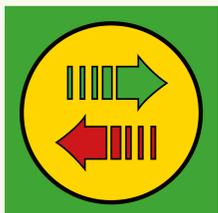


PUBLIC HEALTH

East Riding of Yorkshire Community Needle Exchange Service PROMOTING AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2017
FINALIST MJ

BACKGROUND

The East Riding of Yorkshire community needle exchange service was designed to meet the needs of different types of drug users, promote safe injecting and prevent the spread of blood borne viruses, link drug users to treatment service and other types of help.

METHODS

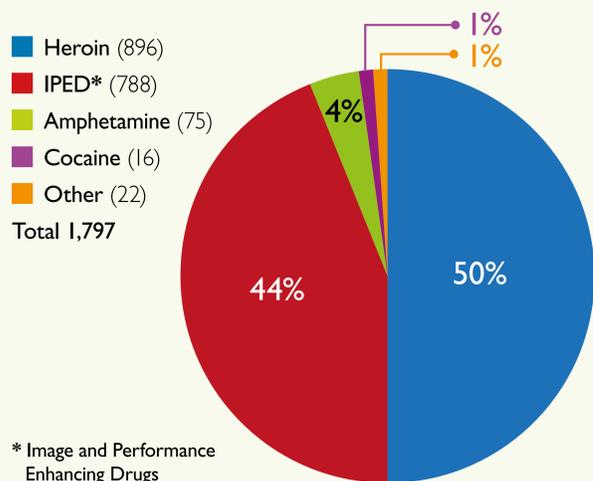
The needle exchange service works through providing standard, colour coded packs meeting the needs of different types of drug use and is managed through PharmOutcomes, a secure, confidential, web-based programme developed for pharmacy services.

ACTIVITY

From January 2014 to December 2017:

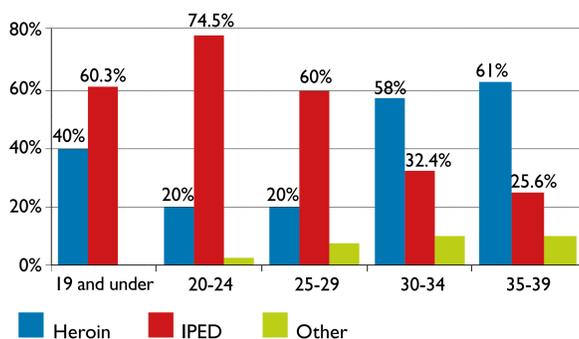
- ▶ Injecting behaviour: 43% of heroin injectors reported using the yellow pack (1ml insulin needle for superficial veins) while 18.5% reported using the grey (2ml long blue needles) and green (2ml long blue and green needles) packs, used for deep veins and muscles, which suggests groin injecting.
- ▶ Transactions: 28,407 transactions were registered by community pharmacies.
- ▶ 44,733 needle exchange packs distributed.
- ▶ Bins returned: 28,407.

Registrations, 2014-17

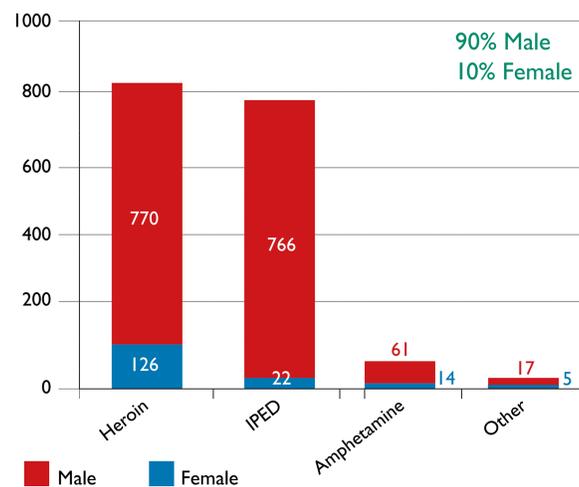


DEMOGRAPHICS

Percentage of heroin and IPED injectors aged 19-39



Registrations per gender, 2014-17

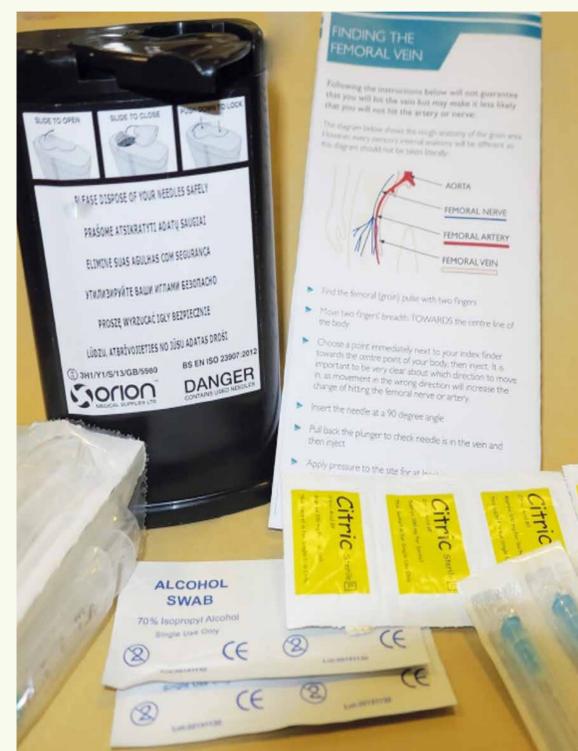


Cost effective. There are 1,797 people registered with the needle exchange from 2014-2017 and costs around £100k a year to run, including the costs of collecting and disposing of the used needles. There is the potential to avoid significant future healthcare costs to be between £10,000 and £42,000 per person per year – so the needle exchange only needs to prevent 5-10 infections a year to be cost effective.



WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT NEEDLE EXCHANGES IN THE EAST RIDING?

- ▶ The design and use of PharmOutcomes, although not unique, allows commissioners detailed performance and usage information.
- ▶ The colour pack is fast and easy for the pharmacists to administer.
- ▶ The service is easy to understand for users.
- ▶ The packs can be used to provide information on particular concerns or campaigns. The different packs have leaflets designed for particular types of drug use.



CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ The design of the service maximises the role of pharmacies by providing a simple but flexible way of meeting demand for different types of injecting.
- ▶ The use of a web-based contract management tool has made the service cost effective, easy to administer and reduced the burden on community pharmacies.
- ▶ Cost effective as it helps to reduce demand on health services.
- ▶ The needle exchange service promotes health improvement messages to drug users not in contact with treatment services.

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