

Stimulant use harms and interventions: what we know and where to next

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Harms arising from stimulant use continue to grow globally, presenting major challenges to health services in many parts of the world. Sustained and comprehensive strategies are needed to reduce mortality and non-fatal harms (poor mental health, violence, injury, sexually transmitted infections and blood borne virus risk). No effective pharmacotherapies are available to help people reduce stimulant use. Psychosocial interventions can be effective, but impacts are modest and treatment coverage is low. Contingency management is currently the most effective treatment approach, but it has not been widely implemented. Generic approaches to address mental health and blood borne virus infection risk could be tailored to reduce harms associated with stimulant use. A substantial and sustained investment is needed to develop more effective interventions to reduce stimulant-related harms.