



STUDIES SHOW USER-LED SAFER INJECTING PROGRAMS ARE SUCCESSFUL

BACKGROUND & METHOD

- People who inject drugs (IDU) are at risk for HIV and hepatitis C, among other health problems.
- Many of these problems are caused by unsafe injection practices and can be prevented.
- The Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users formed an Injection Support (IS) Team that had many years of experience injecting themselves and others.
- IS Team members led workshops on how to inject safely and were asked about their experiences.

QUICK FACT

IS TEAM MEMBERS CREATED ONE OF A KIND INJECTING EDUCATION WORKSHOPS FOR IDU.

FINDINGS

- IS Team members acted as people IDU could relate to.
- Creating and teaching these workshops was a positive learning experience for IS Team members.

IMPLICATIONS

- Harm reduction programs led by IDU share user-friendly health information.
- It is important to include IDU in programs that target their community.
- Workshop leaders also benefit from their participation in these types of programs.

Callon C, Charles G, Alexander R, Small W, Kerr T. 'On the same level': Facilitators' experiences running a drug user-led safer injecting education campaign. *Harm Reduction Journal*, 2013; 10(1): 4.

