

How to make smoking prevention work for vulnerable populations: insights from French project DCAP

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Issue:

Smoking prevention interventions tend to reach with difficulty young people and disadvantaged groups in France. Yet, limited research provides practical evidence detailing tobacco prevention interventions (TPI) aimed at them. Documenting the practical experience of health promotion, social and education workers tackling this issue is therefore crucial. To that end, the French Society for Public Health designed and carries out a project to CAPITALize experiential Data on TPI: DCAP.

DCAP:

Initiated in 2019, DCAP consists in capitalizing, i.e. collecting, documenting and circulating, experiential knowledge from practitioners who implement TPI at the local level for young people and vulnerable people. Goals include building up original knowledge from field actions, documenting how TPI unfold in various contexts and take into account health inequalities, and supporting professional practices. DCAP follows 3 main steps: 1/ identifying promising TPI, 2/ documenting selected TPI and the key mechanisms impacting how TPI unfold (context, partnerships, barriers and levers, ethics), 3/ sharing knowledge built up on TPI, via an online portal.

Results:

DCAP will document 40 interventions total. Preliminary results, based on TPI documented in 2019, highlight experiential knowledge built up to face 3 types of

Issues:

1/building and sustaining partnerships for long-term TPI programs, between health professionals, schools and parents for example, 2/building support for TPI in difficult contexts: prisons, emergency housing, etc. 3/innovating and inventing collective TPI adjusted for disadvantaged groups. Insights also emerge on current trends. For example, programs for young people tend nowadays to favor global approaches to addiction prevention over smoking prevention alone.

Lessons:

Most TPI remain confidential yet form a rich corpus of original and practical evidence other stakeholders can benefit from. Future research projects can also benefit from the data collected through DCAP.

Key messages:

- Documenting the practical experience health promotion, social and education workers hold is crucial to share knowledge and implement tobacco prevention interventions that work for vulnerable people.
- DCAP details key mechanisms in smoking prevention interventions aimed at vulnerable groups in France, including long-lasting partnerships building and innovative collective formats design.