INJECTING RISK QUESTIONNAIRE (IRQ) INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

IRQ was developed by the Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour

Background

This questionnaire measures the extent and nature of the sharing of needles and syringes and other injecting equipment. It is useful for programmes which aim to reduce the transmission of infections such as HIV, HBC and HCV among injecting drug users.

It can be used to help assess levels of injecting risk behaviour. It identifies different sharing practices and is suitable for different types of injecting drug users. It can be used to assess need and to target interventions. With suitable research design it can be used to help assess the impact of prevention services such as needle and syringe distribution schemes, publicity campaigns, peer education, and drug treatment programmes.

It was developed in order to measure progress towards the UK government target to reduce the proportion of injectors who share injecting equipment.

Special features

The questionnaire covers both the direct sharing of needles and syringes, and the sharing of ancillary equipment ('indirect sharing').

It can be administered :

- in agency and non-agency (community) settings
- by self completion and by interview
- by agency staff, researchers or field workers
- to different types of injectors of illicit drugs. (It has not been validated for use with injectors of steroids.)

It takes about five minutes to complete.

Responses are recorded by circling an answer or writing in a number.

Performance data are available (Stimson et al 1997).

Eligibility

IRQ is for use with people who have injected drugs in the last four weeks.

Versions available

There are four versions of the questionnaire. Each version is identifiable by a reference code printed on the first page. The printed version has the title INJECTING QUESTIONNAIRE.

IRQ-I-A	IRQ administered by Interview in Agency settings
IRQ-SQ-A	IRQ for Self-completion in Agency settings
IRQ-I-NA	IRQ administered by Interview in Non-agency settings
IRQ-SQ-NA	IRQ for Self-completion in Non-agency settings

Questions and sub-scales

IRQ comprises 17 questions which measure the occurrence of different sharing practices, and the number of people with whom these have been done. It is preferable that all 17 questions are asked. However Question 1 can be used alone where use of the whole questionnaire is not feasible. Question 1 has been designed as a basic *Health of the Nation Question* (HNQ). Note however that HNQ *under-estimates* the level of sharing when compared with results from the whole questionnaire (IRQ). (For details of under-estimation and a suitable correction factor, see Stimson *et al* 1997).

Seeking cooperation from injectors and avoiding bias

Although the questionnaire performs well when administered by staff in drug agencies, care should be taken that subjects' answers are not biased by features of the situation in which questions are asked. In some settings respondents may feel that their answers may affect their relation with staff (and vice versa). In such cases consideration should be given to the collection of information by people independent of the agency.

Subjects should be told why the information is being collected, and consent should be obtained. They should be told that:

the information will help assess the effect of HIV prevention services - such as needle exchanges, publicity campaigns, and drug treatment programmes

in the case of those attending agencies, their answers will not affect the help and advice that they receive

their answers will be kept confidential.

Instructions to respondents and question wording

'Equipment sharing' and 'syringe sharing' are capable of various interpretations and the way questions are worded affects the results that are obtained. It is therefore *essential* that the exact wording of questions is followed.

Interview version

Instructions to interviewers are in the grey shaded boxes. All wording not in grey boxes should be read out to subject.

Self-completion version

Completed questionnaires should be placed and sealed in an envelope.

Subject record numbers

Names are not written on the questionnaire. At the bottom of the last page is a five digit box which can be used for a subject identifier.

Subject characteristics

On the last page of the questionnaire some limited information is recorded on subject characteristics (sex, age and main drug classes injected).

Scoring

Questions are answered on a graded scale (*ie* 'frequently', 'sometimes', 'hardly ever', 'never' or 'number of people'). For assessing progress towards the *Health of the Nation* target, a positive response to *any* question indicates equipment sharing. Agency staff and researchers may wish to conduct further analyses on responses to questions about different kinds of sharing, frequency of sharing, and numbers of people with whom equipment is shared. This may be useful where more detail is required for needs assessment and impact evaluations.

Availability

Printed copies of the Injecting Risk Questionnaire may be obtained from:

IRQ Questionnaire	Please fax: 0181 846 6555 for costs of bulk
Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour	purchases of the different versions of the
200 Seagrave Road	questionnaire.
London	
SW6 1RQ	Quote the appropriate reference code (eg IRQ-I-A)
Tel: 0181 846 6565	for the versions of the questionnaire that you require.

Reference and further information

Stimson G.V., Jones S., Chalmers C. and Sullivan D (1997) A short questionnaire (IRQ) to assess injecting risk behaviour. Addiction. In Press.

