

Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program Evaluation

Funding: Hepatitis C Secretariat, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

In response to the [Best Practice Recommendations for Ontario Needle Exchange Programs](#), the Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program (OHRDP) was established in 2006 to provide harm reduction materials as well as knowledge and support to Ontario needle exchange and harm reduction programs. The OHRDP provides, on-request and free of charge to participating programs, harm reduction materials to be distributed alongside the needles and syringes already available at Needle Exchange Programs (NEPs).

In 2005-06, the Hepatitis C Secretariat of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Terms Care invited Dr. Lynne Leonard to conduct an evaluation of the Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program.

Objective

- To provide evidence on which to base recommendations for the continuation of the OHRDP.

Methods

The evaluation consisted of two components.

The [OHRDP Outcome Evaluation](#) consisted of a questionnaire administered to people who inject drugs in order to: *describe the impact of the distribution of additional harm reduction supplies on the HCV- and HIV-related risk practice of sharing drug and injection preparation equipment among people in Ontario who use drugs*. The questionnaire was administered by interviewers trained by the HHPRT in 30 participating public health regions at three time points over the course of one-year following the implementation of the OHRDP at each of these sites.

The [OHRDP Process Evaluation](#) documented each program's *experience with the OHRDP including the effectiveness of the OHRDP to increase the capacity of Ontario NEPs to deliver evidence-based harm reduction resources including equipment and education to people in Ontario who use drugs*. The Process Evaluation was administered at six and twelve months following implementation of the program and involved an on-line questionnaire and follow-up phone interviews with program managers and executive directors from each of the 30 participating public health regions.

Results

Over the course of the evaluation, 4,532 questionnaires were completed by men and women who inject drugs in 29 sites representing 30 Ontario Public Health regions. For further detail about study findings, please refer to dissemination activities below.

More info

For more information contact:

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- Or visit the OHRDP website: www.ohrdp.ca

Dissemination and Knowledge Transfer

Lynne Leonard¹, Andrée Germain¹, Emily DeRubeis¹, Monica Prince¹ & Aideen Reynolds¹ (2010). *Significantly Higher Rates of Using Recommended Drug Injection and Preparation Materials Associated with Introduction of The Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program*. Ontario HIV Treatment Network Research Conference, Toronto, Ontario, November 15-16.

Kate Smith¹, Lynne Leonard¹, Emily DeRubeis¹, Andrée Germain¹ & Nicholas Birkett¹ (2010). *Resistance to Adopt and Fully Implement a Successful Harm Reduction Program Distributing Drug and Injection Preparation Equipment Negatively Impacts the Rights to Health and Access to Healthcare Resources for Injection Drug Users in Ontario, Canada*. International AIDS Conference, Vienna, Austria, July 18-23.

Lynne Leonard¹, Emily DeRubeis¹ & Andrée Germain¹ (2008). [Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program: Provincial Report Outcome Evaluation Wave One – Baseline](#). University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario.

➔ Region-specific Baseline Reports are available for the following public health regions:

- [Kingston, Frontenac & Lennox](#)
- [Middlesex-London](#)
- [Leeds, Grenville & Lanark](#)
- [Oxford County](#)
- [Durham Region](#)
- [Hamilton](#)
- [Simcoe Muskoka](#)
- [Waterloo](#)
- [Eastern Ontario](#)
- [Hastings & Prince Edward Counties](#)
- [City of Ottawa](#)
- [Niagara Region](#)
- [Chatham-Kent](#)
- [Wellington, Dufferin, Guelph](#)
- [City of Toronto](#)
- [Porcupine](#)
- [Windsor-Essex County](#)
- [Perth District](#)
- [Peel](#)
- [Sudbury](#)
- [York](#)
- [County of Lambton](#)
- [Peterborough](#)
- [Thunder Bay](#)
- [Algoma](#)
- [Northwestern](#)

Lynne Leonard¹ & Andrée Germain¹ (2009). [Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program: Final Outcome Evaluation](#). University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. Available online: www.ohrdp.ca.

➔ Region-specific Final Reports will be available soon.

Lynne Leonard¹ (2009). *Does the OHRDP Reduce Harm?* The Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program (OHRDP) Annual Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, February 22-24.

Lynne Leonard¹, Andrée Germain¹ & Emily DeRubeis¹ (2008). *The Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program; Only a first step in ensuring equal access to harm reduction supplies in Ontario*. Ontario HIV Treatment Network Research Conference, Toronto, Ontario, November 13-14.

Lynne Leonard¹ (2008). *Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program: Process Evaluation Report Phase Two*. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario.

Lynne Leonard¹ (2008). *The Need to Scale Up Harm Reduction for Women and Men who Smoke Crack*. Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program (OHRDP) Annual Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, March 2-4.

Lynne Leonard¹, Susan McWilliam¹, Emily DeRubeis¹ & Aideen Reynolds¹ (2008). *The urgent necessity to scale up harm reduction programs for women who smoke crack*. International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, August 3-8.

Lynne Leonard¹, Andrée Germain¹ & Emily DeRubeis¹ (2008). *Reducing the Adverse Health Consequences of Drug Use: Access and Uptake of Ontario's Harm Reduction Distribution Program*. 17th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Montreal, Quebec, April 24-27.

Abstract published in: [Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases & Medical Microbiology](#) (2008), Vol 19, Suppl A.

Lynne Leonard¹, Emily DeRubeis¹, Andrée Germain¹, Monica Prince¹ & Aideen Reynolds¹ (2008). *Higher Rates of Engagement in the HIV- and HCV-related Practice of Multi-person Use of Injection and Drug Preparation Equipment Significantly Associated with Limited or Non-implementation of Ontario's Harm Reduction Distribution Program*. Ontario HIV Treatment Network Research Conference, Toronto, Ontario, November 13-14.

Lynne Leonard¹ & Andrée Germain¹ (2007). *Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program: Process Evaluation Report Phase One*. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario.

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