

RESOURCES FOR HEPATITIS C AND INJECTION DRUG USE

A NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Prepared for

Hepatitis C Prevention, Support & Research Program
Population & Public Health Branch
Health Canada

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The views expressed herein, are solely those
of the authors and do not necessarily reflect
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Background

The Hepatitis C Division of Health Canada contracted with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) for a three part analysis of information resources related to hepatitis C and injection drug use (IDU). The first part involved identification of existing resources. The second part involved identification of gaps, or needed resources. The third part was to create a database of the resources that were identified, and to make this database searchable on the Web. In addition, the essential components of an "ideal" Web site on hepatitis C and IDU were to be identified.

Identification of resources was done in a number of ways. Other projects that CCSA has been contracted to prepare for the Hepatitis C Division have resulted in identification of a number of documents, Web sites, and databases. These were a report on hepatitis C and IDU in Canada, and a report on mechanisms to reach IDU populations.

The results of these studies were supplemented by additional searching of the CCSA collection and of commercially available databases. The supplemental searching was for information related to harm reduction, clinical protocols, policy, statistics, and legislative framework.

Interviews were conducted with a number of people. Nine staff with the Hepatitis C Program were interviewed, and these included all six regional offices as well as the national office in Ottawa. Seven additional people working extensively in the field of hepatitis C and IDU were also interviewed. These were a drug/public health researcher (Toronto), a drug user/community worker (Toronto), a policy researcher (Ottawa), a nurse/professor (Vancouver), a lawyer/researcher (Toronto and Montreal), a street nurse/community worker (Vancouver), and an aboriginal community worker (Calgary).

The interviews focused on (1) identification of resources used regularly (databases, Web sites, pamphlets, journals, reference books, people); (2) information gaps and needed resources; (3) usefulness of the Internet; (4) desirable content for a hepatitis C and IDU Web site.

Findings

The findings are divided into several sections. The first is a report of specific resources identified by the project researchers, who are information specialists. These are broken down into Web resources and actual items that have been identified and catalogued into the Web-based database.

The second section provides an analysis of gaps in the literature that were identified as a result of the searching done by the information specialists.

The third section is a discussion of what types of resources those interviewed reported using. Some specific items were mentioned, but the interviews resulted in a more general discussion of types of resources and key sources.

The fourth section describes information gaps as identified by respondents.

(1) Search results: Resources

Specific titles

A total of 245 items have been identified through this and the other contract projects on hepatitis C and IDU. These have been catalogued into a database, using DB/TextWorks. The records have been output to a Web-searchable database, currently available on the CCSA Web site at <http://www.ccsa.ca/hepsrch.htm>.

This database can be searched by author, title, publisher, subject or year published. It is also searchable through a simple natural language query that searches across all fields in the record.

The majority of items in the database were published articles (165 items). There are also a number of conference proceedings and reports. Most of the items are published in English (231). A few are bilingual or published in French.

A print bibliography from this database is provided in Appendix A.

Databases

Databases providing the best coverage of the hepatitis C and Injection Drug

Use literature are:

MEDLINE

<http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/>

Bibliographic citations to the biomedical literature. Produced by the United States National Library of Medicine.

AIDSLINE

<http://igm.nlm.nih.gov/>

Bibliographic citations to the AIDS literature and related topics. Produced by the United States National Library of Medicine.

IDA (Information about Drugs and Alcohol)

<http://www.health.org/DBarea/index.htm>

Bibliographic citations to alcohol and substance abuse prevention and sociological issues. Produced by the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Databases providing limited coverage of the hepatitis C and Injection Drug Use literature include:

ETOH (Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Science Database)

<http://www.health.org/DBarea/index.htm>

Bibliographic citations to all aspects of alcohol abuse and alcoholism. Produced by the United States National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Toxibase

<http://www.drogues.gouv.fr/fr/index.html>

Bibliographic citations to the alcohol and drug scientific literature. Produced by nine information and documentation centres in France. Toxibase is bilingual (French-English).

