Table of Contents

Literature Review 6

The Nature of Psychoactive Drugs and Injection Drug Use 7

Health Implications of Injection Drug Use for IDUs 11

Implications of Injection Drug Use for the General Population 13

Facing the Issue of Drug Use: From Prohibition to Harm Reduction 15

Harm Reduction Approach to Injection Drug Use 19

Public Health Policy and Harm Reduction 28

Discussion 33

Nursing Practice and Harm Reduction for IDUs 33

Challenges and Implications for Nursing 42

References 58

Appendix A: Demographics of Injection Drug Use 65

Appendix B: Synopsis of Vancouver's Four Pillar Approach 67

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 gives valuable insight into current nursing practice related to harm reduction, and demonstrates…

Challenges and Implications for Nursing

Nurses are in a unique position to deliver harm reduction interventions for the IDU population in British Columbia. As presented in the aforementioned areas of nursing practice, nurses have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the health and well-being of…