



Harm Reduction and Mental Health



A Collaborative Approach Between Civil Society and Government in Phatthalung, Thailand

Background:

Background: The Phatthalung Harm Reduction Center, part of the Thailand Drug Users Network (TDN PLG), is actively involved in initiatives to prevent tuberculosis and AIDS using the Reach Recruit Test Treat Retain (RRTTR) service model. The center aims to improve the health and well-being of people who use drugs (PWUD) and their families by providing harm reduction services in collaboration with government agencies.



Methods:

Methods: TDN PLG works closely with local health clinics to support referrals and ongoing care for individuals with severe psychiatric conditions. Through this collaboration, the center provides harm reduction education on HIV, HCV, and STIs, alongside access to clean injection equipment. This collaborative effort enables continuous care and supports the reintegration of PWUD into their communities.

Results:

Results: The center's work has led to the successful appointment of TDN PLG to the Phatthalung Provincial AIDS Prevention and Solution Operations Center and the Phatthalung Provincial Mental Health Subcommittee. Their engagement in training public health officials on harm reduction and mental health has improved service delivery for drug users, demonstrating that harm reduction focuses on readiness for change rather than forced cessation of drug use.



Conclusion:

Conclusion: This partnership between civil society and government highlights a unified effort to reduce drug-related harm and improve mental health services for PWUD. By supporting individuals based on their readiness and providing follow-up care until they voluntarily seek rehabilitation, the collaborative model offers a promising approach to harm reduction in Thailand.

Keywords: Harm reduction, mental health, government collaboration, HIV prevention, PWID, Thailand

