

Drug consumption rooms in Europe

**Models, best practice and
challenges**

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Different models

Integrated model

part of a wider network of services, being added into existing care facilities for people who use drugs. In addition of the DCR, there are also additional services like opiate substitution treatment, drop in areas and counselling.

Specialised model

focus on protected places for the hygienic consumption of drugs in a non-judgemental environment. They are usually set up in close vicinity to other drugs services and located near open drug scenes. Specialised DCRs focus on the referral to other services like opioid substitution treatment, counseling, housing or working services

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Barriers for access

People who use drugs are excluded when they are:

- occasional or first-time users
- under 18
- drunken or otherwise intoxicated
- not residing in the vicinity of the DCR
- in opioid substitution treatment

Drug consumption rooms can only develop their entire impact if target groups have access.

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Female users in DCR

Worldwide there is only one drug consumption room (Hamburg) which focuses exclusively on female drug users.

80% of WWUD reported that they feel more comfortable and protected among women.

90 % said, that they could speak more openly about their problems and it is much more easier to build confidence to the staff and to accept offers of help.

Mixed gender DCRs are not very interesting for female users due to their limited or non-existent services for them.

We need more DCRs exclusively reserved for female drug users.

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DCR save lives

Since 1995 to 2013 between 6.500 - 8.500 drug users died each year by drug related deaths in Europe.

- The use of opiates from 32% in Belgium to 96% in Ireland plays a significant role in relation to drug related deaths.
- Despite millions of injections occurring at DCRs over the past 20 years, there has been reported only one death. *(2002 a drug user died from whole-body allergic reaction in a German DCR)*
- Information on severity was provided for 503 emergencies.
- 584 drug-related emergencies documented in 2013 in Germany.
- 194 (38.5%) were classified as life-threatening.

These drug-related emergencies could have had a fatal outcome if the users had been alone at home or at a public place.

Drug consumption rooms substantially contribute to reducing the prevalence of drug-related fatalities

Thank you

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