Stimson G.V. (1997) Measuring the Health of the Nation target for injecting drug users: the injecting risk questionnaire. *Executive Summary No.54* London: Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour

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INJECTING QUESTIONNAIRE

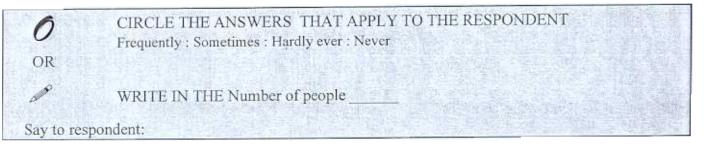
Instructions to Interviewer

Proceed with interview only if respondent has injected a drug in the last 4 weeks. Say to respondent:

This research will be used to help assess the effect of HIV prevention services - such as needle exchanges, publicity campaigns and drug treatment programmes.

4ll answers will be kept confidential. No names are required.

our answers will not affect the help and advice you get here.



The first two questions are about sharing injecting equipment in general.

Sharing means you using someone else's equipment, which has already been used, or someone using yours, regardless of whether you were both present at the time.

Injecting equipment includes needles, syringes, filters, spoons and cookers, and washouts.

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During the last 4 weeks, how often have you shared injecting equipment? Frequently Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never

Q2 During the last 4 weeks, with how many different people have you shared injecting equipment ?

Number of people

The next questions are about using other people's equipment or them using yours. I will also ask you with how many different people you have done any of these things. Finally I will ask your age and type of drug you mainly inject.

During the last 4 weeks, how often have you done any of the following things

Q3	given or lent used needles/syringes to a sexual partner?	Frequently	Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q4	given or lent used needles/syringes to a friend or acquaintance ?	requently	: Sometimes : Hardly ever Neve

Q5	given or lent used needles/syr	inges to	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever
Q6	injected with needles/syringes already been used by a sexual		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q7	injected with needles/syringes had already been used by a friend acquaintance ?		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q8	injected with needles/syringes had already been used by a str		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q9	filled your syringe from one the already been used by someone		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q10	let someone else fill their syrir with a syringe you had already	-	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q11	drawn up from a container or s which someone else had put a		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever
Q12	put a used needle into a contain spoon that was then used by so		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q13	used a filter into which someon had put a used syringe ?	ne else	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q14	let someone else use a filter int which you had put a used syrir		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q15	used the same water or bleach someone else for flushing out o		Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q16	used old syringes that had been in the same container or 'sin bi someone else's old syringes ?	-	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q17	During the last 4 weeks, with h many <i>different</i> people have you any of the things on this page f	u done	Number of people
Circle, a		What type of drug	do you mainly inject ?
1. L L -	정말 아님 이 이 가지 않는 것 같아요.		

appropriate	in years ?			
일부가 않는 것 같아. 것이 것		Opiates	Stimulants	Steroids
Male : Female		eg heroin, methadone	eg amphetamine, cocaine	
		and similar drugs	and similar drugs	

Thank respondent for their help and assistance.

IRQ interview version for use in agency settings. For further copies, please quote IRQ-I-A

Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour 200 Seagrave Road, London SW6 1RQ



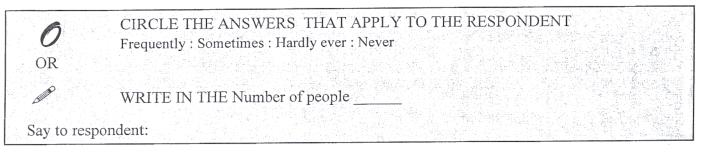
INJECTING QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions to Interviewer

Proceed with interview only if respondent has injected a drug in the last 4 weeks. Say to respondent:

This research will be used to help assess the effect of HIV prevention services such as needle exchanges, publicity campaigns and drug treatment programmes.

All answers will be kept confidential. No names are required.



The first two questions are about sharing injecting equipment in general.

Sharing means you using someone else's equipment, which has already been used, someone using yours, regardless of whether you were both present at the time.

Injecting equipment includes needles, syringes, filters, spoons and cookers, and washouts.

During the last 4 weeks, how often have you shared injecting equipment?

injecting equipment?

have you shared injecting equipment? During the last 4 weeks, with how many different people have you shared

Number of people

Figuently Sometimes Iardly ever: Never

The next questions are about using other people's equipment or them using yours. I will also ask you with how many different people you have done any of these things. Finally I will ask your age and type of drug you mainly inject.

