The forgotten group: a new HIV outbreak amongst people who inject drugs

Patricia Anderson Lead CNS BBV Brownlee Centre

No conflicts to declare



PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW







Potted History

- 1981 Modern wave of drug misuse Glasgow soared from 34-174 (heroin)
- 1983 outbreak of HIV among IV drug users in Edinburgh: over 60%infected in 6 months
- 1987 First needle exchange set up in Edinburgh -1989 Glasgow
- 1988 Methadone prescribing introduced in Edinburgh by GP's – 1992 Glasgow

Needle exchange 1989

- Pharmacy needle exchange rejected by Scottish Health Minister
- Hospital gate 2 half days inaccessible
- Easterhouse drug project evening
- 5 months later moved to Easterhouse Health Centre
 - 100 clients daily
- Replicated in other parts of the city
- 5 needles on first visit 15 subsequent visits

Glasgow Drug Crisis Centre

- Opened 1994
- City Centre accessible to all comers
- "One stop" facility, homelessness, physical and mental health, legal and child care issues
- 24 hour needle exchange
- In1997/1998 over 3,000 individuals used the service

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Greater Glasgow and Clyde



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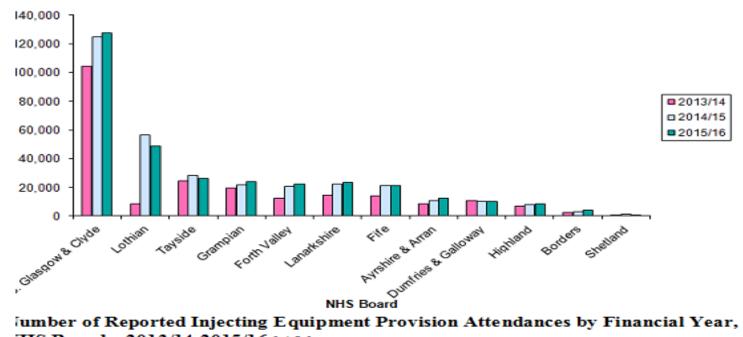
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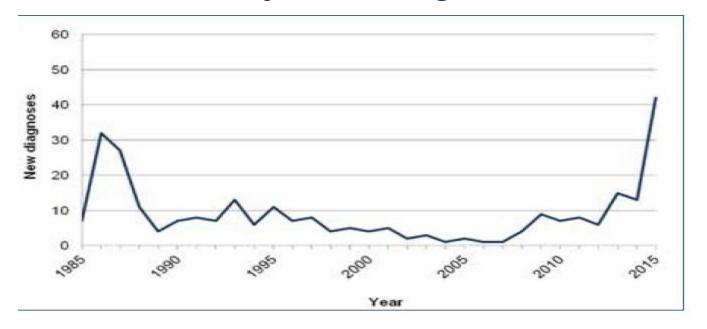
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lumber of Reported Injecting Equipment Provision Attendances by Financial Year, IHS Boards; 2013/14-2015/16 3,4,5,6

New HIV diagnoses among people who inject drugs GGC





PWID HIV outbreak

- 120 new infections since November 2014 amongst PWIDs in Glasgow city
 - -2015=48
 - -2016=30
 - -2017=37
 - 2018=5 (to May)
 - Extensive use of IEP services
 - Epidemiologically and virologically linked
- Clade C virus

PWIDs - 'Socially excluded'

- Homelessness
- Addictions
- Criminalisation
 - Drugs/sex work
- Financial
- Barriers to accessing healthcare
 - traditional model of care
- High rates of violence (*women)
 - drug/debt related