Web sites: Hepatitis C and IDU

American Medical Students Association (U.S.)

<http://www.amsa.org/sc/nep.html>

Needle exchange programs
Syringe exchange

Annals of Internal Medicine

Controlling Disease Transmission in Injection Drug Users

<http://www.asim.org/journals/annals/16mar99/currdrug.htm>

Harm reduction

British Liver Trust: Injecting Drug Use

<http://www.britishlivertrust.org.uk/publications/idu.html>

This booklet provides up to date information about hepatitis C and injecting drug use. It has been designed for professionals working with users.

General information

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

http://www.caan.ca/main_eng.htm

A national coalition of aboriginal people and organizations that provide leadership, support and advocacy for aboriginal people living with and infected

by HIV/AIDS.

Harm reduction; Advocacy; Support

Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy

<http://www.cfdp.ca>

The Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy (CFDP) is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 by several of Canada's leading specialists in drug policy.

Policy alternatives

**Centre for Education and Information on Drugs and Alcohol (CEIDA)
(Australia)**

Hep C NSW Directory of Education Resources

<http://www.ceida.net.au/hepC/index.htm>

Hepatitis C NSW Directory of Education Resources is a quick and easy reference guide for accessing available resources on hepatitis C. It is designed for those in NSW working within a broad range of health related fields.

General information

Centre for Harm Reduction (Australia)

<http://www.chr.asn.au/projects.html>

The Centre for Harm Reduction (CHR) is part of the Epidemiology and Social Research Unit (ESRU) of the Macfarlane Burnet Centre (MBC).

Harm reduction; Research

Chicago Recovery Alliance (U.S.)

<http://www.anypositivechange.org/crainfo.html>

The Chicago Recovery Alliance is an action organization for those interested in directly serving, supporting, educating, and advocating with others for reducing drug-related harms. Resources and information for injection drug users: safer injecting, syringe exchange, living with HIV.

Harm reduction; Syringe exchange; Support; Advocacy

eMJA: The Medical Journal of Australia

<http://www.mja.com.au/>

Search for hepatitis will produce a number of articles related to hepatitis C and IDU.

Research; Harm reduction; Prisons

Glitzy

<http://www.glitzy.demon.co.uk/>

Glitzy is an independent site supporting drug users activism and community based harm reduction in the UK and internationally. Includes International Drug Users Information Exchange. Viral protection campaign information.

Harm reduction; Support; Advocacy

Harm Reduction Coalition

<http://www.harmreduction.org/hepatitisabc.html>

The Harm Reduction Coalition (HRC) is committed to reducing drug-related harm among individuals and communities by initiating and promoting local, regional, and national harm reduction education, interventions, and community organizing.

Harm reduction; Support; Advocacy

Hepatitis C Council of NSW (Australia)

<http://www.hepatitisc.org.au/>

An independent community-based organization providing information, support and advocacy to people affected by hepatitis C in the state of NSW, Australia.

Research; Support; Advocacy; General information

Hepatitis Place

<http://www.hepplace.com/>

The Hepatitis Place is a privately-funded medical information resource center for health professionals and hepatitis patients.

Alcoholism; Research

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in Prisons: The Facts

<http://www.aidslaw.ca/elements/factpris-e/e-pfact1.htm>

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Harm reduction; Syringe exchange; Prisons

HIV InSite (U.S.)

http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/topics/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/

HIV InSite is a project of the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center and the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies which are programs of the UCSF AIDS Research Institute.

Harm reduction; Syringe exchange; General information

International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care

http://www.thebody.com/iapac/hcv_hiv.html

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and HIV co-infection (Journal of the IAPAC)

Research; Prisons

Journal of the American Medical Association**HIV/AIDS Information Centre**

Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Other Blood-Borne Diseases Among Injection Drug Users

<http://www.ama-assn.org/special/hiv/library/readroom/jama97/lm6024.htm>

Syringe exchange; Legislative issues

Lindesmith Center Online Library (U.S.)

