

## Recovery & Inequalities

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### Key messages

- Notions of personal recovery are occurring within a highly 'uneven' landscape.
- Landscape shaped by important inequalities – social, economic, health, gender and ethnicity.
- Reducing these inequalities - vital to ensure significant positive outcomes.

### Work as a Recovery Route

- Unstable use (intoxication/withdrawals) Restrictive daily dispensing
- Health: Chronic Hepatitis C Enduring mental health problems?
- Past or present criminal justice involvement
- Housing – Homelessness, Viable Tenancy
- Differing values - Drug & Employment Services
- Discriminating Employers
- Impact of 'Grey Economy' and 'In-Work poverty'
- Welfare Reforms

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### Employment Support Allowance ESA

- Move 'Sickness benefits' to ESA - 2014
- England: 233,000 / 267,000 drug users on Sickness benefits
- Citizens Advice: ESA concerns (new work test)
- Fit for work? IB (37%) ESA (69%)
- BUT 8% adults unemployed - highest since 1996

#### 100 Gap Household Assets

- Top 10% > £853,000
- Bottom 10% < £8,800 Most "drug users"
- Economic inequalities: across life cycle & passed on to next generation

### Social status - stigma

- List of 18 various 'conditions' - ranked in 14 different countries (WHO study)

#### 'Alcoholism' & 'Drug Addiction'

- Ranked near the top in terms of degree of social disapproval or stigma in all but 2 countries – above being dirty and unkempt

### Minority Ethnic Groups

- Major over-representation - arrested & imprisoned drug offenders.
- England & Wales - Black people 6 times more likely to be arrested and 11 times more likely to be imprisoned for drug offences than white people (Stevens, 2008).
- USA - 225% increase in rate of drug arrests per 100,000 of black people between 1982 and 2003. Compared to 70% increase for white people (King, 2008).

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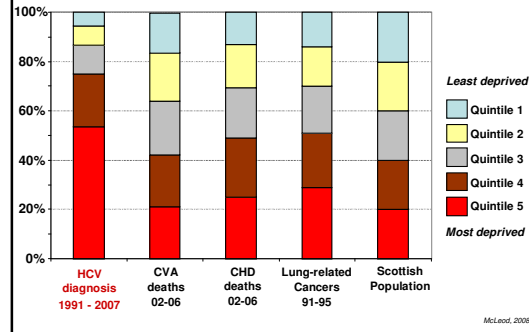
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## Gender

### Childcare

- Are services sensitive to parental needs e.g. rehab?
- Drug Using Parents (i.e. Mothers) - Fathers often absent from wider policy debate.
- Kinship carers – primarily grandmothers, often ill-equipped physically and financially to care for young children.
- Prostitution: impact on female migrants
- Gender Based Violence
- Female poverty

## Hepatitis C & Deprivation - Scotland



## Hepatitis C

England: estimate 106,000 HCV (1986 - 2001)

HCV test refused / not offered / not recorded (in Drug Treatment)

- 67.3% all drug users 139,645 out of 207,581
- 61.4 % all injectors 70,687 out of 114,979

Scotland: 39,000 with Chronic HCV (2008)

- Diagnosed 40%
- Receiving specialist help 8.7%
- Started on antiviral therapy 1.4%
- 1,000 - 2,000 new infections among injectors, annually

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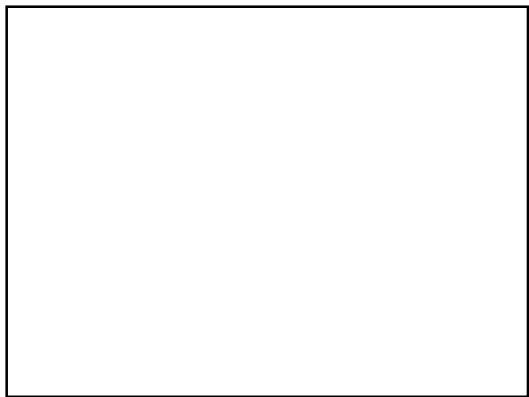
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### Recovery & Inequalities - challenges

- Shift from “drug focus” to address wider inequalities.
- Primary Care links: Money Advice, Welfare Rights, Financial Capability & Housing Advice?
- Realistic Local Rehab: cooking, housework, shopping, paying bills?
- Volunteering and Social Enterprise?
- Ensure Drug Services are 'Equality Sensitive'
- Recognise Public Health impact of Hepatitis C on Recovery.
- Discrimination & Stigma: learn from other campaigns e.g. SEE Me
- Tax & Welfare reform to reduce income inequality – '100 Gap'?



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