulted</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and arrested</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and personal photos taken without consent</td>
<td>13</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and medication taken</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assaulted</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falsely arrested</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of violations reported</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>196</td>
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</table>
All cause mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eThekwini</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umgungundlovu</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Includes 1 fatal overdose
Issues & challenges

- Clients are hesitant with drawing Viral load bloods. Female clients are resistant when it comes to doing pap smears.
- There’s a need for a Chest- X Ray van that has electricity or a generator so that we can up scale the TB services.
- Operating without a mobile van is very challenging and we cannot offer other services due to limited privacy and space.
- Clients are refusing to take PrEP they say they won’t take medication when there are not sick and especially when there are not even sexually active. Currently client’s other medication and belongings are confiscated by law enforcement therefore they are afraid of adding more medication which might end up being taken by law enforcement.
- Most of the PWID clients are taking more than one chronic medication and it becomes difficult for them to take their medication on an empty stomach. Food packs are available but unfortunately, we are unable to cater for all our clients.
- There’s a need for shelters especially for clients who have stopped taking drugs altogether because some shelters are not conducive for the clients to stay in those shelters as there are excessive drug use in some the shelters.
- We are experiencing challenges in conducting sensitization trainings with some municipal law enforcement. Station managers say that their members do not have time to attend sensitization trainings because there are outreach based and there are always on the street.
- Clients from one of the sites (Jackpot site) in Sub-District West were evicted by eThekwini municipality, the city is renovating that area, clients had to move to another location, the team is experiencing challenges with locating some of the clients who have been moved from the Jackpot site.
Successes

- The ETK hosted a 67 minutes Mandela clean-up campaign in the beach front area where OST and Outreach clients cleaned the South Beach and The Advocacy Officer invited SAPS and Metro Police to be part of this initiative.
- August 16, the psychosocial team assisted with food donation to the family of an OST client who passed away. The family had limited financial means, the Project Coordinator and the psychosocial team initiated a donation scheme where they pleaded staff members to contribute what they can afford in order to assist with the burial.
- August 31st, the team commemorated the International Overdose Awareness Day with our clients and various stakeholders. The objective was to educate them on identifying signs of overdose and helping individuals in such situations. The event drew significant attendance, with over 150 clients and stakeholders from Durban participating.
- September 15, 2023, an event was held to observe Suicide Prevention Month/Sport Day. The event comprised two sessions: the first focused on education about suicide, while the second session featured various sports games.
- We have hosted an event for WWID at our Drop-in Centre and provided them with health education. We also provided them with Hygiene packs and sleeping bags provided by our Donors.
- To address our beneficiaries being evicted without notice by municipal officers. We conducted a sensitisation trainings and forged partnerships with Municipal officers to prevent our beneficiaries from being evicted.
- We have successfully re-opened the site at uMngeni Sub-District. This has been achieved through multiple consultation and community engagement also roping in the Mayor of uMngeni to assist us with the engagements. These interventions were fruitful as the site is now functioning.
- We have observed an increasing relationship between us and the facilities we work with around all the sub-districts (uMgeni, Richmond, Msunduzi and Mooi Mpofana). This is through a series of sensitisations and data collaboration and working together to provide a comprehensive service to our beneficiaries.
UMBILIO SAPS HOSTED A WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT

TB HIV CARE HOSTED A WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT
The eThekwini team hosted a Christmas Party for the PWID clients.
Acknowledgements