Fourteen Article Abstracts on Syringe and Needle Exchange

<http://www.lindesmith.org/library/lipp14.html>

Syringe exchange

Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research (Australia)

<http://www.burnet.edu.au/Internet/pr/publications.html>

The main research interest of the Macfarlane Burnet Centre is viruses. The Centre's work ranges from basic laboratory research on viruses such as HIV and hepatitis, through to the design, evaluation and implementation of public health programs to prevent the spread of these viruses.

Research; Harm reduction

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (U.S.)

Research briefs

<http://www.health.org/res-brf/index.htm>

Search the databases for hepatitis C information.

Harm reduction; Research; General information

National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University (Australia)

<http://www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ncrpd/>

Preventing harmful drug use in Australia

Research; Harm reduction

National Institute on Drug Abuse (U.S.)

Heroin Snorters Risk Transition To Injection Drug Use And Infectious Disease

http://165.112.78.61/NIDA_Notes/NNVol14N2/Heroin.html

New South Wales, Health: Hepatitis C (Australia)

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/a-z/hepc.html>

General information

Project Cork Resource Centre (U.S.)

Bibliography on Harm Reduction

<http://www.state.vt.us/adap/harmred.htm>

Harm reduction; Research

Safe Works AIDS Project (U.S.)

<http://www.safeworks.org/>

Safe injecting, vein care practices, safer piercing.

Harm reduction; Not specific to hepatitis C

Seattle and King County Public Health

Update on the Use of Bleach to Prevent Transmission of HIV and Hepatitis among Injection Drug Users

<http://www8.metrokc.gov/health/apu/infograms/bleach.htm>

Harm reduction

Treatment Improvement Exchange (U.S.)

HIV/AIDS, TB and Infectious Diseases Cross-Training: The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Connection

<http://www.treatment.org/Topics/infectious.html>

The HIV/AIDS, TB and Infectious Diseases: The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Connection is a training initiative designed to accomplish system change by increasing the knowledge, awareness and skills among public health and substance abuse treatment providers.

Usage de drogues, sexualité, transmission du virus VIH, hépatites B et C et réduction des risques en prison à travers le monde

Institut de Veille Sanitaire, Réseau Nationale de Santé Publique (France)

<http://www.rnsp-sante.fr/publications/drogues/index.html>

Research; Prison; Harm reduction

Vancouver Native Health Society

Low Literacy Teaching Guides (Hepatitis C Information; HIV, Hep C and Prison (Men); HIV, Hep C and Prison (Women))

<http://persweb.direct.ca/vnhs/teach.htm>

Low literacy; Prison; Harm reduction

Walter Cavalieri's home page

Some Service Considerations for Community Health Centres, Based on Harm Reduction Principles, in Response to the Needs of the Growing Number of Persons Who Use Drugs, Who Have Become or Are Becoming Infected with HIV and Hepatitis C

http://users.surfen.net/~walterc/harm_red.html

Harm reduction

Web sites: General Hepatitis C

American Liver Foundation

<http://sadioe.ucsf.edu/alf/alffinal/>

Canadian Hemophilia Society

<http://www.hemophilia.ca/english/viruses/hepatitis/index.html>

Canadian Liver Foundation

http://www.cag.ucalgary.ca/patinfo/html/hepatitis_c.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Infectious Diseases

Hepatitis C

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/index.htm>

Clinical Trials Listing Service

<http://www.centerwatch.com/studies/cat79.htm>

Focus: On Hepatitis C International

<http://pages.prodigy.com/hepc/index1.htm>

Support and advocacy for HCV+

Galaxy's list of resources

<http://galaxy.com/galaxy/Community/Health/Diseases-and-Disorders/Hepatitis-C.html>

Extensive set of links. Most are not related to IDU specifically.

Health Care Information Resources: Hepatitis Links

McMaster University

<http://www-hsl.mcmaster.ca/tomflem/hepat.html>

For patients, their families, friends and health care workers.

