

HIPS/19/32 - A systems approach to exploring syndemic health and social condition clustering among individuals who experience a drug-related death: developmental work for co-produced intervention(s)

Drug-related deaths (DRDs) in Scotland are at an all-time high, having increased markedly in the past decade. An ageing population of drug users, alongside the existence of multiple co-occurring health conditions, are proposed as contributing factors. However, little is known about multimorbidity in this group. This study aims to increase understanding of commonly co-occurring conditions, prescriptions, and concurrent social factors that may play a role in DRDs, and explore opportunities for action. Statistical analysis of all DRDs will explore health and social condition clustering. We will facilitate a stakeholder workshop series, with those with professional and lived-experience of drug use. The workshops will follow a structured process, drawing on established methodology. The statistical analysis and workshop series are integrated; workshops will both inform the statistical analysis and then use its findings to develop ways forward. The aim of the workshops is to discuss the problem, taking account of the wider context surrounding DRD, to identify potential opportunities to intervene e.g. where problematic combinations of health and social conditions are identified, and decide what further data analysis and development work is required to progress to testing an intervention(s). This study will provide new evidence on the substantial problem of DRDs.