

IDHDP Newsletter

Volume 7

October 12



our aims

Increase the participation of medical doctors in drug policy reform

Dear colleague,

Welcome to the IDHDP October 2012 newsletter, particular welcome to our new members.

Highlights:

- IDHDP conference presentation
- Discussion forum
- Linking with other IDHDP members
- Upcoming events
- News
- Publications
- Communications (Facebook and Twitter)

IDHDP conference presentation

IDHDP presentation at the Society for the Study of Addiction 2012 Symposium: “The need for doctors to promote healthy drug policies to improve health and drug treatment”

Date: November 9, 2012 at 9am

Where: Park Inn, York, UK

Presenter: Chris Ford, Clinical Director, International Doctors for Healthy Drug Policies

Discussion forums

Help expose the scandal of HCV in people who use drugs

It is clear that HIV prevalence is fuelled by the war on drugs and the criminalization of people who inject drugs. This was excellently shown in the Global Commission on Drug Policy report "[The War on Drugs and HIV/AIDS: How the Criminalization of Drug Use Fuels the Global Pandemic](#)"

But the link between HCV prevalence and drug policy is not as clear and needs greater investigation and policy responses. We would like your help in collecting the evidence that is available and to examine the barriers preventing good strategies to improve health and,

particularly, to reduce the morbidity and mortality of HCV. We are particularly interested in how drug policy shifts have or can improve this.

Please send information on what is happening in your region/country to [Rebecca](#) and/or include on the [discussion forum](#)

Linking with other IDHDP members in your country

To help assist members network with each other, Rebecca will soon send you a short introductory e mail including the names and e mail addresses of IDHDP members in your country. This could be a good opportunity for you to invite other colleagues not listed to join IDHDP. Please help spread the word and direct colleagues to our [website](#) for more information and to [register](#).

If you do not wish to have your name shared with other doctors in your country. Please notify [Rebecca](#) before 12th November.

Upcoming events

If you would like to introduce IDHDP to fellow delegates at conferences you attend please use the [presentation slide](#) and the [membership flyer](#).

Society for the Study of Addiction 2012 Symposium (8 – 9 Nov) York, UK

Themes of the conference include: “Emerging challenges in addiction psychiatry; Alcohol: harms, interventions and policy; The research base for policy and recovery.”

IDHDP presentation: November 9, information above.

54th ICAA International Conference on Alcohol and Addictions (12-16 Nov) Montreal, Canada

The theme of the conference: “Thinking Across Addictions, Acting Across Borders”

9th National Harm Reduction Conference: From Public Health to Social Justice (15-18 Nov) Portland, Washington

The conference is focused on improving the health of people who use drugs. Delegates from around the U.S. will discuss critical issues affecting the drug using community including overdose, HIV, hepatitis, incarceration and stigma.

Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health (21-22 March 2013) Chicago, Illinois

The Correctional Health Conference provides a forum for researchers, clinicians, administrators, educators, policy makers, and grant funding leaders to network, share evidence, and learn about emerging research and relevant policy updates in the field of correctional health care.

International Harm Reduction Conference 2013 (9 – 12 July 2013) Vilnius, Lithuania

This international conference is a key event for all those interested in harm reduction around the world. The 2013 conference will include high profile Keynote speeches, Plenary Sessions, Major Sessions, Concurrent Sessions, Workshops and a Film Festival. Abstracts are being accepted until Nov. 30.

Members meeting alert: We're planning an IDHDP members' meeting at the conference. Further information will follow.

News

Community Consultation: 2013 WHO Consolidated ARV Guidelines: Help make sure the voices of civil society and communities are heard in determining which ARVs are available and how they are provided in the future. [Further information](#)

Amsterdam tourist cannabis ban rejected by mayor: The mayor of Amsterdam says he will not ban foreign tourists from using the city's famous cannabis cafes, after months of argument over new drug laws. [full article](#)

Time to think again on narcotics: Norway tops the European statistics for drug overdose deaths, and, while Portugal has achieved good results from decriminalising narcotics use in 2001, continues to lag far behind. [full article](#)

Governing The Global Drug Wars: "How did this drug control system arise, why has it proven so durable in the face of failure, and is there hope for reform?" [full article](#)

New Publications on the IDHDP website

New documents uploaded this month (click on the document title to read the full publication)

HIV among people who inject drugs in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia: a systematic review with implications for policy

This review is the most comprehensive synthesis of HIV prevalence and risk factors among PWID in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to date and is complemented by a clear synopsis of the state of the national policy environments and responses to HIV for people who inject drugs.

