

Services for Sex Workers in London: an audit

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Background

- ❑ Health of Sex Workers became a priority in the 1980s
- ❑ Outreach services protect sex workers ⁽¹⁾
- ❑ Increased STI checks for Sex Workers in touch with services ⁽²⁾

1. Grenfell P, Eastham J, Perry G, Platt L. Decriminalising sex work in the UK. BMJ [Internet]. 2016;354(August):i4459.

Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1136/bmj.i4459>

2. Cusick L, Mart A, May T. Vulnerability and involvement in drug use and sex work. London; 2003.

Aim

To identify the changes in services for sex workers in London over the past 23 years

- What are the current services available for sex workers?
- How does this compare to 1997 and 2007 data?
- What are the opinions of service providers? - e.g. service delivery, financing, location, etc.

Method 1

❖ Definition of Sex Worker Service

- ❖ Any service that had dedicated health and social care provisions for anyone working in the sex industry.

❖ 1995 and 2007 Data

- ❖ 2 historic datasets; 1995 handbook and 2007 UKNSWP Directory

Method 2

❖ Data Collection

- ❖ UKNSWP Website
- ❖ Google search
- ❖ Support And Advice For Escorts (SAAFE) forum
- ❖ Word of mouth

❖ Comparison

- ❖ SWIT comprehensive services

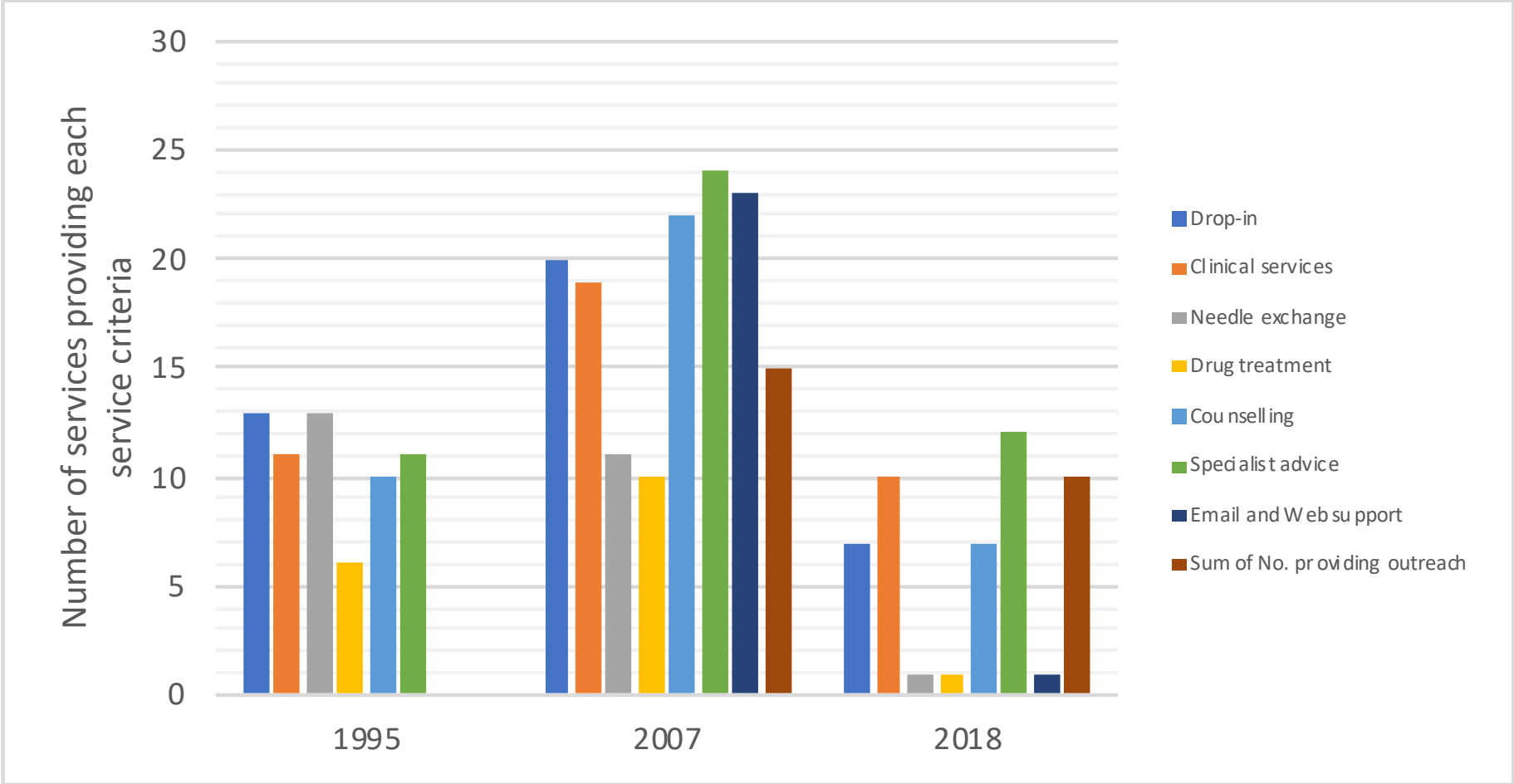
❖ Expert advice from Key Informants

❖ Geographical Distribution

- ❖ R Studio
- ❖ Nasa Data website

Results - the audit 1

Year	Total No. Services
1995	17
2007	37
2018	13



Results - the audit 2

Comprehensive service requirements	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe space (drop-in)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clinical Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drug services (needle exchange and/or drug treatment)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental Health support (counselling)

