

DEVELOPMENT OF A MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENT TO ASSESS THE STIGMA AFFECTING PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

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Background:

Stigma experienced by people who use drugs (PWUDs) negatively impact their health and access health services. Thus, the implication to orientated research in the development of intervention such as harm reduction, measurement instrument to curve this stigma. However, the scarcity of PWUDs stigma instrument in Africa and south Africa is pronounced in the literature.

Methods:

this study aimed to develop a measurement instrument to assess the stigma affecting PWUDs. The study was conducted in three phases: 1) An integrative review of six articles developing an instrument to measure PWUDs' stigma. The reviewed articles informed the interview and item generation. 2) a qualitative study with an interpretive and descriptive design. PWUDs and their service providers participated in an in depth interview. The data were analyzed with a thematic approach. The criteria of credibility, applicability, transferability and conformability were ensured. 3) The instrument design phase included a nominal group technique workshop with experts and PWUDs, an internet survey and a quantitative approach to establish reliability and validity. 112 items were grouped into each domain of stigma and handed over to a sample of 32 participants for pilot test.

Results:

Overall the designed instrument had three sections: A sub-scale captured the demographics information; B and C sub-scales captured a domain of stigma. The face and content validity were established. Overall this multi item questionnaire sub-scales achieved a good internal consistency except for one sub-scale. The Cronbach's Alpha varied between 0.660 (C9) and 0.957 (C5). As a result, C9 sub-scale was removed.

Conclusion:

This instrument measured multiple domains of stigma. It was designed based on PWUDs' experience to fit the context of Africa. However, it was conducted in a single setting. (TB/HIV care association), Therefore a recommendation is made to further establish its validity with a larger sample and setting.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Nothing to disclose.