

TOBACCO SMOKING BEHAVIOURS, NICOTINE DEPENDENCE AND INTEREST IN QUITTING – A SURVEY OF SYDNEY MEDICALLY SUPERVISED INJECTING CENTRE CLIENTS

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Introduction and Aims: Among people who inject drugs (PWIDs), the rate of smoking exceeds 90% indicating a clear need for intervention. The Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) is a potential setting to address tobacco smoking among PWIDs. The aim of this study is to examine MSIC clients tobacco smoking-related behaviours.

Design and Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted. Eligible individuals were current MSIC clients aged ≥18years, self-reported tobacco smoker, satisfactory English comprehension and able to provide informed consent.

Results: Of the 214 eligible individuals, 202 consented to participate (94%); 200(99%) were daily smokers who were moderately to heavily nicotine dependent (n=156, 77%). Most (n=186, 83%) had made at least one quit attempt in their lifetime. Previous quit attempts were largely unaided relying mostly on will power (n=52, 70%). The majority (n=138, 68%) indicated that they would like to quit smoking and would like to receive access to smoking cessation strategies while at a MSIC.

Discussion and Conclusions: MSIC clients are highly nicotine dependent, interested in quitting smoking and would like their smoking to be addressed.

Implications for Practice or Policy: This study will provide novel information to shape program development for smoking cessation care in MSICs.

Implications for Translational Research: This study is a pilot for a larger organisational change intervention aimed at increasing rates of smoking cessation care delivery in Australian drug and alcohol treatment centres and increasing smoking cessation among clients.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: The authors declare no conflict of interest.