

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT IN DEPRIVED URBAN AREAS IN EU COUNTRIES: ACCESSIBILITY OF CARE FOR PEOPLE FROM SOCIALLY MARGINALISED GROUPS. (Tratamiento de las adicciones en las zonas urbanas en los países de la UE: La accesibilidad de la atención para las personas de los grupos socialmente marginados)

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Aims: The study examines the accessibility of substance abuse treatment for people from socially marginalised groups in deprived urban areas across EU countries.

Methods: Services providing mental health care in deprived areas of 14 EU capital cities were assessed with a questionnaire. We analysed availability and accessibility of substance abuse treatment for people from six groups: the long term unemployed, the homeless, street sex workers, asylum seekers and refugees, irregular migrants and people from travelling communities.

Results: While 30% of all assessed services provided substance abuse treatment, in 20% of services, addiction was a criterion for exclusion. Among services providing substance abuse treatment, 77% accepted self-referrals, 63% were open on weekends or in the evening, 60% did not charge any out-of-pocket fees, 35% provided access to interpreters, and 28% ran outreach activities. These results varied substantially among EU capitals.

Conclusion: Providing accessible substance abuse treatment for socially marginalised groups is inconsistent across Europe. Some of the approaches may constitute barriers to treatment. Developing care delivery models that facilitate access for vulnerable populations should be a priority for national and European policies.

(En prensa)