

Appendix C: Email request for additional data

In January 2008, an email was sent worldwide requesting further data to:

- a. known email lists (including the Asian Harm Reduction Network, EHRN, IYNHR, NHRN, Stijn Goossens, HRC, ADCA UPDATE, International Harm Reduction Association, CHRC, Correlation-ENSIH),
- b. Reference Group members,
- c. WHO, UNAIDS and UNODC Headquarters staff, and
- d. Contacts of researchers in the Secretariat team.

This request resulted in 62 responses containing data from people and resulted in the identification of reports that provided data for countries across all regions worldwide.

The email text read:

“URGENT REQUEST

Reference Group to the UN on HIV and IDU

We are looking for data from around the world on the number of injecting drug users and HIV prevalence among IDUs.

Do you have data from your country?

The Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and injecting drug use advises UNODC, UNAIDS and WHO on injecting drug use and on effective approaches to HIV prevention and care for IDUs to help guide strategies for scaling up these activities.

See www.idurefgroup.unsw.edu.au for more information about the work of the Reference Group, the international experts who currently make up the group and the Secretariat which is currently based at the National Drug and Alcohol Centre in Australia.

One of our major activities is to report on the global extent of IDU and HIV.

We are in the process of updating estimates for every country around the world on:

1. ***the number of people who inject drugs in each country***
2. ***the prevalence of HIV among these injecting drug users***

Many of you may be familiar with the estimates that were released several years ago by the previous Reference Group.

Producing these estimates is difficult because in many countries there are no data measuring the extent of injecting drug use or HIV among injecting drug users. In other countries data may exist, but are not widely available.

So far we have conducted a very large search of the peer-reviewed literature and have tried to gather as much *grey* literature (such as NGO and government reports) as possible. However we know that there will be some material that our search would have missed.

Below is a list of countries that we do not currently have sufficient data on. This lack of data means we will be unable to make direct estimates on the size of the IDU population or the prevalence of HIV among IDUs for these countries.

Do you have any information on these countries that may be of use to us?

Any assistance you are able to provide will be acknowledged in the reports of the Reference Group. We have only a limited amount of time in which to complete this work. Because of this we will only be able consider material that is sent to us ***before Friday 15 February 2008.***

More data is needed for the following countries:

Eastern Europe and Central Asia:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Lithuania

South Asia:

Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka

East and South East Asia

Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, The Taiwan Province of China, Timor Leste

Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

South America

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

Oceania and the Pacific

American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Western Europe

Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Iceland, Italy, Finland, France, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Middle East and North Africa

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Sub-Saharan Africa

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

If you have any information you can share with us or you have any further questions please send an email to: **IDUreferencegroup@med.unsw.edu.au**

We would greatly appreciate any help you can offer us.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Bradley Mathers.

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