Harm reduction is a pragmatic approach to HIV prevention targeting injecting drug users. Community-based interventions have been developed from a strong evidence base, with Australia being at the forefront in promoting a multi-sectoral harm minimisation approach to complex drug issues. Injecting drug use is now a major vector for the spread of HIV infection in many parts of the world. Contemporary challenges include scale-up and coverage, capacity building and responding to emerging drug trends, notably amphetamine use.

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