Hemophilia Ontario

Hepatitis C: An information booklet for people infected with hepatitis C virus and their families

<http://www.hemophilia.on.ca/hepatitis/fbooklet96.htm>

Hepatitis C

<http://www.hepatitis-c.de/hepace.htm>

by Ingo d'Alquen

Hepatitis C Society of Canada

<http://web.idirect.com/~hepc/>

Hepatitis C United Resource Exchange

<http://www.junction.net/hepcure/index.html>

Hepatitis C: What Clinicians and Other Health Professionals Need to Know

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/spotlight.htm>

An interactive Web-based training program.

Hep-C Alert!

<http://www.hep-c-alert.org/home.html>

Hepatitis Central

<http://www.hepatitis-central.com/>

Hepatitis Foundation International

<http://www.hepfi.org/>

Hepatitis Information Network: HepNet

<http://www.hepnet.com/hepc.html>

HIV and Hepatitis.com

<http://www.hivandhepatitis.com/index.html>

The staff of *HIV and Hepatitis.com* is a group of individuals closely linked to the communities of people living with HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C virus infection. Our common objective is to create a quality online publication that provides practical, reliable information about treatment and experimental vaccine options for these chronic conditions.

Medifind

<http://www.medifind.com>

Hepatitis C: a physician's guide to what's online. Requires login with medical #.

National Hepatitis C Coalition, Inc.

<http://nationalhepatitis-c.org/>

World Health Organization

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response: Hepatitis

<http://www.who.int/emc/diseases/hepatiti/index.html>

Links to epidemiological surveillance

(2) Search results: Gaps in the literature

Overall, the hepatitis C literature related to injection drug use is fairly limited. There is relatively good coverage of risk factors, disease transmission, prevalence and epidemiological studies (however, few refer specifically to Canada). Coverage of other topics is quite scanty. In particular, there is very little in the literature on the following topics:

- Evaluated prevention programs
- Evaluated harm reduction programs
- Program research on the effective mechanisms to reach high risk populations
- Prevention for special populations or high risk groups such as women, youth, gays/lesbians, aboriginal groups, prisoners, steroid users
- Policy discussions and policy strategies
- Legislation and legal aspects
- Co-infection
- Prevalence data specific to Canada
- Epidemiological studies specific to Canada

(3) Interviews: Discussion of resources

These have been generally categorized by the format of the resource. The respondent has been identified by type of work or involvement with the issue, as information needs may vary greatly depending on the type of work being done.

Fact sheets, pamphlets, booklets

Several hepatitis C program consultants reported using fact sheets, booklets, and pamphlets produced by the Canadian Liver Foundation, Health Canada or the Canadian Hemophilia Society. There was concern that pamphlets with a 'medical stamp of approval' (i.e., produced by a credible organization) should be used. The consultants in BC use low literacy pamphlets prepared by the Vancouver Native Health Society (<http://persweb.direct.ca/vnhs/index.html>).

The street nurse/community worker reported using pamphlets for clients, but is increasingly referring clients to Web sites through the community centre computers. The aboriginal community worker also reported using pamphlets.

Books, videos and other resources

One respondent mentioned a resource produced by the Canadian Liver Foundation and another referred to the recently released *Medical Update for Physicians* produced by the Canadian Liver Foundation for Health Canada. Two videos were referred to: *IV Positive*, targeted at frontline workers, and *Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself - Teens talk to Teens* by the Hepatitis Foundation International.

Only the consultants in BC mentioned using books from a book list prepared by the AIDS Vancouver Library. *Peppermint Pattie's Frequently Asked Questions* (for those newly diagnosed with hepatitis C) was a particular favorite from this list (<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~clotho/cfaq.htm>). The nurse/professor and aboriginal community worker both reported use of book resources.

Newsletters, Journals

Several hepatitis C program consultants find information in medical journals such as the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *British Medical Journal*. One respondent mentioned a Center for Disease Control Newsletter Special Issue on Hepatitis C available online. The BC consultants mentioned several newsletters produced by community support groups; one appears to have a harm reduction focus. The nurse/professor uses journal literature. The lawyer/researcher relies on cases in legal journals.

