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**Access to harm-
reduction interventions
tailored to socially
marginalized
individuals with a
history of substance use
in a drop-in center**

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Background

La Terrasse:

- Harm-reduction drop-in center for socially marginalized individuals with a history of substance use
- Allowing alcohol consumption onsite
- Partnership between a community agency (Fondation ABS) and the Alcohol Treatment Center, Lausanne University Hospital
- Pilot phase: February 2014 – December 2015



Services available in the center:

- Listening and advice
- Orientation
- Cheap meals and snacks
- Safer drug use kits
- Shower and laundry facilities
- Secondhand clothing
- «Small jobs»
- Presence of 2-3 Social care workers/Nurses and a Psychologist

Materials and methods

- Availability of a Psychologist
- Interviews on demand - appointments optional
- Free of charge and anonymous interventions

Results (1)

- 220 interventions (100 during the first 12 months)
- 71 individuals (17.8 % of the drop-in attendees, 62 men)
- Number of interventions ranged from a single intervention to long-term support
- Increasing number of attendees coming spontaneously to the Psychologist
- Growing interest for meeting without appointment

Results (2)

Origins of demands :

- Staff member advising the user to meet with the Psychologist
- Staff member sharing their concern for a person
- Spontaneous demands from the user
- Psychologist approaches the user

Results (3)

Intervention categories:

- Brief intervention: harm reduction, psychosocial support
- Counseling sessions: psychological support, psychotherapy
- Liaison activities: accompaniment to appointments

Results (4)

Problematic discussed:

- Alcohol use
- Health related issues
- Access to social and healthcare network
- Personal psychosocial situation
- Other substance use

Conclusions

- Drop-in center attendees had various demands
- Drop-in center attendees were interested in receiving harm-reduction interventions and/or counseling
- Offering onsite Psychologist's services may fit this population expectancies
- Socially marginalized individuals show concern for their substance use and their health
- Socially marginalized individuals are interested in receiving person-centered interventions

Thank you
for your attention