Update on Community-based harm reduction services in Nelson Mandela Bay
Jan – Jun 2020 (2020a)
Overview

• Background to injecting drug use
• Summary of services provided by the Step Up Project
• Data from service delivery (Jan – Jun 2020)
• Conclusion and Recommendations
Background

• The People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) projects aims to decrease and prevent the spread of HIV, TB and other blood-borne diseases by providing comprehensive harm reduction and HIV prevention programme to the PWID community.

• The use of contaminated injecting equipment has shown high risks of transmission of blood-borne diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis.
The Step Up project provides*:

- Needle and syringe services
- HIV testing and counseling & referrals, including ART
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections
- Condom distribution
- Information, education and communication (IEC) material
- Prevention of tuberculosis (TB)
- Peer Educators deliver services to PWID twice weekly
- Prevention and education
- Psychosocial Support
- Overdose Prevention
- Wound care
- Advocacy and Human Rights

*As recommended by the WHO
Data

People Who Inject Drugs
Nelson Mandela Bay

Jan – Jun 2020
2019a
Characteristics of people who use drugs who accessed needle and syringe services NMB Jan - Jun 2020 n=346

Demographics

No. of contact 1894

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>TGM</th>
<th>Black African</th>
<th>Indian</th>
<th>Coloured</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Unique Clients</td>
<td>79% 275</td>
<td>20% 70</td>
<td>1% 1</td>
<td>20% 68</td>
<td>1% 3</td>
<td>11% 39</td>
<td>61% 211</td>
<td>0% 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age distribution of people who use drugs who accessed needle and syringe services NMB Jan – Jun 2020 n346

- 16-24: 12% (40)
- 25-35: 51% (175)
- 36-50: 33% (115)
- 50+: 4% (16)
Needle distribution and return rate Nelson Mandela Bay
Jan - Jun 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Needles Distributed</th>
<th>Needles Returned</th>
<th>Return Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>15180</td>
<td>2055</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>19890</td>
<td>2595</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>20970</td>
<td>2355</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>11955</td>
<td>1620</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>16335</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>10365</td>
<td>1725</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Human rights violations reported in NMB
Jan – Jun 2020 n=37

- Refused services: 3
- Assaulted (hit, thrown, kicked, etc): 0
- Humiliated, chased away, harassed: 4
- Confiscated/destroyed needles: 0
- Sexual assault/rape: 14
- Killed: 7
- Treated badly in police: 0
- Driven around in van without: 0
- Not allowed visitors, phone call or: 3
- Unlawful arrest/detention: 1
- Reported case but no progress: 2
- Issued a fine/forced to pay a fine: 3
- Total number of violations reported: 37
HIV treatment Cascade NMB Jan – Jun 2020

- Total PWID tested: 153
- HIV positive: 6 (9%)
- Referred: 7 (77%)
- Confirmed linked to care: 2 (29%)
- Confirmed on ART: 3 (43%)
- Confirmed virally suppressed: 0
PWID TB treatment cascade NMB Jan – Jun 2020

- PWID Screened: 154
  - 2% Suspected: 3
  - 100% TB confirmed: 0
  - 100% Started TB Rx: 0
  - 0 Cured
Richmond Hill Scenario

• Services have been suspended in Richmond Hill from July 2019 because of the complaints that the programme attracts street dwellers and this has increased crime in the area.

• This is one of the biggest PWID sites in NMB.

• There has been a decrease of clients met in the area data to be shared in the next SACENDU meeting.

• Outreach team still does regular clean ups twice a day because clients still congregate in the area as much as they do not receive services and needles picked up in this area has increased and the needle return rate has decreased due to not constantly meeting the clients.
Conclusions

• There has been a decrease on the number of clients reached due to services suspended in one of the busiest sites.
• During the December period clients move from one city to another making it hard to access them.
• Number of needles returned has increased to 83%.
• Number of human rights violation has increased due to having an advocacy officer who is dedicated ensuring that clients are treated fairly.

Recommendations

• Initiation on treatment to clients by the SR should be looked in to so as the programme is the first contact with clients it will make things easy and also ensure that clients adhere to treatment.
Thank you!

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Supported by:

NACOSA

stepUP PROJECT