

EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFE HARM REDUCTION SPACES FOR PERSONS WHO INJECT DRUGS LIVING WITH HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS CO-INFECTIONS IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

Presented By

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Presentation Outline

- ❖ **Immense Appreciation** (*PWUID Community Research Participants*)
- ❖ **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
- ❖ **Research BackGround** (*Problem description/ motivation*)
- ❖ **Description of Model of Care**
- ❖ **Effectiveness**
- ❖ **Conclusion**
- ❖ **Next Steps**

Immense Appreciation (*PWUID Community Research Participants*)

- ❖ ' I want to begin by acknowledging and thanking the over 200 persons who inject drugs and their injecting/sexual partners who have generously participated in the support group model operational research in Lagos, Nigeria '**

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- ❖ " I do not have any conflict of Interest concerning my work and presentation "

Background

- ❖ **Current information findings from the World Health Organization WHO , states that viral hepatitis B, C&D is a deadly contagious virus which has more virulence and devastating complications than HIV .However, there is no national prevalence study on Hep B,C &D in Nigeria conducted till date due to criminalization of PWID safe spaces and hindering advocacy for access to treatment support.**
- ❖ **Aim of study is to reduce impact of inadequate access to Viral hepatitis treatment services amongst People Who Inject Drugs(PWIDs) living with HIV through strengthening local capacity of PWID community-led services to promote safe healthy spaces.**

Description of Model of Care:

Using success gained from our harm reduction community awareness program (*Making Harm Reduction Fit For Purpose In Nigeria MHRFP-N*) in previous sites in Lagos state- Nigeria in year 2017/2018 , NNPUD trained and engaged the services of 10 PWIDs_LHIV /HBV role models from the 10 allotted districts. They were trained in community based harm reduction and encouraged to form 10 support groups of 20 PWIDs_LHIV/HBV each (200). They were serviced with lists (phone numbers, locations) of defaulters. Their activities on a weekly basis included:

- ❖ - Linkages of PWID_LHIV and sexual/injecting partners to peer support groups for effective messaging on viral hepatitis;
- ❖ - Escort services to HIV/Viral Hepatitis treatment department in the health facilities to reduce stigma;
- ❖ - Scaling up of Condom/Lubricants/Needle/Syringes Distribution;
- ❖ - Home based support services.

Effectiveness:

At the end of the 9months:

- ❖ **90% of 200PWID_LHIV/HBV clients reached willingly allowed their sexual partners to access HIV/Viral Hepatitis testing & treatment if identified HIV positive.**
- ❖ **90% of 200PWID_LHIV/HBV clients reached willingly re-enrolled into HIV/Viral Hepatitis Treatment .**
- ❖ **90% of 200PWID_LHIV/HBV clients on HIV /Hepatitis Treatment reached achieved Viral suppression.**
- ❖ **90% of 200PWID_LHIV/HBV clients reached are knowledgeable in HIV/Viral Hepatitis Treatment Adherence Literacy.**

Conclusion

- ❖ The research created a learning platform to promote advocacy for safe spaces for community support groups of PWIDs_LHIV/HBV which enhanced behavior change.

Next Steps:

- ❖ **NNPUD and its member organizations will be advocating for effective treatment access by promoting community-led organizing of affected community in Nigeria.**

For more information

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