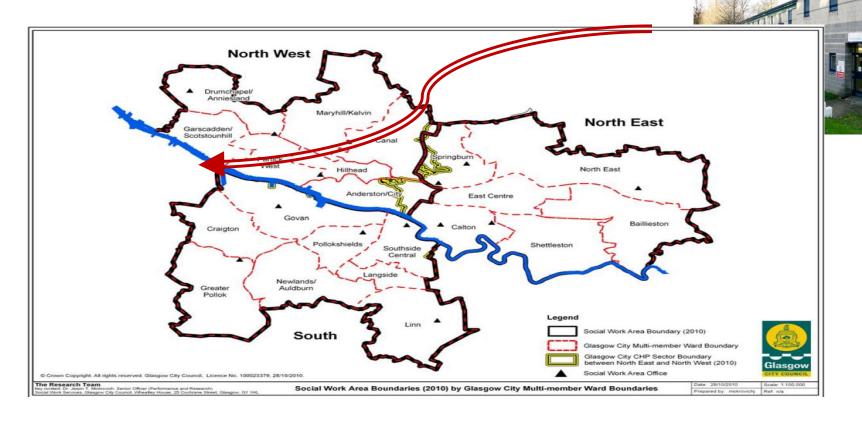


What happened?

We Took our eye off the ball



Brownlee Centre



Awareness / Education



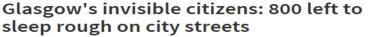


Spreading the word by all services in contact with the population group is essential

Broader context



A COMMUNITY has demanded action on a 'drugs epidemic' in the East End of Glasgow.







...Anthrax, botulism, Staph aureus bacteraemia, drug deaths......

Daily priorities

- Accommodation
- Opiate replacement therapy
- Finance
- Drugs/alcohol
- Avoiding others
- Health needs





Healthcare attitudes

- Drug/alcohol intoxication
- 'Difficult' patients
- Present in crisis
- Adherence to medication
- Drug-drug interactions
- Non attendance for investigations
- Multiple co-morbidities
- Complex co-morbidities
- 16 Deaths 12% of cohort
- Stigma



What to do?



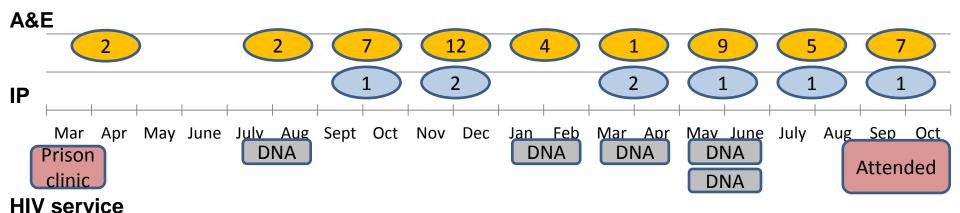
Effective HIV Prevention Interventions and the Need for Rapid Mobilization to Address HIV Outbreaks Among At-Risk Populations

Philip et al The Journal of Infectious Diseases, Volume 215, Issue 10, 15 May

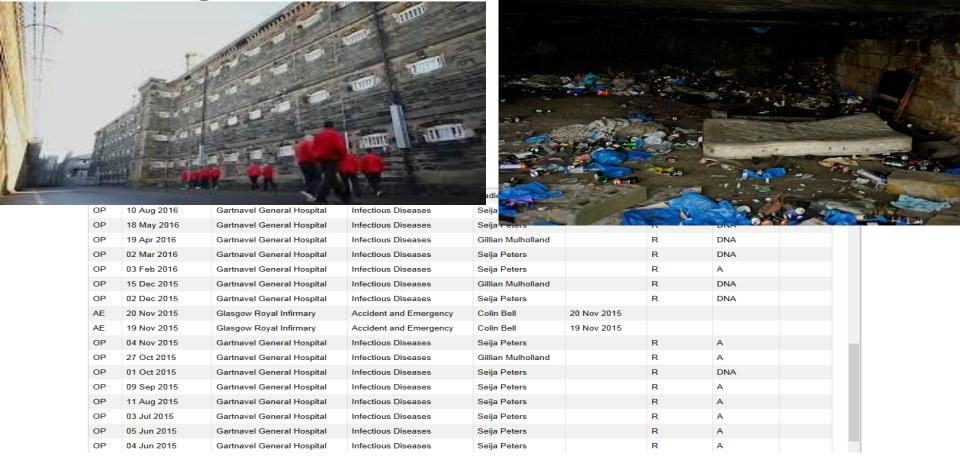
Accessing healthca

- In and out of prison
- Sleeping rough on streets
- Drug & alcohol use affects priorities





Change model of service?