An urgent need to scale-up injecting drug harm reduction services in Tanzania: Prevalence of blood-borne viruses among drug users in Temeke District, Dar-es-Salaam, 2011

Injecting drug use (IDU) is a growing concern in Tanzania compounded by reports of high risk injecting and sexual risk behaviours among people who inject drugs (PWID).

US Office of National Drug Control Policy releases briefing on medication-assisted treatment

The US Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has released a new briefing on options for the treatment of opioid dependence, including guidance on the use of methadone and buprenorphine.

A Fresh Approach to Drugs: the final report of the UK Drug Policy Commission

UKDPC proposes a radical rethink of how we structure our response to drug problems. It provides an analysis of the evidence for how policies and interventions could be improved, with recommendations for policymakers and practitioners to address the new and established challenges associated with drug use.

South-East Asia Opium Survey 2012 - Lao PDR, Myanmar

Myanmar opium poppy cultivation jumped 17 per cent in 2012 to 51,000 hectares (up from 43,000 ha in 2011) in spite of Government figures showing that 23,717 ha of opium poppy has been eradicated - more than three times the 7,058 ha it eradicated in 2011

Can needle and syringe programmes and opiate substitution therapy achieve substantial reductions in hepatitis C virus prevalence?

A simulation model for the UK and other countries was used to estimate the impact on the spread of hepatitis C virus of scaling-up opiate substitution therapy and high coverage needle and syringe programmes.

The role of opioid substitution treatment in reducing HIV transmission

Editorial in the BMJ states what is well-known: that the risks for people who use drugs and the wider community are substantially reduced with opioid substitution treatment

Improving targeted screening for Hepatitis C in the UK

BMJ editorial on the important role that primary care practitioners can play in improving targeted screening for Hepatitis

IDPC's response to the UNODC World Drug Report 2012

IDPC provides an overview of the data and topics presented in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s World Drug Report, and where appropriate, within the broader context of the current state of the UN drug control framework, offers a critical analysis of both.

Accessing Hepatitis C patients who are difficult to reach: it is time to overcome barriers

With the arrival of simple, efficient and safe interferon-free treatment regimens, hepatitis C virus (HCV) therapy will have the potential to be successfully used for the majority of infected patients and prevent associated morbidity and mortality. With the current treatment uptake rates, only a very small proportion of HCV-infected patients are reached. Paradoxically, treatment rates are lowest in the most affected at-risk group – people who inject drugs (PWID) – which is the major driving force behind the spread of HCV infection.

Test and treat this silent killer

The scourge of the hepatitis C virus in the United States is woefully underestimated. Brian R. Edlin states it is time the infection is given the priority it demands.

Prevalence of common chronic respiratory diseases in drug misusers: a cohort study

This study demonstrates increased respiratory disease in people who use drugs, but the structure of this study could under-report the respiratory issues in people receiving care in specialised substance misuse or shared care clinics.

Retrospective accounts of injection initiation in intimate partnerships

Narrative data collected from semi-structured ethnographic interviews with 25 relatively stable drug-using couples from two New York City areas. The analyses, concentrates on the retrospective accounts of the initiation to injection in current or former intimate partnerships.

African HIV in Prisons Partnership Network

African HIV in Prisons Partnership Network April Newsletter 2012

HCV documents

There have been a number of new HCV documents added to the [website](#), select "hepatitis" in the *Category* drop down menu.

IDHDP communications

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter. We now have over 400 followers! If you are a member of Twitter please search for us at [@idhdp](#), or if you do not wish to join Twitter you can check the [IDHDP home page](#) to read our latest tweets.

Facebook

Don't forget to like our Facebook page and to share the link with your colleagues.


Newsletter

Please send the newsletter on to your colleagues and encourage them to join IDHDP.

With best wishes,

Chris, Holly and Rebecca

IDHDP team

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