

Geschäftsbereich Sucht & Drogen

Integrated Harm Reduction Services for Alcoholics and Drug Users

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Stadt Zürich

Soziale Einrichtungen und Betriebe

Integrated Harm Reduction Service of the 19th. Century



The Presence

Harm Reduction Services in the City of Zurich 2014

- 4 Contact Centres with Consumer Rooms for Drug Users
- 1 Contact Centre with Consumer Room for Alcoholics
- 1 Contact Centre without Consumer Rooms for everybody
- Substitution Programs for Opioids
- 1 Night Shelter with separate rooms for Drug Users
- 300 P in Housing Programs (use of drugs is allowed)
- Drug Checking Programs (mobile and stationary)
- Several Vending Machines for syringes
- Harm Reduction programs for Sexworkers (incl. Sex Boxes)
- Low threshold Working Programs

The Future

To boost or to reduce complexity?

- Creating additional Harm Reduction Programs
 - for anabolic drugs?
 - for Cannabis?
 - for Neuroenhancers?
 - for Tobacco?
 - for ...?

My Vision

Back to the Roots of Harm Reduction

- Poverty is the common cause of social marginalization
- Basic Purpose of HR: to grant access to social and medical help for everybody despite the financial means, the legal status, the sex, the race or the nationality of a person
- Create 3 Harm Reduction Centres in Zurich for socially marginalized people including Consumer Rooms, day structure and low threshold working programs, basic medical services, indoor and outreach Social Work
- As less additional services as possible

My Job

The Past

I directed the Harm Reduction Services of the City of Zurich for the last 10 years and worked as a Drug Policy coordinator before.

The Future

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Harm Reduction Services for Drug Users



The changing needs of drug users in Zurich

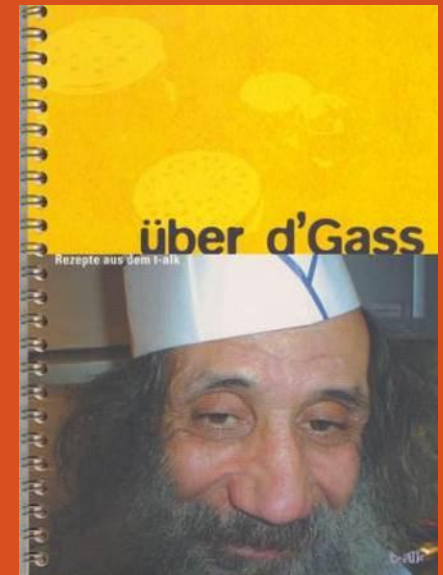
↑ safer use, cheap food, possibility to work

↓ syringes/needle exchange, shelters, free showers

→ social contacts, to feel at home somewhere, legal access to drugs

Future changes: worsening health condition, sinking personal mobility

Harm Reduction Services for Alcoholics



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The changing needs of alcoholics in Zurich

↑ to feel at home somewhere and to be part of the community,
social assistance for increasingly complex problems,
integrating polytoxic users (alcohol+)

↓ shelters, free showers, recreational activities

→ (cooking) cheap food, controlled use, medical support

Future changes: worsening health condition, sinking personal mobility

Integrated Harm Reduction Service of the 21th. Century



Strength of integrated Harm Reduction Services

- Substantial lowering of the threshold of Harm Reduction Services
- Extensive services for people with increasing needs
- Combined indoor and outreach services (for immobile clients)

Weakness of integrated Harm Reduction Services

- Building 3 «big machines» instead of several cozy facilities

Chances of integrated Harm Reduction Services

- Increasing treatment rate
- Decreasing social stigma
- Increasing solidarity and common bond among the clients
- Higher political legitimation through better cost effectiveness

Threats of integrated Harm Reduction Services

- Stretching the neighbours nerves
- Building a Chinese Wall between the inner circle and the margin of society

Take note of it!
Think about it!
Discuss!
Decide!
Act!