Special register on drug-related death

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Why a special register (SR)?

- Substances do not have specific codes (ICD10)
 - E.g. Opiate-related death: heroïne or medical opiates?
 - T43.6: Intox with psychostimulantia: amphetamine, ecstasy, cafeïne, khat, ephedrine.
- Yearly report on drug-related death not timely to signal trends/'bad drugs'
- Little-to-no information on context and medical history
- Insights on methods used to establish cause of death (e.g. post-mortem toxicological examination?)



Brief overview of the project

- Define in-/exclusion criteria
 - Substances
 - Cases that not perfectly fit DRD definition but are of importance for policy/prevention
- Interview: How do forensic physicians recognize DRD, what methods are used and how do they register DRD?
- Record linking study forensic register v.s. Statistics Netherlands (GMR)



Lessons learned so far

- Toxicological examination is crucial to confirm your hypothesis if death is drugrelated or not
 - E.g. a 60-year old man was found in his house, known to be a drug user (cocaïne and hasj) and to be a drug dealer. His medical history showed: severe asthma, TIA, cardiac problems. No urine or blood samples were taken.
- Resources are an issue
- By use of the SR it is possible to generate more specific numbers on DRD <u>and</u> to collect information for prevention purposes

Example cocaïne-related death	N = 30
Only cocaïne involved	N = 20
Combination with other substances	N = 10
Accidental overdose	N = 25
Intentional overdose	N = 5
Location of death At home On the street At the hospital	N = 20 N = 5 N = 5
12 10 2020	4



Project timeline

Set up advisory committee: forensic physicians, pharmacist, member of the medical forensic Meeting advisory Interviews 24/25 health regions society, committee epidemiologist, medical officer Define working definition, select cases forensic register Coding cases forensic register Feb Mar Apr May July June Aug Draft blueprint SR Discuss blueprint SR and finalise Report + final Analyze interviews Report study results version blueprint Meeting advisory SR Record linkage study committee Sept Oct Nov Dec



Thank you

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