

Stopping the Hepatitis C Virus Epidemic among Young Persons Who Inject Drugs

Classic approaches

- Surveillance
- Testing
 - All adults
 - Yearly testing of high-risk populations
 - Every person undergoing HIV test
- Sentinel markers
 - Overdose
 - Opioid use and treatment
 - Emergency medical services
 - Law enforcement
- Outreach to high-risk populations: engagement, education, empowerment, services: prevention, testing, treatment, prevention

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Five Pillars

- Overdose training and naloxone distribution
- Syringe services programs
- Medication-assisted treatment
- HIV treatment
- Hepatitis C treatment

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1. Overdose training and naloxone distribution

- Stop the immediate mortality
- Establish rapport with target community
- Establish the model of public health intervention with people who use drugs
 - For policymakers, clinicians, public health agencies, law enforcement, and people using drugs
 - Understand the role and the importance of public health intervention with people who use drugs

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2. Syringe services programs

- Stop the transmission of HCV and HIV
- Strengthen the public health model for working with people who use drugs as a lifesaving activity
- Establish an ongoing connection with target population
 - two-way communication
 - information
 - referrals

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3. Medication-assisted treatment

- Stop the craving
- Stop the immediate need that can overwhelm all other priorities
- Relief for the desperate
- Further establish public health intervention as a legitimate and lifesaving medical activity

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4. HIV treatment

where HIV is transmitted through injection drug use

- Treatment as treatment
- Treatment as prevention
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis

5. Hepatitis C treatment

- Treatment as cure
- Treatment as prevention

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Guiding principles

1. Consequential anthropology

- Ongoing information about lives and experiences of target community
- Explore potential intervention strategies
- Ongoing feedback on how interventions are being received

2. Community engagement

- Involve members of the target community as partners
- Explore potential intervention strategies
- Two-way dialogue and education

Framework for Stopping the Hepatitis C Virus Epidemic among Young Persons Who Inject Drugs

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Guiding principles

- Consequential anthropology
- Community engagement