

Developing community-based interventions to reduce alcohol related harms in four rural Aboriginal communities in Australia.

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Introduction: Community-based interventions are likely to reduce alcohol related harms among Australian Indigenous people, especially when they are developed in close collaboration with the community. This paper will showcase how a mix of methods was combined with participatory planning to assess community needs and inform intervention development.

Method: Two types of data were collected: routinely collected hospital admission, emergency department and police data and literary analysis of intervention research. Outcomes of the data collection were discussed in an Implementation Committee which consisted of local service providers, Aboriginal community members and researchers.

Results: Though crime data was slightly different per community, in general assaults were the most common alcohol related crimes. Young males were most likely to be offenders, young females most likely to be victim.

The Implementation Committee combined these findings with the outcomes of the literary analysis and decided on a suit of five interventions to be implemented, focusing on the following areas: diversion activities, social and emotional wellbeing, alcohol and drugs, skills training and case coordination.

Conclusion: These results show that it is feasible to use different types of data, combined with participatory planning to make decisions on community-based interventions to reduce alcohol related harms. This has implications for how researchers can use data and work together with communities in the planning and implementation process.