

Drug consumption rooms (DCR)

More than a place to use drugs

Dirk Schäffer, Head of Division Drug Use, Prison & JES

Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e.V., Berlin

Dirk.schaeffer@dah.aidshilfe.de

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DCR - overview Germany

- 22 DCR (2 further in 2019 Berlin/Karlsruhe)
- 2 **mobile DCR** (Berlin)
- unique DCR for **female drug users** in Hamburg

- ⊖ only 7 of 16 federal states provide DCR
- ⊖ cities with high prevalence of PWUD & DRD (Munich, Nuremburg, Stuttgart) does not offer DCR

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DCR – the sensible triangle of goals

Health goals

- prevention of HIV, HCV and drug-related diseases such as abscesses.
- prevention of OD and DRD
- Changing of drug use behavior (inhaling instead of injecting)

Regulatory Goals

- Invisibility of drug use and of users in the public

Drug treatment goals

- change the current situation (transfer to OST)

Concepts and service provision

- **DCRs in germany are integrated in harm reduction facilities**
(OST, counselling, café area, provision of paraphernalia, etc)
- Opening hours between 3,5 and 23 hours a day and a capacity of 3 to 20 places/seats.
- Most DCR include people in OST (new laws)
- Most of them provide rooms for different forms of application (snorting, injecting, inhaling)

DCR – the effects

- DCR offer every day thousands of PWUD access to low threshold services
- DCR reduced the number of PWUD in public settings
- **but.....**
- 35% increase of DRD since 2012 (also higher numbers in DCR cities)
- No evidence that DCR reduce the number of HIV/HCV infec.
- The german drug service system and the medical system were strictly separated (only wound care in DCR)

DCR – the effects

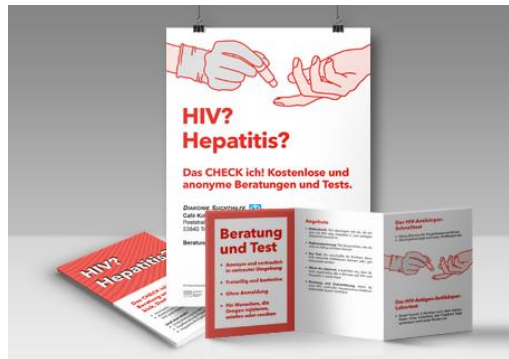
Due to the fact that testing rates and ARV Rates were low we initiated processes to include medical services in DCR and low threshold services

Today we have a few DCR and LT services which have HIV/HCV counselling and testing services.

HCV/HIC testing & treatment in DCR

New german pilot project
„HIV? Hepatitis? Das CHECK ich!“

- started 01.01.2018, 18 month
- 6 cities (only states who are interested to continue after pilot phase)
- 5 DCR 1 low threshold center
- CT + bridge to treatment



DCR - a setting to address HCV ?

- Online survey 2016; 91 DCR / 54% response
- HCV prevalence among DCR clients rather high:
63 % in Germany or 43 % in Spain
- 2/3 (65 %, n=31) DCRs offered HCV testing onsite, as well as pre- and post-test counselling
- German DCR need to step up their efforts in counseling, Testing and Treatment. Pilots like “TEST IT” have shown that DCR can be a important factor

Conclusions

- DCRs can be a low-threshold HCV treatment provider for PWID
- We have to train/qualify staff
- We need doctors who are willing to work in low threshold settings
- DCR need money for the implementation of HIV/HCV counselling and testing services with the possibility to start a treatment .
- Low threshold and DCR are very important factors to reach these PWUD we have not reached so far.



Uniting



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Drug use
with or without DCR



Thanks