



NZ NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Underpinned by the principles of the WHO Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion

Peer based: Majority of NEP staff have lived experience of injecting drugs

Harm reduction focus:

Non-judgemental confidential service for people who inject drugs that aims to reduce harm through the provision of sterile injecting and harm reduction equipment and advice.

KEY BENEFITS

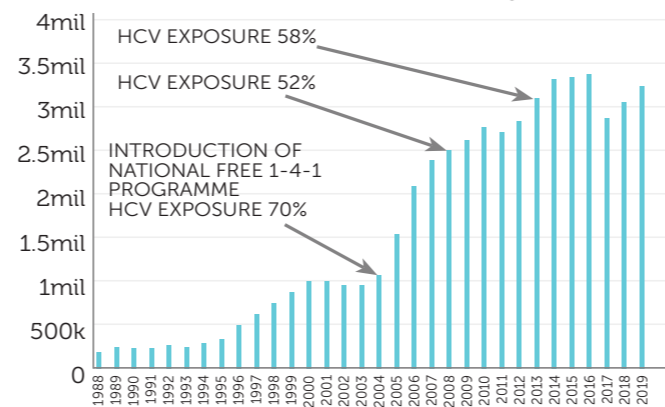
- Preventing transmission of Blood Borne Viruses to clients and public
- Improving diagnosis and treatment of Hepatitis C for people who inject drugs*
- Promoting safer drug use
- Reducing injecting related harm
- Improving health and wellbeing, including referral to relevant services, e.g. Alcohol and other Drugs, mental health, ED and primary care, and reducing stigma
- Reducing risk of exposure and injury to clients & public by discarded equipment

* DHB Funded

OUR SUCCESS STORY

NZs HIV rate amongst people who inject drugs is 0.2% - one of the lowest in the world.

Research shows greater access to equipment reduces harm including blood borne viruses



As distribution of free needles has increased, Hepatitis C exposure (antibodies) in clients has decreased from 70% to 52%

Note: There was a climb to 58% in 2013 but is not statistically significant when age-adjusted.

A 2002 evaluation of our programme by the Burnet Institute demonstrated the cost effectiveness of NZNEP:

Every \$1 spent on the Needle Exchange services **saved an estimated \$3.35 in healthcare costs** avoided over the period of investment.

Every \$1 spent on Needle Exchange services between 1988 and 2001 **saved an estimated \$20 in lifetime healthcare costs** avoided.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. The National Hepatitis C Action Plan sets out a goal to improve prevention and harm reduction in priority groups including people who inject drugs. The activities focus on increasing and upscaling the distribution of injecting equipment through strategies that meet current international best practice, such as:

MAKING AVAILABLE MORE FREE INJECTING EQUIPMENT

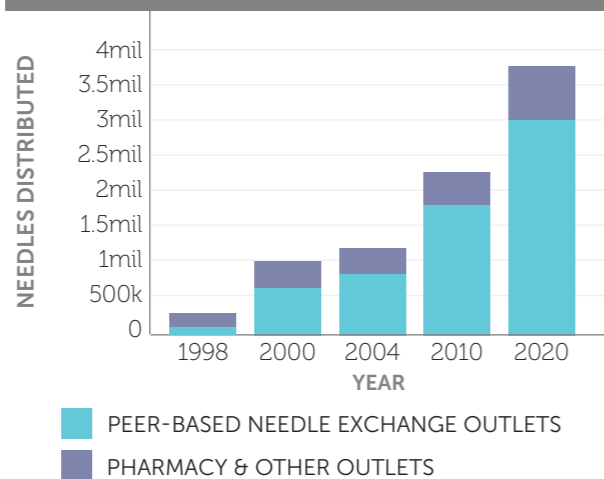
REMOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESS

ENHANCING SERVICE CHANNELS

INCREASING DISPOSAL OPTIONS

2. Enhancing harm reduction interventions such as the provision of Naloxone, peer-based Hepatitis C Testing and drug sample testing.

NEEDLES DISTRIBUTED



OUR CLIENTS

- Estimated to be between 8000 - 15500.
- Estimated that we provide approximately 250 needles per injector each year, which sits below the WHO recommended target of 300.
- An estimated 50% of our clients receive Opioid Substitution Treatment
- The number of clients is increasing due to population growth, increased popularity of performance and image enhancing drugs, and rising methamphetamine use. This aligns with an increase in the number of people receiving opioid substitution treatment nationally over the last 20 years and the steady increase in demand for injecting equipment through the NZNEP.

FUNDING

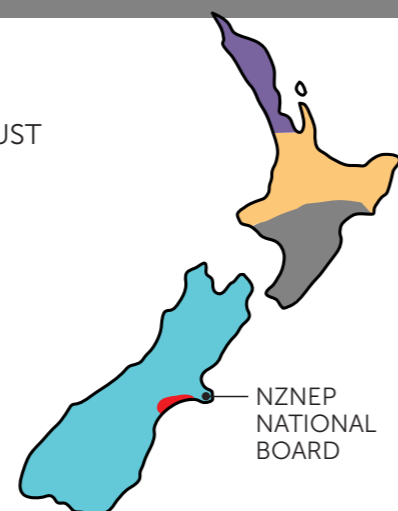
80% funded by the Ministry of Health

\$5.1 million per year.

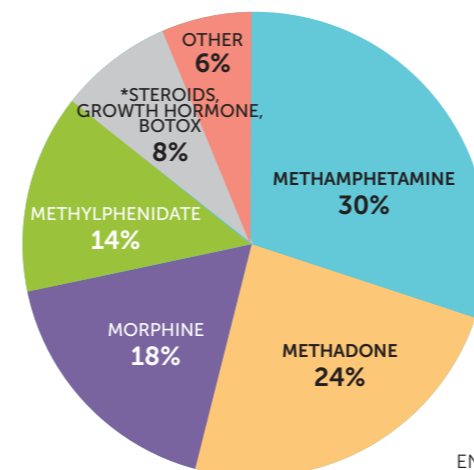
Based on FY June 2020

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

- ADIO TRUST
- MIDLANDS TRUST
- DHDP TRUST
- DISC TRUST
- NEXT TRUST



DRUG USE



* PERFORMANCE AND IMAGE-ENHANCING DRUGS

NZ WIDE COVERAGE

- 20** Dedicated needle exchanges
- 2** Mobile Services
- 1** Online Shop
- 195** Pharmacy and other outlets



New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme

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