

FACTORING HARM REDUCTION SERVICES IN A ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR KEY POPULATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Background:

Beyond Zero established a One-Stop-Shop (OSS) in Bloemfontein to cater for the diverse and intersecting needs of men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender (TG) people, sex workers (SWs) and people who use drugs (PWUD). The integrated service delivery model incorporates harm reduction as a way of minimising adverse health outcomes arising from drug use. This abstract reports the outcomes of the innovative OSS approach on PWUD.

Description of model of care/intervention/program:

The OSS attracts key populations (KPs) through engaging recreational programs and interactive media. Once inside, clients receive a range of services either directly or through referrals, including clinical and psycho-social services encompassing HIV testing, cervical cancer screening, TB and STI screening, needle and syringe programs, safer sex education, substance use counselling, and mental health support, condom and lubricant provision and documentation of human rights violations.

Effectiveness:

In three months, the OSS serviced 401 clients, comprising 93 MSM (23.2%), 111 TG (27.6%), 117 SWs (29.1%), and 80 PWUD (20.2%). All clients were screened for drugs and 321 (80%) had ever used drugs. A total of 224 (56%) clients were currently using drugs and 90 (40%) clients had been provided with harm reduction services. A total of 134 clients were referred for services outside the OSS. All 401 clients were counselled about drug use or potential drug use. Additionally, 143 clients (36%) underwent HIV testing, with 108 (76%) testing negative, 12 (3%) testing positive and successfully linked to ART. Additionally, 21 clients were initiated on PrEP.

Conclusion and next steps:

Factoring harm reduction services into the OSS for key populations may be an effective strategy in addressing multi-faceted health needs, enhancing service satisfaction and health outcomes of key populations. The integrated service delivery framework meets the immediate health needs of potential PWUD, and PWUD associates which fosters an environment of holistic care and support.