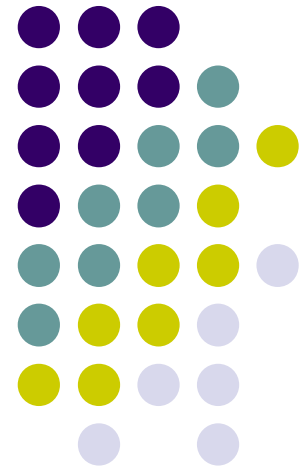


Knowledge Gap – Harm reduction services

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Knowledge gap

- Many of the research studies in the review examined abstinence-related outcomes and most of the CD programs were unsuccessful in bringing about abstinence outcomes
- There is a paucity of research that assesses the effects of harm-reduction programming on health improvements for CD clients
- Reviewed program studies were located in the US, where harm reduction programs have previously not received federal funding



- Individuals experiencing mental health and substance use problems may not attend services that require abstinence from substance use
- Evidence suggests that a harm reduction orientation is complementary to integrated CD care, because client abstinence would not be a prerequisite for program participation (Altenberg, Balian, Lunansky et al. 2004)
- Some of the project partners offer CD treatment from a harm reduction approach



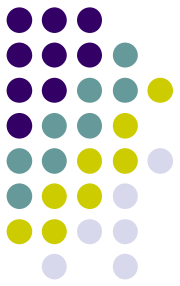
South Riverdale CHC (SRCHC) Interdisciplinary Urban Health Program

- The interdisciplinary urban health program consists of various programs that provide integrated health services for CD clients from a team approach and harm reduction philosophy, including:
 - medical services
 - specialized intensive case management
 - community health outreach
 - harm reduction services
 - peer support programming
 - respiratory care
 - health promotion
 - case coordination

Moving Research into Practice



- Program was informed by the results of a participatory action research (PAR) study examining the service experiences and needs of individuals with concurrent disorders
- PAR study highlighted an important need for integrated mental health and harm reduction services in the treatment of CD
 - to increase service utilization by ensuring that service users are more comfortable accessing services
 - and that service users are not stigmatized for substance use and do not feel they have to lie about their use (Altenberg, Balian, Lunansky et al. 2004)



- Implementation and evaluation of these programs is key for the effective treatment of CD
 - Evaluation should include examination of harm reduction-related outcomes
- SRCHC is currently developing a plan to evaluate the level of integration, and client and provider satisfaction with these services, and impact on harm reduction outcomes