



Patterns of Drug Misuse in Guernsey, Channel Islands

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Background



Guernsey
Population 65,849 (2014)
Area 30.12 square miles

Illicit drugs are difficult to import due to the vigilance of the Guernsey Border Agency (GBA) and severe consequences

Misuse of pharmaceutical medications is prevalent

CDAT is the only Tier 2+ service on island that offers opiate substitute prescribing

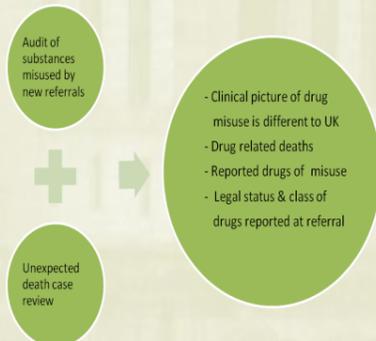
Aims

To identify patterns of drug misuse among patients referred to the Community Drug and Alcohol Team

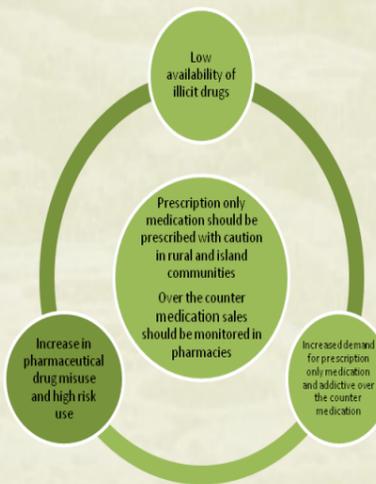
To consider the implications for prescribers, treatment, prognosis and prevention

Method

Case review of 280 patients referred to specialist care between 2011-2013 and unnatural deaths (2002-2011)

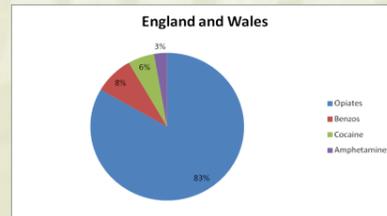
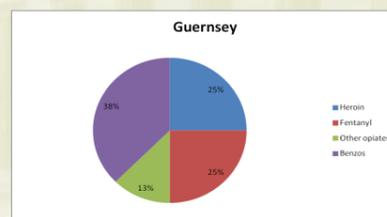


Conclusions

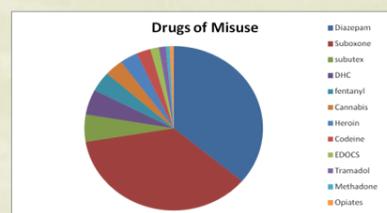


Results

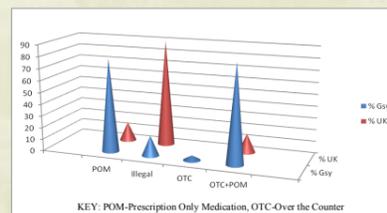
Causes of non-alcohol drug-related deaths



Top drugs of misuse Guernsey



Referrals by drug class and legal status



Recommendations for further investigation

- Monitoring of referrals and drug related death
- Cross reference data with drug screen results
- Prenoxad training programme for opiate overdose
- Addictive Prescription Only Medication Group to consider ways of supply reduction & info sharing

Discussion

- High risk groups of substance misusers injecting fentanyl identified and linked to OD deaths
- Drug controls appear to have reduced illegal drug activity, but may have caused displacement into pharmaceutical misuse

References:
HSSD. Developing the Guernsey Treatments System. Guernsey, 2014.
Lydall, G. Co-ordinated Approach to Illicit Prescription Drug Use. Guernsey, 2014.
Office of National Statistics, Drug related deaths 2012.

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