

CO-PRODUCED INTERVENTION(S) DEVELOPMENT FOR REDUCING DRUG-RELATED DEATHS IN SCOTLAND: A SYSTEMS APPROACH

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Background:

Factors relating to the prevention of drug-related deaths (DRD) comprise a 'complex system'; we need to take account of the complexity of causes, from individual to structural, and non-linear relationships between variables. Our study takes a broad approach to provide a better understanding of DRDs in Scotland, to provide key insights, build communication pathways, and inform decision-making.

Methods:

We are in the process of facilitating three stakeholder workshops, following the 6 Steps in Quality Intervention Development Framework for early-stage intervention development. We started by using a Critical Systems Heuristic to identify stakeholder groups with diverse knowledge and expertise. Groups included local/national decision makers, statutory health/social care sectors and disciplines, third-sector agencies, academics, and people with lived experience. Each workshop includes structured activities from Systems Science, drawing on Group Model Building. Network analysis of administrative data from the National Drug-Related Deaths Database (NDRDD) and of workshop outputs, are used simultaneously in subsequent workshops.

Results:

Workshop 1 outputs included diagrams representing multiple interacting influences on DRDs, from psychosocial to wider community, area-based, political, economic, environmental, and cultural factors. Each diagram contained between 40 and 128 factors. We have identified several influential factors that would not be detected in administrative data, e.g. role of power, citizenship, problematic division of services. The workshop output is currently being combined with network analysis of the NDRDD for 4,451 drug-related deaths in Scotland (2009-2016), and the results will be considered at Workshop 2. Workshop 3 aims to gain agreement on key factors that could be addressed in future intervention development.

Conclusion:

The process of collaboratively mapping a system and integrating analysis of administrative data on DRDs, can help gain insight, develop consensus on key issues, enhance communication, and ultimately inform decision-making. We will produce a series of action points, including identifying factors most amenable to change.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The authors declare no conflict of interest.