

B14. QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS INJECTING RISK BEHAVIOR

USE WHEN YOU WANT TO EVALUATE:

Outcomes :

- ✓ Healthy Behavior: Improved Risk Reduction Practices

Intervention types:

- ✓ Skill building sessions to increase capacity to engage in risk reduction behaviors
- ✓ Outreach to priority populations to increase their capacity to engage in risk reduction behaviors

Worked well with these populations:

- ✓ People who inject drugs

Interventions for:

- ✓ HIV
- ✓ hepatitis C

DESCRIPTION

A short injecting risk questionnaire that measures frequency in the sharing of equipment among people who inject drugs. It was designed in the UK to be administered by interview or self-administered questionnaire in agency and community settings, by staff or outreach workers. A thorough research study that tested the performance of the questionnaire in different sites with different interviewers and participants was conducted concluding that the questions performed well in various situations.

WHY THIS TOOL MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ Suitable for before and after testing of a program's effects
- ✓ Easily completed and analysed

Developed in:

- ✓ English

ADMINISTRATION, DESIGN, SCORING and ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

ADMINISTRATION

- This tool can be conducted as an interview or self-administered questionnaire and should take about 5-10 minutes each time.
- The short form of the tool combines questions 2 and 3 about the occurrence of sharing and the number of people with whom equipment was shared. The longer form includes questions about different sharing practices (Qs 4 -16) and Q17 about the number of people with whom these practices occurred.
- Tell participants why you are conducting the interview or using the questionnaire, being clear that it is to evaluate the intervention to help make it better, and not to evaluate or judge them.
- This interview/questionnaire could be sensitive if people feel their behavior is being judged, so make sure that people feel safe and that the space is confidential.
- Participation should be voluntary, so tell participants that it is okay if they do not complete the questionnaire or participate in an interview, and assure participants that there are no negative consequences if they don't want to complete it. Give them a way to do something else at the same so that the confidentiality of this decision is protected. (For further information on ethical considerations in carrying out evaluations, see [Ethics Resources](#))

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DESIGN OPTIONS

Measuring before and after intervention (this is the recommended option for this because it measures actual change. Measuring only at the only after the end of the intervention is not recommended because people's memories are not as reliable for this type of behavior)

1. **WHEN TO USE:** Conduct the interview or have the questionnaires filled out before the intervention or at the very beginning of it, and again after, as close to the end as possible or after a reasonable period of time.
2. **LINKING RESULTS:** Include a way to match the same person's pre and post questionnaires while protecting confidentiality, for example using a [password](#) or unique identifier that respondents generate and remember.
3. **SCORING:** Assign a numerical value to each of the possible answers (Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never); it is easiest if the higher numbers always mean the same thing (e.g. more positive response in terms of outcomes). For example, in question 2, you would assign a 4 to the response of "Never" and a 1 to the response of "Frequently". Create each person's sharing of equipment practices by calculating his or her [average](#) of the questions answered. The responses to Q3 and Q17 about the number of people would not be included in the average.
4. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the pre and post scores for each individual, noting how many people have fewer risk behaviors, how many stay the same, and how many have more risk behaviors. The responses to Q3 and Q17 can be compared before and after intervention as well.

Measuring change only after the end of an intervention: (this is the second best option, if it's not feasible to do the before and after the intervention)

1. Adapt all the questions so that they ask people what their answer is now and what it was before the intervention.

For example, for question 2 ask: *"During the last 4 weeks, how often have you shared injecting equipment?"* AND *"Before the workshop (or interaction with the outreach workers), how often did you share injecting equipment?"* (see an [example](#))

2. **SCORING:** Assign a numerical value to each of the possible answers (Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never); it is easiest if the higher numbers always mean the same thing (e.g. more positive response in terms of outcomes). For example, in question 2, you would assign a 4 to the response of "Never" and a 1 to the response of "Frequently". Create each person's sharing of equipment practices by calculating his or her [average](#) of the questions answered. The responses to Q3 and Q17 about the number of people would not be included in the average.
3. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the pre and post scores for each individual, noting how many people have fewer risk behaviors, how many stay the same, and how many have more risk behaviors. The responses to Q3 and Q17 can be compared before and after intervention as well.

B14. INJECTING RISK QUESTIONNAIRE (IRQ)

Q1. Have you injected a drug in the last 4 weeks? Yes: No
(If you have *not* injected in the last 4 weeks do not answer the remaining questions)

The next two questions are about sharing injecting equipment in general.

Q2. During the last 4 weeks, how often have you shared injecting equipment? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q3. During the last 4 weeks, with how many different people have you shared injecting equipment? Number of people _____

The next questions are about using other people's equipment or them using yours

During the last 4 weeks how often have you done any of the following things?

Q4. Given or lent used needles/syringes to a sexual partner? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q5. Given or lent used needles/syringes to a friend or acquaintance? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q6. Given or lent used needles/syringes to a stranger? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q7. Injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a sexual partner? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q8. Injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a friend or acquaintance? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q9. Injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a stranger? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q10. Filled your syringe from one that had already been used by someone else? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q11. Let someone else fill your syringe with a syringe you had already used? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q12. Drawn up from a container or spoon into which someone else had put a used syringe? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q13. Put a used needle into a container or spoon that was then used by someone else? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q14. Used a filter into which someone else had put a used syringe? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q15. Let someone else use a filter into which you had put a used syringe? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q16. Used the same water or bleach as someone else for flushing out or cleaning? Frequently: Sometimes: Hardly ever: Never

Q17. During the last 4 weeks how many different people have you done any of the things on this page? Number of people _____

Source: Stimson, G., Jones, S et al (1998) **A short questionnaire to assess injecting risk behaviour**. Addiction, 93, 337-347.