During the last 4 weeks, how often have you done any of the following things?

 Q3
 given or lent used needles/syringes to a sexual partner ?
 requently Sometimes
 Iardly ever : Never

 Q4
 given or lent used needles/syringes to a friend or acquaintance ?
 juently Sometimes
 Iardly ever : Never



[RQ-I-NA]

Q5 given or lent used needles/syringes to a stranger ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q6 injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a sexual partner ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a friend or acquaintance ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a stranger ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
filled your syringe from one that had already been used by someone else ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q10 let someone else fill their syringe with a syringe you had already used ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q11 drawn up from a container or spoon into which someone else had put a used syringe ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q12 put a used needle into a container or spoon that was then used by someone else ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q13 used a filter into which someone else had put a used syringe ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q14 let someone else use a filter into which you had put a used syringe ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q15 used the same water or bleach as someone else for flushing out or cleaning ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q16 used old syringes that had been kept in the same container or 'sin bin' as someone else's old syringes ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
Q17 During the last 4 weeks, with how many <i>different</i> people have you done any of the things on this page ?	Number of people
Circle, as What is your age, What type of dru appropriate in years ?	ıg do you mainly inject ?

 appropriate
 In years ?

 Male : Female
 Opiates
 Stimulants
 Steroids

 and similar drugs
 and similar drugs
 and similar drugs

- Thank respondent for their help and assistance.

IRQ interview version for use in non-agency settings. For further copies, please quote IRQ-I-NA

Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour 200 Seagrave Road, London SW6 1RQ

INJECTING QUESTIONNAIRE

HAVE YOU INJECTED A DRUG IN THE LAST 4 WEEKS? Yes : No (If you have NOT injected in the last 4 weeks, do not answer the remaining questions)

	THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP - IT WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES
	YOUR ANSWERS WILL NOT AFFECT THE HELP AND ADVICE THAT YOU RECEIVE HERE
	YOUR ANSWERS WILL HELP US ASSESS THE EFFECT OF HIV PREVENTION SERVICES - SUCH AS NEEDLE EXCHANGES, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMMES
	YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
	DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THIS
	ALL QUESTIONS REFER TO THE LAST 4 WEEKS PLEASE ANSWER EVERY QUESTION
O OR	CIRCLE THE ANSWER THAT APPLIES TO YOU Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
æ	WRITE IN THE Number of people
→ =	PLEASE PLACE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE PLACE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT SHARING INJECTING EQUIPMENT IN GENERAL

Sharing means using someone else's equipment which has already been used, or someone using yours, regardless of whether you were both present at the time.

Injecting equipment includes needles, syringes, filters, spoons and cookers, and washouts.

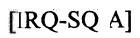
During the last 4 weeks, how often have you shared injecting equipment?

'requently Sometimes Hardly ever : Never

During the last 4 weeks, with how many different people have you shared injecting equipment ?

Number people





THE NEXT QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT USING OTHER PEOPLE'S EQUIPMENT OR THEM USING YOURS

During the last 4 weeks how often have you done any of the following things?

	6	
	given or lent used needles/syringes to a sexual partner?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	given or lent used needles/syringes to a friend or acquaintance ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	given or lent used needles/syringes to a stranger?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a sexual partner?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a friend or acquaintance ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	injected with needles/syringes that had already been used by a stranger ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	filled your syringe from one that had already been used by someone else ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	let someone else fill their syringe with a syringe you had already used ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	drawn up from a container or spoon into —— which someone else had put a used syringe ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	put a used needle into a container or spoon that was then used by someone else ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
5	used a filter into which someone else had put a used syringe?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	let someone else use a filter into which you had put a used syringe?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
	used the same water or bleach as someone else for flushing out or cleaning?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
5	used old syringes that had been kept in the same container or 'sin bin' as someone else's old syringes ?	Frequently : Sometimes : Hardly ever : Never
		Number of some

Q17 During the last 4 weeks, with how many *different* people have you done any of the things on this page

Q13

Q16

Number of people

Are you?	What is your age, in years ?	What type of drug do	you mainly inject ?	
Male : Female		Opiates <i>eg</i> heroin, methadone and similar drugs	Stimulants eg amphetamine, cocaine and similar drugs	Steroids

IRQ Self completion version for use in agencies. For further copies, please quote IRQ-SQ-A

Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour

200 Seagrave Road, London SW6 1RQ

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