







## Setting Up an Evidence-Based Electronic Library on Addictions (EELDA): A Joint Project of Librarians, Academics, and Other **Specialists**

Christine Goodair, Head of Information Services, DrugScope

Society for Study of Addiction Annual Symposium

"If we did have evidence-based policy and practice, what would they look like?"

York, November 2005









## Why EELDA?

- Professionals require up to date and accurate information on scientific developments, treatment and prevention interventions.
- Overload of information both in hard copy and electronically.
- Growing interest and demand for evidence based information.









#### Aim of EELDA

- To provide reliable evidence based information on a number of predefined substances: cannabis; cocaine; ecstasy
- For professionals in mental health and addiction care including libraries, and the public







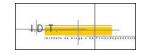


#### **Evidence Based Information/Practice**

- Concept has its origins in evidence based medicine (EBM)
- EBM is defined as "the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individuals"
- Evidence based information/practice is defined as "integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available clinical evidence from systematic research"









### **Site Content**

- Introduction section covers background information such as appearance, methods of use, prevalence and country specific legislation
- Effects physical & psychological
- Risks to health, interaction with other drugs, disorders, pregnancy







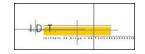


### **Site Content**

- Identification and diagnosis recognition of problematic use and addiction, detection of drugs in the body
- Prevention- interventions for particular settings, harm reduction
- Treatment detoxification, maintenance, psychosocial treatment; relapse prevention
- Glossary of terminology used on the site.









# Methodology

- Question formulation; authors
- Literature search: librarians
- Critical appraisal: authors/librarians
- Authoring: authors
- Expert review: independent scientists
- Panel review: non-scientific professionals









#### **Question formulation**

- Can cannabis cause psychosis in users?
- Cocaine (and metabolites) can be detected in saliva, blood, hair, urine and sweat. For how long can it be detected and how reliable is this?
- When does XTC (MDMA, MDEA or MDA) have effects? How long do they last?







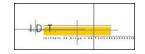


## Authors input to search process

- Indicate preferred studies random controlled trial, systematic review, case study
- Provide key terms and concepts self esteem, personality, cannabis, toxicity, pharmacology, schizophrenia.
- State which databases to search, e.g. Medline, Psychinfo, DrugData, Toxline, **Embase**
- Advise on limitations such as studies from 1990 onwards; no animal studies.









#### Literature Search

- Undertaken by librarians
- Working to the same protocol
- Search the databases identified by authors
- Authors provide key issues that they wish to address, so a basic filter can be applied to the literature search results.
- Search results with abstracts sent to authors







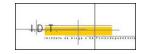


# **Critical Appraisal**

- Authors examine the references and abstracts for quality and relevance against their criteria such as
- Preference for systematic reviews
- Title or abstract to cover cannabis diagnosis
- Eliminate articles where assessment of use/misuse/dependence is unclear or not described.
- Single case studies eliminated









# Authoring

- Selected articles are supplied and read
- Summaries are written describing the findings
- These summaries are reviewed by experts for both content and clarity of writing before publication on the website.



### **Questions and Observations**

- What can the addictions field gain/learn from evidence-based medicine?
- Does excluding non-evidence based material lose valuable information?
- What else can we draw from evidencebased approaches?



#### **Observations**

- EBM is not directly transferable
- Evidence based work/practice can encourage dialogue across multi disciplinary groups.
- Ensure that adequate resources are in place
- Avoid a "cookbook" approach be flexible
- Map out the information environment
- Deploy the skills of information specialists