The importance of targeted health information for and with people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic

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& the Charité Team

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People experiencing homelessness in the pandemic

- Hardly any data (on national level)

- Adherence to rules and measures difficult

- Pre-existing health conditions increase risk of severe COVID-19 disease progression

- "Digital Gap"- limited access to information

- Response/communication does not directly address people experiencing homelessness

- "Information should be relevant and feasible for communities to act upon." (Sushma Shende, SNEHA)

Charité COVID-19-project for and with homeless people

- Project arm 1

- COVID-19 monitoring in homeless shelters

- Support of implementing testing strategies using rapid antigen testing to reduce the risk of outbreaks

- Project arm 2

- Improving access to information and knowledge on COVID-19

- Testing of new digital communication channels

Videos and Posters

- **Videos** were launched in February 2021
  - 1: General information on COVID-19
  - 2: COVID-19-testing
  - 5 languages

- **Vaccination posters** are available since April 2021
  - nationwide distribution to support vaccination campaigns
  - 9 languages

Website:
https://tropeninstitut.charite.de/forschung/ag_neglected_diseases_and_vulnerabl e_populations/charite_covid_19_projekt_fuer_und_mit_obdachlosen_menschen/
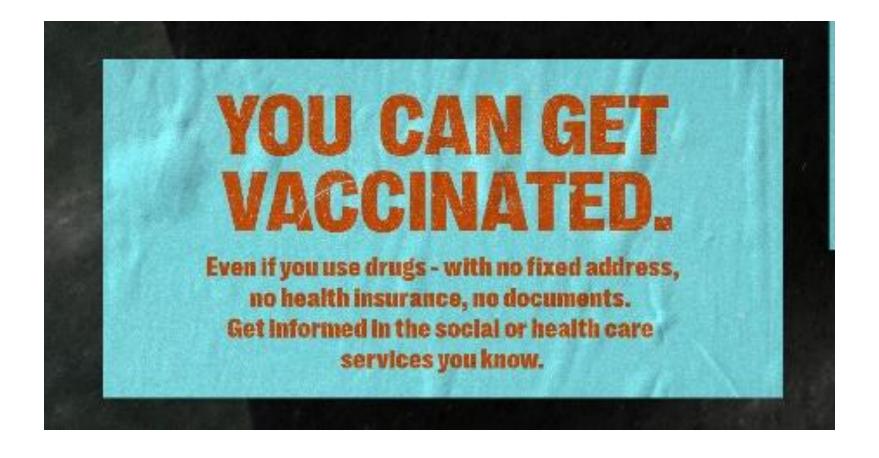
Poster Version#1

Poster Version#1

Poster Version#2 (+ drug use)

Poster Version#2 (+ drug use)

Poster-distribution

- 105 services
  - 73 Berlin
  - 32 nationwide
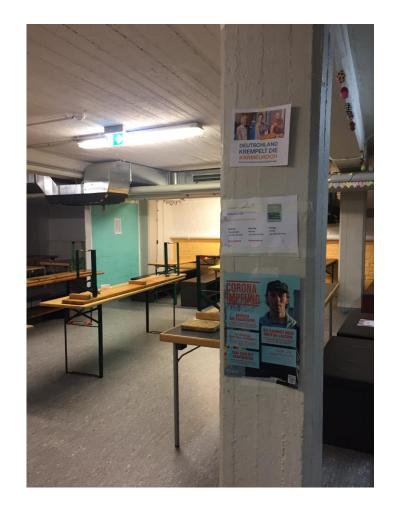- 8 street journals
- Emails from private persons

Evaluation (in process)

- FGD with people experiencing homelessness
- Telephone survey with services

📍 Services

📍 Street journals

Posters in action / night shelter in Berlin

- Mobile vaccination-teams
- Commitment and creativity of staff
  - Information and motivation
  - Multilingual teams
  - Provisional documents (photo/name/location)
  - Guiding people through the process → Trust!

Success-factors and challenges of the project

Success

- Engagement with communities is the key!
- Interdisciplinary team with access to the community
- Flexibility and creativity

Challenges

- Representation of diverse living situations
- Inclusion of especially vulnerable persons
- Keeping partnerships alive

Team

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Together with many people experiencing homelessness and staff from Berliner Stadtmission (different night shelters, clinic, quarantine shelter, Kleiderkammer, …)

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