

Practice based/ Service Delivery Abstract Template

Submissions must not exceed 300 words (excluding title & authors), an extra 50 words are given **only** to submissions who answer the optional point. The document **must not** be password protected or saved as read only as this may result in your abstract failing to upload successfully. Use Arial 11 point type only. Please structure your submission using the subheadings below. If the abstract does not fit the headings, please put full abstract beneath introduction and we will remove the headings once submitted.

The South Australian Drug Early Warning System (SADEWS) – A ‘room with a view’ to drug trends

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Background:

SADEWS commenced in 2010 to share information between Health, SA Police (SAPOL), Forensic Science SA (FSSA) and Drug Policy. A previous research program, the SA Designer Drug Early Warning System¹ was the precursor to the system's development that resulted in this collaboration.

Description of Model of Care/Intervention:

SADEWS is an informal network of state government agencies with an interest in drug use in the community, developed to ensure that information on new drugs or potentially dangerous new trends in the use of drugs, is shared in a timely manner.

SADEWS representation includes SAPOL, SA Health (Drug and Alcohol Services, South Australia Ambulance Service and Emergency Physicians from Adelaide's four major hospitals), FSSA and the University of South Australia, involving input from clinicians, data analysts, pharmacologists/toxicologists, senior police and forensic scientists.

The principles of SADEWS include confidentiality of shared information and associated discussions, consensus on which agencies/services and/or community groups information should be shared with.

Underlying these is a high levels of trust, and minimal protocol, to ensure information is delivered in a timely and efficient manner.

SADEWS meets face to face at least six monthly. Communications occur electronically on an as needed basis, responding to emerging issues uncovered by any of the representative agencies.

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation:

¹ Designer Drug Early Warning System (D2EWS) 12 month Technical Report 2006. Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia [Monograph+19-DASSA-Feb2013.pdf \(sahealth.sa.gov.au\)](#). accessed 12 May 2024.

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Early background documents have been reviewed and summarized, to provide context.

Communications across SADEWS since inception have been analysed - which agencies or community groups were the users of the information, which were the sources of the information, what the nature of the information was, what types of public health messaging (either general public health announcements or more targeted risk group communications) resulted.

Conclusion and Next Steps:

SADEWS represents a useful model for a local state based network which ensures information is released to relevant agencies (including emergency departments, drug policy, Police) and where appropriate to targeted community groups (via Needle and Syringe Programs and Peer Networks, dance party networks, etc). The model provides important illustrations of process that could be adopted in any Australian jurisdiction.

Implications for Practice or Policy

None in addition to above.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: No interests declared