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REDUCING DRUG RELATED CRIME

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BIOGRAPHY

Alex Stevens works for the European Institute of Social Services at the University of Kent. He is the principal author of the Beckley Foundation report (number 5) on Reducing Drug-Related Crime. He currently leads QCT Europe, a six-country research project on treatment for drug dependent offenders. He has a long-standing interest in drugs, crime and the penal systems of Europe. Before joining EISS in 1998, Alex managed the European Network of Drug and HIV/AIDS Services in Prison at Cranstoun Drug Services.

ABSTRACT

This presentation will give an overview of the global evidence on the reduction of drug-related crime. It adopts a public health approach, with crime prevention promoted at three levels.

- Primary - universal approaches that aim to prevent drug-related crime before it occurs.
- Secondary - approaches that focus on those people who are most at risk of perpetration of drug-related crime.
- Tertiary - approaches that focus on people who have already committed drug-related crime.

This evidence suggests that activities that reduce the overall levels of crime and problematic drug use have the greatest scope for reducing drug-related crime. Some approaches, in which large sums of money and hope have been invested, have shown little evidence of effectiveness. However, there are promising initiatives that have shown the potential to provide great benefits in reducing crime and increasing health.