

PREFERRED GAUGE OF NSP KIT 1 AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS IN NAIROBI COUNTY

Authors:

Sarune SN¹, Aomo GO¹, Oketch N¹, Muga E¹, Gachau S¹, Gitau E²

¹Kenya Red Cross Society, ²SAPTA

Background:

Kenya Red Cross Society implements Global Fund, harm reduction program in Nairobi County Kenya through Support for Addictions Prevention and Treatment in Africa (SAPTA) as sub recipient. Needles and syringes are distributed targeting People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) to prevent and control blood borne diseases such as viral hepatitis and HIV. The program distributes both kit 1 and kit 2, but Kit 1 distinctly contains 1 ml syringes with 29.5-gauge. During April and June 2021, 19,781 kit1 and 39,559 kit 2 were distributed to 5,962 PWID. PWID raised issues with kit 1, leading to withdrawal of gauge 29.5. Consequently, piloting with gauges 25, 30 & 31 – available locally - each of 800 needles and syringes.

Methods:

Qualitative collection used daily feedback and Focus Group Discussions (FGD), recorded, transcribed and analyzed using NVivo. Quantitative gathered through kobo collect forms to 160 samples of PWID for feedback on the gauges piloted. Data analyzed by statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) for descriptive and inferential analyses. Each week, participants received different gauge of kit 1, uniquely color-coded for ease of identification and reference and quantitative feedback were gathered.

Results (N=160):

90% were males, 8.9% females and <1% transgender; 24.4% been injecting for more than 10 years, 51.8% between 5 and 10 years and 23.8% for 4 years; 45% of kit 1 users inject 3 times a day; 74% preferred gauge 25, 20% gauge 30, and 19% gauge 31; Those who preferred gauge 25, 67% were ages 18 to 47 and 66% were males. The chi-square tests preferred gauge of 25 and age { χ^2 (5, N=160)=7.8, p=0.116}, gender { χ^2 (2, N=160)=0.6, p=0.727} and number of injections years { χ^2 (6, N=160)=16.7, p=0.010}.

Conclusion:

Lower gauge (25) is the preferred and influenced by years of injecting, knowledge and PWID experience, size and needles' strength.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No conflicts of interest to report.