

Drug Consumption Rooms in Amsterdam

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CONTENT

1. THE BEGINNING
2. LEGAL DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOMS
3. CURRENT SITUATION
4. CONCLUSIONS & CHALLENGES



1. THE BEGINNING

THE BEGINNING

- DUTCH HEROIN EPIDEMIC STARTED IN 1975
- IN 1985: 9000 PWUD IN AMSTERDAM
- 30 - 40% INJECTING
 - 40 % AMONG DUTCH
 - 5 % AMONG ETHNIC MINORITIES
 - 70 % AMONG PWUD FROM EU COUNTRIES



ADVERTISING COPY

Do not use too much dope at once and be extra careful when you take different drugs (including pills and alcohol) at the same time!



*in case of O.D.
don't run away!
please call
an ambulance
immediately!*

An deutsche Junkie

Nehmt nicht zu große Mengen dope auf einmal und besonders vorsichtig, wenn ihr verschiedene Drogen gleichzeitig gebrauch!

AMOC
KLEINSTRASSE 11
10117 BERLIN
TEL. 555 55 55

An deutsche Junkies! *

Nehmt nicht zu große Mengen dope auf einmal und besonders vorsichtig, wenn ihr verschiedene Drogen gleichzeitig gebraucht! Vor allem viele deutsche Junkies (oft Touristen) neigen tödliche overdoses



*HIER GILT:
HILFE
GEHT VOR STRAFE
Ruft sofort einen
KARRENTAXIEN
TEL. 555 55 55*

TO FOREIGN JUNKIES !!

Do not use too much dope at once and be extra careful when you take different drugs (including pills and alcohol) at the same time!



*in case of O.D.
don't run away!
please call
an ambulance
immediately!*

Verkoop kaartje Theater Carré tel. 020-225225
Cine Maand tel. 020-264510 - Tuitje tel. 020-233298

TEIN GID



2. LEGAL DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOMS

- IN 1998 THE CITY COUNCIL VOTED TO OPEN UP 3 FACILITIES (A TOTAL OF 15 ROOMS WERE PLANNED!) AS PART OF HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY
- ± 5000 PWUD IN AMSTERDAM
- AVERAGE AGE OF PWUD: 35
- 500.000 DISTRIBUTED NEEDLES¹
- START HEROIN TREATMENT

FRAMEWORK

- AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL, GGD (MUNICIPAL HEALTHCARE AUTHORITY), POLICE AND HARM REDUCTION ORGANISATION
- DESCRIBED TARGETS, CONDITIONS, ADMISSION CRITERIA, HOUSE RULES & SANCTIONS

TARGETS

- REDUCE PUBLIC NUISANCE
- BASIC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
- STABILIZING DRUG USE AND HEALTH OF USER
- SHELTER
- MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH TARGET GROUP
- HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

CONDITIONS

- PLACE FOR HOME- OR HOUSELESS AND PEOPLE CAUSING NUISANCE
- GGD, POLICE AND FACILITY DETERMINE NR OF PLACES OF DCR
- FACILITIES FOR SMOKING AND INJECTING
- PERMISSION TO USE IN 1 DCR ONLY
- DCR SHOULD BE IN AN EXISTING SOCIAL FACILITY
- NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMISSION⁴

⁴ Gemeente Amsterdam; CvdM/MGZ/DMO: Functioneren van de gebruiksruidtes aangepast (2006)





ADMISSION

- RESIDENT OF AMSTERDAM
- 5 YEARS OF ADDICTION
- HOMELESS OR CAUSING NUISANCE
- TBC CHECKED
- DATA OF PWUD WILL BE CHECKED BY GGD FOR CRITERIA > GIVEN ACCESS
LOCAL POLICE OFFICER WILL BE INFORMED

COOPERATION

- GGD SUPPLIES MEDICAL UTENSILS (SYRINGES, PLASTERS) AND OVERSEES MEDICAL HISTORY
- MEETING WITH (NEIGHBOURHOOD) POLICE OFFICER ONCE A MONTH
- MEETING WITH NEIGHBOURS 3-4 TIMES A YEAR

SITUATION IN 2006

- 7 DCRs IN AMSTERDAM²
- ± 3500 PWUD IN AMSTERDAM
- 200.000 DISTRIBUTED NEEDLES³

2 Gemeente Amsterdam; CvdM/MGZ/DMO: Functioneren van de gebruiksruidtes aangepast (2006)

3 GGD Amsterdam; OOGZ Monitor 2010 (2014)

HOUSERULES

- PREVENTION OF DEALING AND NUISANCE IN OR OUTSIDE THE ROOM
- OWN DRUGS > MAX 0,5G (2015R018)
- SANCTIONS SUCH AS EXCLUSION SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO GGD AND POLICE
- POLICE OFFICER CAN ENTER THE DCR AT ANY TIME

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3 DCRs
- 1 DCR FOR HEROIN TREATMENT ONLY
- 6 HOUSING FACILITIES TOLERATING DU
- ± 1800 PWUD IN AMSTERDAM
- AVERAGE AGE: 50 ⁵
- 90% SMOKE DRUGS
- 150.000 DISTRIBUTED NEEDLES ⁶

5 GGD Amsterdam; Heroin addiction: policy and practise in Amsterdam (2014)

6 GGD Amsterdam; OOGZ Monitor 2010 (2014)







COOPERATION



COOPERATION

- ADVANTAGES FOR DCR / PWUD:
 - STRONG ADVOCAT TOWARDS EXTERNAL PLAYERS
 - STRENGTHENING OF INDIVIDUAL APPROACH / FOLLOW UP
 - SHORT LINES OF COMMUNICATION / INFORMATION ALSO IN CASE OF TORUBLE

COOPERATION

- ADVANTAGES FOR THE POLICE / CITY
 - REDUCED NUISANCE
 - CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS
 - MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUAL / FOLLOW UP
 - SHORT LINES OF COMMUNICATION / INFORMATION ALSO IN CASE OF TROUBLE

COOPERATION

- DISADVANTAGES FOR DCR / PWUD:
 - HIGHER THRESHOLD FOR PWUD (MISTRUST, OLD EXPERIENCES)
 - BLOCKING PROCESS (SLOW ADMISSION, RAID)
- FOR POLICE / CITY:
 - DESIGNATED CRIME SPOT
 - „HONEYPOT" EFFECT

4. CONCLUSIONS

- DCR ALLOWS TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH THE MOST DIFFICULT TO REACH PEOPLE
- COOPERATION WITH CITY, HEALTH CARE, NEIGHBOURS AND POLICE IS USEFUL AND VALUABLE
- EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IS BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST AND FACE TO FACE CONTACT

CHALLENGES

- FACILITATING MUTUAL TRUST
- NUISANCE STAYS AN URBAN PROBLEM
 - ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION ROOMS
- DECREASING NUMBER AND HIGH AGE OF PWUD
- DCR - A TEMPORARY FACILITY?!

MORE INFORMATION ON DCRS:

WWW.DRUGCONSUMPTIONROOM-INTERNATIONAL.ORG

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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