

Review of: "Provision of creative arts interventions in UK drug and alcohol services: A cross-sectional study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential conflicting interests to declare.

This is a clearly written and structured article which, in focusing on the provision of creative arts interventions within drug and alcohol services around the UK, deals with a neglected issue which is of great contemporary relevance. Through the administration of a structured questionnaire it was thus found that around half of responding services provided such interventions. Distinctions are also made between different types of arts practices utilised within responding services, ways in which these practices are evaluated by these services and the perceived efficacy of creative arts interventions in promoting the recovery of participants. While the methods section is rather long and could be edited, more detail could be given on existing relevant knowledge through the inclusion of a greater range of literature relating to the use of creative arts interventions in the promotion of health and wellbeing, particularly within the field of drug and alcohol treatment. This would help to enhance the academic impact of the article and could include consideration of the respective benefits of different types of arts practices and of psychotherapeutically orientated approaches to art therapy on one hand and more collective and community based arts for health approaches on the other. Associated with this is the emerging concept of 'mutual recovery' and the corresponding belief that participation in creative practice can not only benefit individual participants but also the wider groups and communities within which they are located. Further depth to the article, the results presented and the research and practice implications drawn from them could also be added by the inclusion of greater detail on the providers and recipients experiences of the interventions, especially from a qualitative perspective as well as through the use of anonymised case studies of some of the included services.