

Is sanitary coverage sufficient in immigrant patients consuming illegal drugs to improve their health and social situation?

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Introduction

In Catalonia integral health coverage is not Universal. Immigrants undocumented only have access to emergency services, but not to a continuous and specialized care. From the Catalan addictions network there exists a program that give health coverage to immigrant people in an irregular situation, to let them start treatment in a center for drug dependence.

From 2012, 34 health cards were processed in Centre Fòrum, that have permitted complete health coverage to 34 people.



Method

A descriptive study has been made to know socialdemographic and clinic data from 34 users cared in a drug dependence service. The evolution, abstinence to drugs and recovery of the patients in this program have been reviewed too.

Results

From all the users, the 85,29% were male, with an average age of 32,65 (from 21 to 54 years old). The main precedence of these users is Europe, mainly from Bulgaria and Italy (82,35%), with a time of residence in Spain from 1 to 5 years (38,23%), without economic income (94,11%), homeless (85,29%), without family (91,17%), the main drug was heroine (79,41%), with organic pathology (67,64%), dual mental disease (11,74%). The 50% of these users maintained treatment for 6 months with good evolution (only 20,58% in urine controls were positive for drugs).

Conclusions

Almost the 95% of users don't have economic incomes and more than 85% are homeless (some of them live in the streets, hostels or as squatters). Health coverage is only one of the protective factors to improve quality of life of immigrants who consume drugs. Social factors are basic for health attention as without basic needs covered it is non-viable to start a treatment for addictions.

References

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