Adapting to need

- Adapt services to meet the needs of the vulnerable
- Alternative service model
 - 'in reach' model homeless health services
 - addictions services, mental health, homeless health
 - combined GUM/ID expertise to provide input to sexual, reproductive and medical issues
 - Links with other services, voluntary sector, ED
 - HIV medication dispensed in community
 - 'outreach model' nurse led
- a holistic approach to providing HIV/BBV care

A day in the life of...







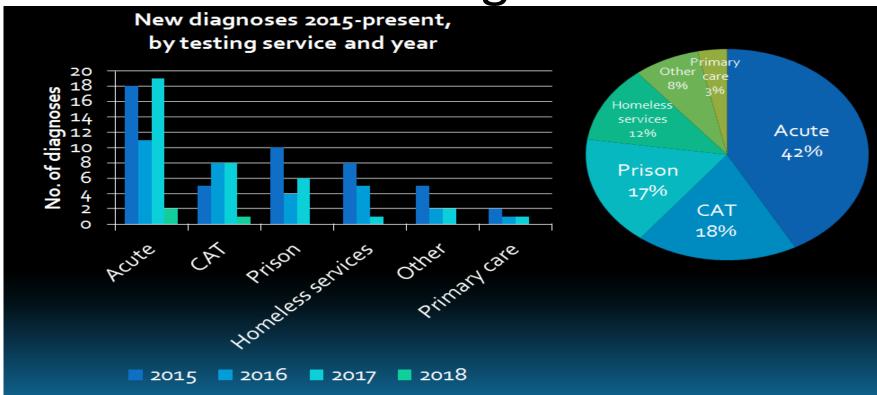
Does it work?

- HIV medication
 - 102/104 (98%) have ever received ART
 - 95/104 (91%) are currently receiving ART
 - 45/104 (42%) currently receiving via community pharmacy
- Adherence varies from 10% to 99%
 - 72/104 (69%) have an HIV viral load <40 copies/ml
- Nurse-Led BBV clinic in homeless health service
 - 43/104 (41%) have attended (NMP)

What still needs to be done?

- 100% engagement in care
 - Needs adequate dedicated nursing staff
 - Multiagency integration
 - Prisons
 - Addictions
 - Mental health
 - Third sector
- Treatment of hepatitis C
 - At least 40 requiring treatment
- Ongoing care and support...lifetime risks
- Other possibilities
 - Injectable treatment (+/- PrEP)
 - PrEP

HIV testing



DRUG CONSUMPTION

- Place where problem drug users are allowed to bring their illegally-obtained drugs and take them in a supervised, hygienic environment. Sterile injecting equipment. Closely observed, in order to give medical assistance should they overdose.
- c. 90 DCRs operating in 10 countries: Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Norway, Luxembourg, Australia, Canada, Denmark and Greece. Advanced plans in France

DCR

- "There is no legal framework for the provision of drug consumption rooms in the UK and we have no plans to introduce them," the Home Office said.
- Operating an injection facility would be likely to mean committing a range of offences including "encouraging or assisting the possession and supply of controlled drugs", it added

Vancouver



Zurich



Summary

- 'Hard to reach groups'
 - Much more than 'managing HIV'
 - Risk vs benefit clinical decisions
 - Multidisciplinary and multiagency approach
 - Building relationships/trust
 - Outreach work invaluable
 - Develop and adapt service models to suit cohort
 - Communication is key
 - HIV prevention is complex