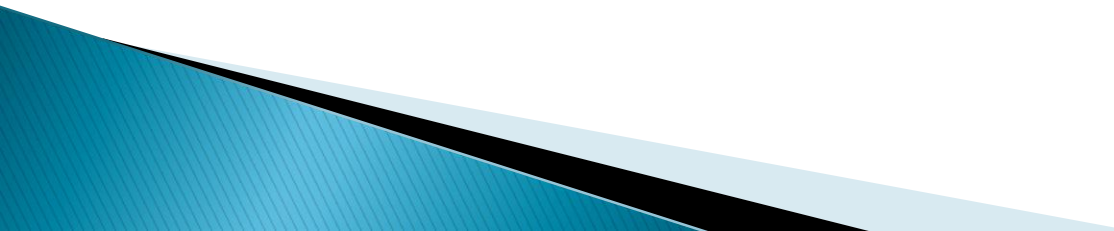


A Profile of Irish Needle and Syringe Exchange Services and Service Users in 2007 and 2008

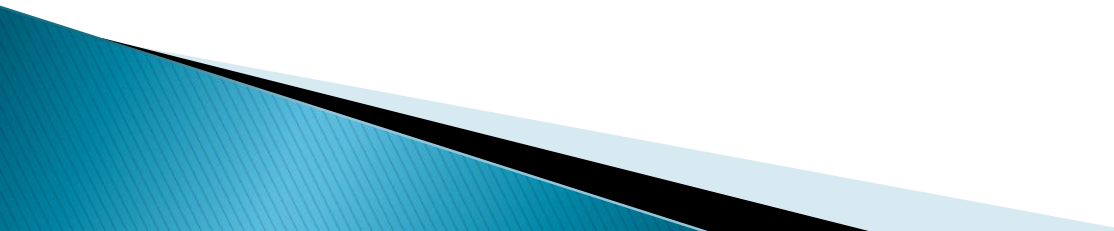
Janet Robinson



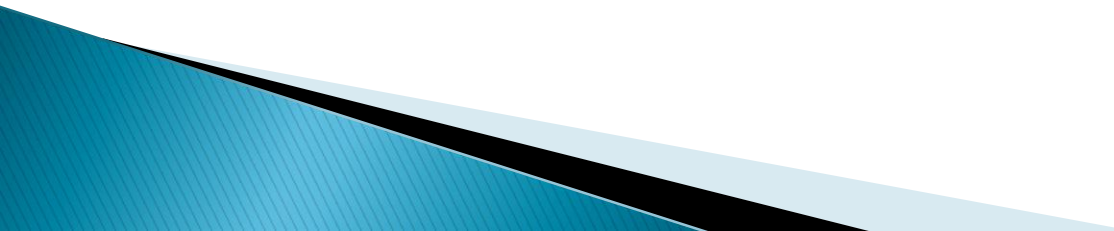
Study rationale and objectives

- Rationale = lack of information on needle and syringe exchange services and service users in Ireland
 - Objective = assess the feasibility of collecting data using a service inventory questionnaire
 - Objective = provide a profile of needle and syringe-exchange services and service users
- 

Data collection

- ▶ Data collection instrument = service-inventory questionnaire developed by Working Group on Data Collection within the Correlation Network (2008)
 - ▶ <http://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/dcp.pdf>
 - ▶ Data collection agency = Health Research Board
 - ▶ Methods of collection = Telephone and face-to-face interviews
 - ▶ 2007 = 31 NSEs provided data
 - ▶ 2008 = 34 NSEs provided data
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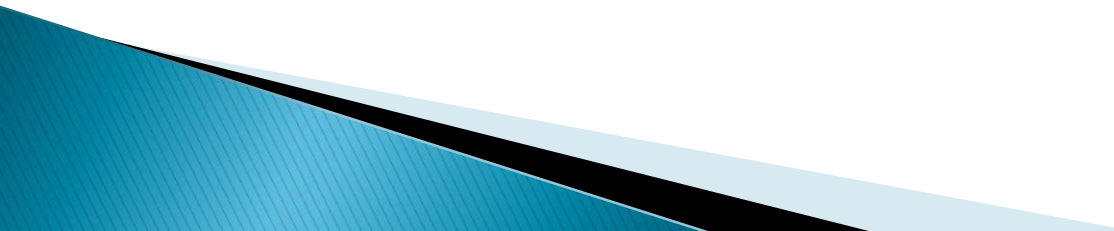
Focus of presentation

- ▶ Profile of service providers
 - ▶ Profile of service users
 - ▶ Drug use among service users
 - ▶ Health-related and social risks of drug use
- 

