



CONTACT point, Bern

Safer drug consumption through harm-reduction by providing safe consumption facilities and needle exchange programs

Over 30 years ago «Fixerstübli» (drug injection facility) opened at Münsterstrasse in Bern. It was the first facility of its kind worldwide, and at the time the concept of a low threshold service aimed at reducing the risk of drug consumption but not at eliminating injection habits, provoked a lot of political controversy. Since 1986, CONTACT Foundation for Addiction Care runs the facility (called CONTACT point), which today is located at Hodlerstrasse in Bern.

In the consumption room of the facility, registered clients can consume drugs under safe and supervised conditions. The clients bring their own substances. Clean needles and syringes are provided on an exchange basis (give back one used needle/syringe in order to receive one clean needle/syringe) and the users can buy additional equipment at cost price. In addition to the on-site exchange CONTACT Foundation for Addiction Care runs 3 syringe machines in the city of Bern where consumers can obtain clean equipment 24/7.

The facility aims to offer adult users, who are residents of canton of Berne, consume psychotropic substances either intravenously, nasally or by inhalation and who are unwilling or unable to attempt abstinence, a safe environment for drug consumption. First time users and persons under the age of 18 have no access, and are not allowed on the premises.

The facility operates on a daily basis 364 days a year with opening hours varying between 4 and 8 hours. Totally over 2000 persons are registered, around 600 of these are active clients. The facility is frequented by 80-100 consumers per day.

The staff of the facility consists of a team of registered nurses, social workers and educational professionals.

