

NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF QUEBEC COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH HEPATITIS C AND LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE MONTREAL AREA

Close R¹

¹Centre Associatif Polyvalent d'Aide Hépatite C (CAPAHC)

Background:

In Quebec and Canada, there is no specific government plan for the elimination of hepatitis C. For this reason, the CanHepC research network has developed the "*Blueprint to inform hepatitis C elimination efforts in Canada*" to help provinces and territories to ensure to meet the World Health Organization (WHO) hepatitis C elimination targets. Before implementing this Blueprint in Quebec, gathering the needs and challenges of community organizations was considered a first starting point to identify the gaps within the hepatitis C services in Quebec.

Methods:

First, the census of all community organizations in Quebec working directly or indirectly in hepatitis C was carried out. Then, community organizations located outside the Montreal area were contacted to participate in a semi-structured interview. Finally, the qualitative analysis of the interview transcripts has been done with the help of the NVivo software. The help of a doctor with a background in qualitative analysis was also requested for this work.

Results:

Many needs and challenges were identified by the organizations interviewed. These data were divided into three categories: the needs and challenges of the community organizations services' users, the needs and challenges of community organizations and finally, the needs and challenges of hepatitis C actors. Example of needs and challenges: lack of funding, users encounter a lot of stigmatization, difficulty accessing health services related to hepatitis C, etc.

Conclusion:

This qualitative research revealed that there are many gaps in the services offered in hepatitis C in Quebec. These gaps must be addressed and filled according to the guidelines recommended by the CanHep C Blueprint if the WHO's hepatitis C elimination targets are to be met.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

CAPAHC has received funding from the CanHepC research network to carry out this work. No pharmaceutical grants were received.