SYMPOSIUM

Mildrett Stevens

Community-based harm reduction services: Western Cape

Needle & syringe reach, by gender

Cape Town

- Male: 82%
- Female: 18%
- Trans: 0%
- Total reach: 1593

Reach %
- 0%
- 20%
- 40%
- 60%
- 80%
- 100%

Total reach
- 0
- 500
- 1000
- 1500
- 2000
Needle & syringe reach, by population group

### Cape Town

**Reach %**
- Black African: 3%
- Coloured: 88%
- Indian: 0%
- White: 9%

**Total reach**
- 1593

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**Total reach**
- 0
- 500
- 1000
- 1500
- 2000

**Cape Town**

- Black African
- Coloured
- Indian
- White
- Total reach
Needle & syringe reach, by age

- Total reach: 47% (1593)
- Cape Town: 45%
Needle & syringe distribution & return rate

Cape Town

- Distributed: 749010
- Returned: 601302
- Return rate: 80%

Graph showing needle & syringe distribution in Cape Town.
HIV testing & treatment cascade

Cape Town

- Tested: 486
- Newly diagnosed HIV+ve: 33
- On ART: 2
- Viral load done: 22
- % HIV positive: 8%

HIV yield (%)
HCV testing & treatment cascade

Cape Town

- HCV screen: 36
- anti-HCV +ve: 21 (58%)
- Confirmed infection: 18
- Started Rx: 12
- SVR12: 0

- anti-HCV %: 0
HBV testing

Cape Town

HBV screen  HBsAg+ve  HBsAg+ve %

36 0% 0%
Human rights violations

Cape Town

- 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
Opioid substitution therapy

Cape Town

- On OST (start of period): 153
- Re/Started OST: 77
- Exited/dropped out: 55
- Died: 0
- On OST (end of period): 175
Mortality & overdose

Cape Town

- All deaths
- Fatal overdoses
Issues & challenges

- The absence of a full Harm reduction pack.
- Starting the new grant period late (19 April 2022)
- No reaching the full quarterly target
- Not returning needles as clients held onto it.
- The preference of orange needles over pink needles.
- Clients not being able to access shelters due to institutions misunderstanding of heroin and OST.
- The clients are not that eager to enter the premises of The Haven to go and access their dosages.
- Not having a space in Bellville as the capacity is increasing for OST clients. Clients’ needs more individual counselling and support and placement for safe space for shelter.
- Having only 1 OST nurse.
- Having only one HTS tester
- OST traveling money - clients can’t attend doctor’s appointment or pick up medication.
- OST nurse experienced an injury on duty and as a result were off for long periods of time.
- Clients behavior causing damage to property and persons
- Delayed appointment timeframes for new staff
Successes

✓ Appointment of a social worker in the programme.
✓ Reaching our HTS targets
✓ Linking to care as a result of facility buy-in of Nimart nurse initiating form the premises
✓ Movie day on Wednesdays for clients. It assists with retention.
✓ Food packs distribution to OST initiates, ART & TB linking
✓ OST traveling budget assist with adherence
✓ Staff members of J&M and CCID has been trained on needle pick-up, continues to do needle pick-ups.
✓ Facilities allowing Nimart nurse to initiate form their premises.
✓ To render psychosocial support to people who are using drugs (PWUD’s)
✓ Facilitated more family support groups which resulted in greater client retention on the OST program.
Acknowledgements