Learning from litter: using drug-related litter as a learning tool

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Why look at drug-related litter?

Where are people injecting, smoking heroin and using prescription drugs?

Where should we put drug consumption rooms?

Will criminalising the possession of Z-hypnotics, Gabapentin and Alprazolam change trends in the market?
Steps

1. Find and identify
2. Collect geotagged image(s)
3. Upload and process
General Strengths of this Project

• Characterisation and monitoring of identified ‘hot spots’
• Real time trend data i.e. make up of street prescription drug use, capped: uncapped needle ratio, spoon: citric acid packet ratio
• Spatiotemporal data
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General limitations of drug litter mapping</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is drug litter indicative of consumption?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where are we mapping?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How consistently are we mapping?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who is mapping?</td>
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<td>Can we conclusively identify samples?</td>
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Drug consumption rooms (injecting drug use)

- In January 2017, Seán presented data to Health Service Executive (HSE) working group for planning site.
- Opening supervised injection facility subject to tendering process to be completed by October 2017
- As a pilot it will have to be evaluated.
Legislation is specific to injecting, should we consider other forms of administration
Understanding Dublin’s prescription drug scene

- Prescription drug use is high in Dublin.
- Legislation was recently enacted to criminalise Z-hypnotics, Gabapentin and several benzodiazepines.
Future Directions?

- Triangulation of data e.g. waste water analysis, surveys
- Classification of syringes?
- Blood, faeces?
- Monitoring of injection facility