Databases

The drug/public health researcher uses Medline. None of the hepatitis C program consultants mentioned searching databases.

Other

Several hepatitis C program consultants mentioned obtaining information from colleagues. The drug user/community worker reported colleagues as an important resource, as did the aboriginal community worker.

The aboriginal community worker identified videos/multimedia resources as being important, especially in various languages.

The policy researcher reported associations, NGO's, lawyers, and Health Canada as important resources.

A few hepatitis C program consultants receive information via an abstract alerting service.

Web sites

Most hepatitis C program consultants indicated they frequently use the Internet. Frequently used Web sites included the Canadian Liver Foundation, Canadian Hemophilia Society chapters, American and Australian universities. The majority of consultants indicated they find the Internet is a very useful resource and use it daily. One consultant visits chat rooms and online support groups to learn of the experiences of people living with HCV. The consultants in Ontario were the exception, using the Internet infrequently, or not at all.

All of the other respondents indicated that they used and valued the Web as an important resource. The lawyer/researcher mentioned the Web for information on co-infection, especially. The street nurse uses the Web extensively for herself and is increasingly referring clients to it. The aboriginal community worker mentioned use of the Web and that there are some good aboriginal sites.

(4) Interviews: Discussion of gaps

Plain Language Materials

A majority of hepatitis C program consultants indicated a need for more plain language information for the public, including materials for persons who inject drugs. They saw the need for shorter, more straightforward materials, written in non-medical language. Topic needs included 'what is hepatitis C and how to avoid it', risk factors, disease transmission, and treatment options. Several consultants also said the results of the surveillance and research projects funded by Health Canada should be published and made available to the public. One person called for 'HCV for dummies' saying there is a need for less medical information for non-medical professionals (i.e., social workers) and for community groups.

The aboriginal community worker identified a need for information directed at all levels of literacy and backgrounds. There is a need for resources in different languages, especially aboriginal languages.

Research

Overall, hepatitis C program consultants identified the need for better access to, and dissemination of, Canadian studies and research results. A number of consultants indicated a need for better epidemiological and incidence data, at regional and national levels, and for special populations (i.e. aboriginal groups). Several respondents referred to the need to have faster access to the results of national research projects and faster dissemination of the results (i.e. findings for the Dieticians of Canada Needs Assessment).

The drug/public health researcher was interested in having access to OMA/CMA data tables over the Web. The policy researcher wanted information related to the failure of justice and enforcement agencies to address IDU and hepatitis C issues through legislation and policy. Information on the nature and efficacy of needle exchange and harm reduction is needed. There was a suggestion that Health Canada should sponsor this. The nurse/professor and the lawyer/researcher both mentioned a need for better medical and epidemiological data, using the model of the WHO/UNAIDS Web sites.

Resources

Several hepatitis C program consultants said they need prevention tools such as kits, and communication tools such as pamphlets. They also indicated a need to understand the target group better and would like profile information (i.e. ethnicity, age, language) on IDU's, and sub-populations such as youth and women clientele (i.e. ethnicity, age, language).

Most hepatitis C program consultants indicated there is a need for a set of consistent, vetted resource materials with the Health Canada 'stamp of approval' for the lay public and community groups. One suggestion was to make a few minor changes to the recently released *Medical Update for Physicians* (produced with the Canadian Liver Foundation) and distribute it to the public. Specific program resource suggestions included videos for front-line workers and support groups, treatment information for persons who inject drugs, and harm reduction strategies.

Better Access

A number of hepatitis C program consultants said they have problems accessing the information that is spread over the Internet. Others suggested a database of available information, resource materials, and research articles would be useful. Several consultants said there is a need for a central national clearinghouse for the distribution of pamphlets and other resources, as well as to provide reference and information service. Some of the other respondents also mentioned having to become more "Web literate" to

take advantage of the resources on the Internet. Having good searching skills is necessary to find some of the resources out there. This can be addressed, in part, by providing an excellent gateway Website pointing to resources. Training to improve Web searching skills could be offered to health professionals at meetings, conferences, and workshops.