Number and type of NSEs by RDTF at end of 2008

- ▶ ECRDTF = 6 NSEs (5 FS; 1 MU)
- ▶ SWRDTF = 13 NSEs (12 FS; 1 MU)
- ▶ NRDTF = 11 NSEs (11 FS)
- ▶ MWRDTF = 2 NSEs (1 FS; 1 MU)
- ▶ MRDTF = 1 NSE (1 MU)
- ▶ WRDTF = 1 NSE (1 MU)

Type of service providers at the end of 2008

- ▶ 18 statutory public service providers
 - ▶ 11 partnership of statutory public service providers and non-government organisations
 - ▶ 5 non-government organisations
- 

Operations of NSEs

- ▶ 21 FS = 1 day a week
- ▶ Days of operation: Monday to Friday
- ▶ Open Access 'drop-in' = 28; 2008
- ▶ Closed Access 'target specific' = 6; 2008 (Sex workers, homeless, travelling community, low-dose methadone patients and female only)

Service activity

Number of clients attending services and number of exchanges completed each year

Year	2007	2008
No. of services	22	20
No. of clients	7,069	4,770
No. of services	7	27
No. of exchanges	2,392	53,455

Gender and age of NSE clients

- ▶ 2007 = 10% - 30% of clients attending 19 services were female
- ▶ 2008 = 6% - 30% of clients attending 15 services were female
- ▶ 2007-08 = 2 NSEs were female only

- ▶ 2007 = 10 NSEs; youngest clients 18 or under
- ▶ 2008 = 12 NSEs; youngest clients 18 or under

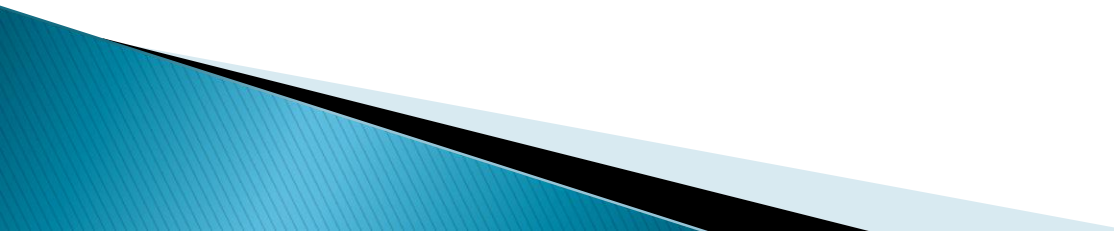
- ▶ 2007 = 22 NSEs; some clients age 33-79
- ▶ 2008 = 21 NSEs; some clients age 36-71

Drug use among NSE clients

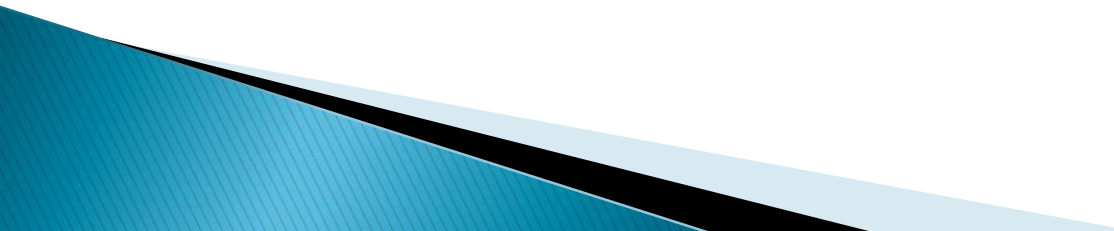
Three most common drugs used by NES clients and the route of administration

	2007/2008	Route of administration
Most common drug	Heroin	Injecting
Second most common drug	Cocaine powder	Injecting and non-injecting
Third most common drug	Benzodiazepines	Injecting and non-injecting

Health-risks among NSE clients in 2007

- ▶ Steroid injectors (n=19 NSEs)
 - ▶ Skin infections & abscesses (n=16 NSEs)
 - ▶ Mental health problems (n=11 NSEs)
 - ▶ Overdoses & drug-related deaths (n=7 NSEs)
 - ▶ Rapid deterioration of health (n=7 NSEs)
 - ▶ Behavioural problems (n=5 NSEs)
 - ▶ Injecting in the groin (n=3 NSEs)
- 

Social-risk among NSE clients in 2007

- ▶ Homeless clients (n=29 NSEs)
 - ▶ Sex workers (n=25 NSEs)
 - ▶ Minority ethnic groups (n=20 NSEs)
 - ▶ Migrant workers (n=19 NSEs)
 - ▶ Debt and poverty (n=9 NSEs)
 - ▶ Unemployment (n=5 NSEs)
 - ▶ Children being taken into care (n=4 NSEs)
 - ▶ Criminal-related issues (n=4 NSEs)
- 

Concluding comments

- ▶ Challenges to NSEs
 - Health risks of clients
 - Social risks of clients
 - Changes in drug use and injecting practices
 - New and emerging group profiles

- ▶ Data collection
 - Evidence for policy and practice?