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Harm Reduction for Injection Drug Users in British Columbia:  
Challenges and Implications for the Nursing Profession

Injection drug use in Vancouver has been identified as a major concern, with serious implications for both injection drug users (IDUs) and the general population (Cain, 1999; MacPherson, 2000; Millar, 1998). Serious adverse health consequences can result...

### **Literature Review**

Des Jarlais et al. (1993) stated that the use and that misuse of psychoactive drugs by people has occurred throughout history. While some of these drugs were intended for legitimate medicinal purposes, non-medical consumption...

### **The Nature of Psychoactive Drugs and Injection Drug Use**

There is a myriad of complex issues and interrelated aspects of drug consumption that are fundamental to understanding the phenomenon of injection drug use. To effectively provide interventions for IDUs, such as harm reduction services, it is essential for care providers to have knowledge and awareness...

### **Discussion**

#### **Nursing Practice and Harm Reduction for IDUs**

There are relatively few articles that specifically describe nursing practice in relation to harm reduction services, particularly services for IDUs. However, the available literature...

**Primary health care.** The concept of primary health care originated with the Alma Ata Declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1978. Described as “both a philosophy and a system...”