Treatment Resources

The nurse/professor identified a need for better treatment information and information on alternatives to traditional treatment. This was also mentioned by the street nurse/community worker and the aboriginal community worker. They both mentioned resources specific to aboriginal people. For instance, use of the medicine wheel.

Two respondents mentioned a need for information to redress the ignorance on the part of physicians about hepatitis C and IDU. The need for more information related to co-infection was mentioned by several respondents. In addition, resources on women, pregnancy and childbearing issues are needed. Related to that, there is a need for better information about the risks of sexual transmission.

Other

Other specific needs mentioned by hepatitis C program consultants:

- Research on the interaction between the drugs used to treat HCV, and heroin, cocaine, marijuana, or alcohol. For instance, determining the least harmful drug combinations.
- How to reach people who injected in '60's and '70's and may have HCV.
- Training on HCV for AIDS workers.

The lawyer/researcher and the street nurse/community worker both mentioned a need for information on legal/liability and ethical issues.

The drug use/community worker suggested the need for community/harm reduction centres.

Hepatitis C and IDU Web site content

In general, the hepatitis C program consultants indicated a Web site should provide access to research and program information for professionals and, in addition, they saw a need for the site to provide information to the public and to connect community groups. One commented "Make it relevant to street level community groups - a venue to share their experiences, strategies, innovations - currently there are a number of kitchen table groups working in isolation - there is a need for these groups to connect."

The other respondents mentioned a large number of topic/issue areas that should be included on the Web site. These are given below, by the occupation/interest of the respondent.

Drug/public health researcher:	Healthcare worker (risk reduction), public health and general information
Drug user/community worker:	Peer-based information, user/ex-user information, education and counseling
Policy researcher:	Definitions and descriptions; general information on prevention and treatment; data; legal and ethical issues; the situation and responses in other countries
Nurse/professor:	Epidemiology; prevention, treatment, education; coping strategies and resources for the family (as is available for HIV/AIDS); materials for drug users (and links); distance learning materials; constant updating to increase life of resource; downloadable info; succinct (better for updating)
Lawyer/researcher:	Medical/epidemiology data; legal and ethical material; Canadian harm reduction programs; how to work with city, police forces, etc.; prison information
Street nurse/community worker:	What's new/updates/current information; input from regions doing harm reduction and innovative programs; resources for specific groups (women, pregnancy); safety and toxicity of treatments; legal liability issues
Aboriginal community worker:	General information at various levels and in different languages; multimedia resources; alternative and aboriginal approaches and links; practical approaches to harm reduction and other approaches to reduce risk; information on cross-infection including HIV and TB

Target audience

The Web site should first be targeted to professionals. After that, it would be important to serve the specific needs of community groups. Finally, information targeted to the general public should be added.

Suggested content

General Information

- Information about hepatitis C and its prevention for the public.
- Sources of support across Canada for people who are recently diagnosed.
- Pamphlets and resources for community groups.
- Local contacts for support.

Legal and Ethical Information

Research

- Summaries of research projects and studies funded by Health Canada.
- National, regional and local prevalence information.
- Solid statistics on disease transfer and co-infection rates.

Projects

- Highlights of national, provincial, inter-provincial, and community projects with a summary and contact person and any tools developed.
- Highlights of projects and initiatives in other countries (i.e. Australia, Japan).

Program Strategies

- Program models and tools.
- Successful strategies and best practices.
- Harm reduction principles and effective strategies; alternative sentencing and drug courts issues.

Treatment Guidelines

Prevention Resources

Harm Reduction Information

Database

- Database of resources and research articles.

Events

- Upcoming events, vigils, etc.

Links

- Links to key organizations, harm reduction sites, and drug policy sites.

Interactive features

Discussion Groups

Online Chats

Support Groups

- Opportunity for debate and program sharing.
- Town hall meetings (i.e., lectures followed by questions and answers geared to frontline workers).
- Discussions groups on IDU and HCV.

Summary

It is difficult to separate resources related to hepatitis C generally and hepatitis C as it relates to injection drug use. Most resources mention IDU as a source of new infections, but provide little information beyond basic statistics and advice to not share needles and other drug paraphernalia. Many of the "support" Web sites do not mention IDU and clearly do not intend to support that population.

Most of the IDU information on the Internet that was located for this project was obtained by searching for 'harm reduction and hepatitis C'. This is a useful search strategy to remember when updating these resources.

It is suggested that any Web site that is developed to address the issues of hepatitis C and injection drug use should probably incorporate information "streams" or sub-webs that provide targeted information for several groups:

- persons who use injection drugs
- physicians, nurses and treatment professionals that work with this population
- community groups
- aboriginal groups
- prison population
- women

If a Web site is developed to focus on hepatitis C and injection drug use, it will have to incorporate some very specific resources for the injection drug using population. There are some very explicit harm reduction Web sites that can be used as a source of information about safe injecting.

It is clear from this research that the Web is a vital resource for people working to address this issue. Health Canada will serve these groups well by creating a comprehensive Web site that provides credible and accurate information designed for the specific needs of these key populations.

Appendix A: Resource List

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
Centre canadien de lutte contre l'alcoolisme et les toxicomanies

1

James, Darlene; Mayberry, Chris; Moran, Jerry

AADAC's opiate dependency program: evaluation of the enhanced program component

Edmonton, AB : Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, 1994.

1 v. in various pagings eng acq: 4705 Source: CCSADOCS

2

American Academy of Pediatrics. Committee on Sports Medicine and Fitness

Adolescents and anabolic steroids: a subject review

Pediatrics, 99(6): 904-908, 1997

5 p. eng acq: 7574 Source: CCSADOCS

3

Hernandez, E.

AIDS education in the jail setting: achievements and frustrations

In: Community-based AIDS prevention: studies of intravenous drug users and their sexual partners. Proceedings of the First Annual NADR National Meeting. Rockville, MD : U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, 1989. p. 291-294.

4 p. eng acq: record only Source: IDA

4

Zeegers Paget, D.; et al.

International Conference on AIDS (1996, 7-12 July)

AIDS prevention programme including needle distribution for female prisoners: the Hindelbank pilot project

[Bern, Switzerland : The authors, 1996].

eng acq: record only Source: Medline

5

McBride, Andrew J.; et al.

Amphetamine prescribing as a harm reduction measure: a preliminary study

Addiction Research, 5(2): 95-112, 1997

18 p. eng acq: 8275 Source: CCSADOCS

6

Ardito, F.

Anabolic steroid use: prevention and education

International Journal of Drug Policy, 5(1): 27-33, 1994

7 p. eng acq: record only Source: IDA

7

Morrison, Clive L.

Anabolic steroid users identified by needle and syringe exchange contact

Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 36(2): 153-155, 1994

3 p. eng acq: 968

8

Coutinho, Roel A.

Annotation: needle exchange programs-do they work?

American Journal of Public Health, 85(11): 1490-1491, 1995

2 p. eng acq: 970

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
Centre canadien de lutte contre l'alcoolisme et les toxicomanies

9

Kleber, Herbert D. (chair)

Assessment and treatment of cocaine-abusing methadone-maintained patients

Rockville, MD : U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1994.

[129 p.] eng acq: 5677 Source: CCSADOCS

10

Hulse, G.

Australia's public health response to HIV and HCV: a role for 'affected' communities

Drug and Alcohol Review, 16(2): 171-176, 1997

6 p. eng acq: record only Source: IDA

11

Carruthers, S.J.

Australian study of HIV and injecting drug use: part I. Predicting exposure to hepatitis C and hepatitis B

Drug and Alcohol Review, 16(3): 215-220, 1997

6 p. eng acq: record only Source: IDA

12

Loxley, Wendy M.; et al.

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