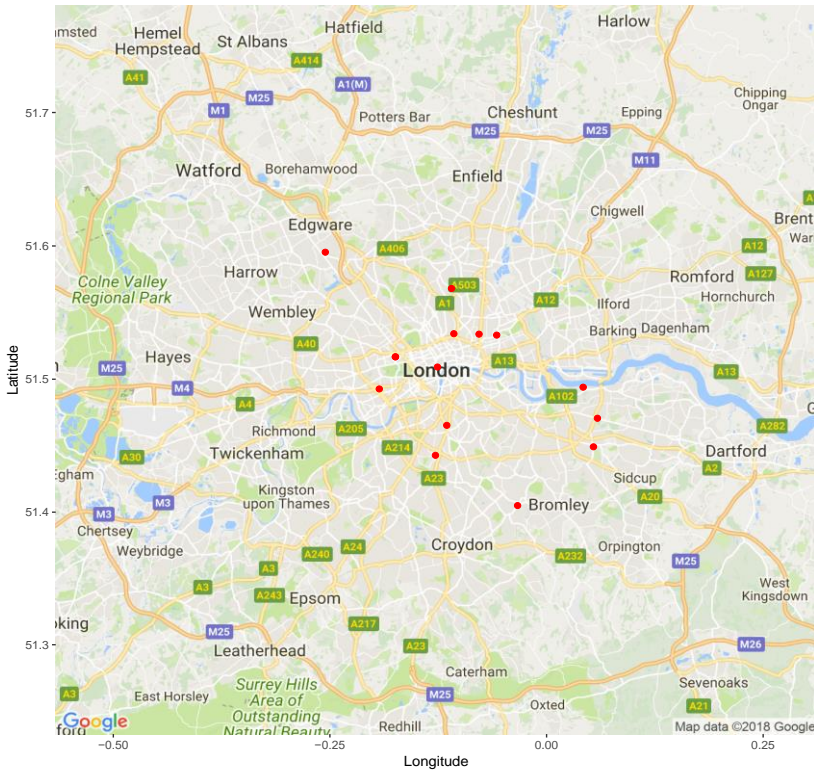
Year	Total No. Services	Comprehensive
1995	17	7
2007	37	4
2018	13	1

Results - the key informants

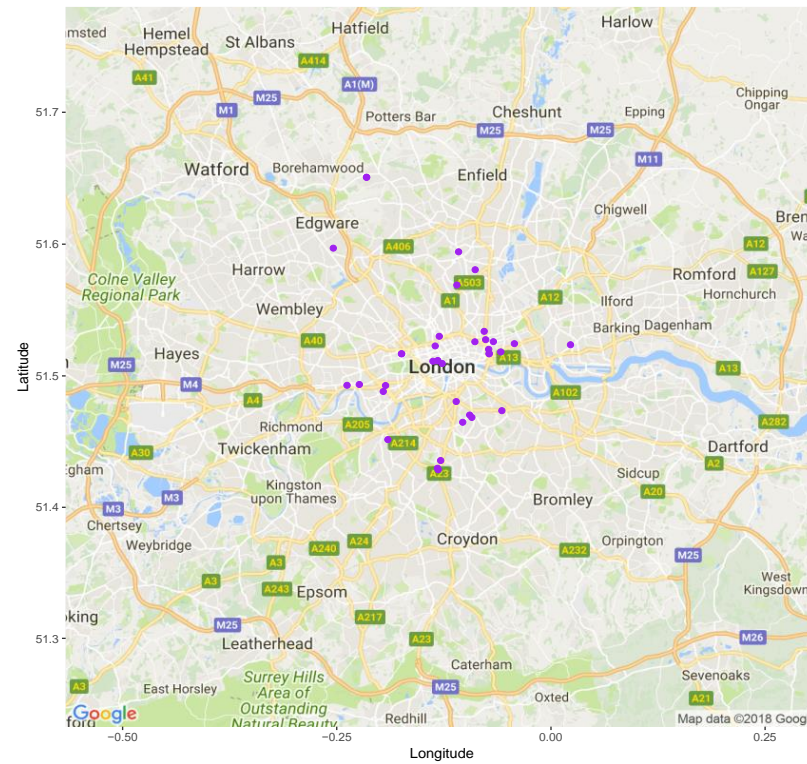
- ▶ **5 Key Informants -**
 - ▶ (Ex)Service providers: managers and clinical
 - ▶ Researcher
 - ▶ 80+ years of experience in the field
- ▶ **Key Themes identified**
 - ▶ **Funding**
 - ▶ Austerity
 - ▶ Service model and Commissioning
 - ▶ **Policing**
 - ▶ Increased
 - ▶ Damage of service provider and sex worker relationship

Results - the geographical distribution

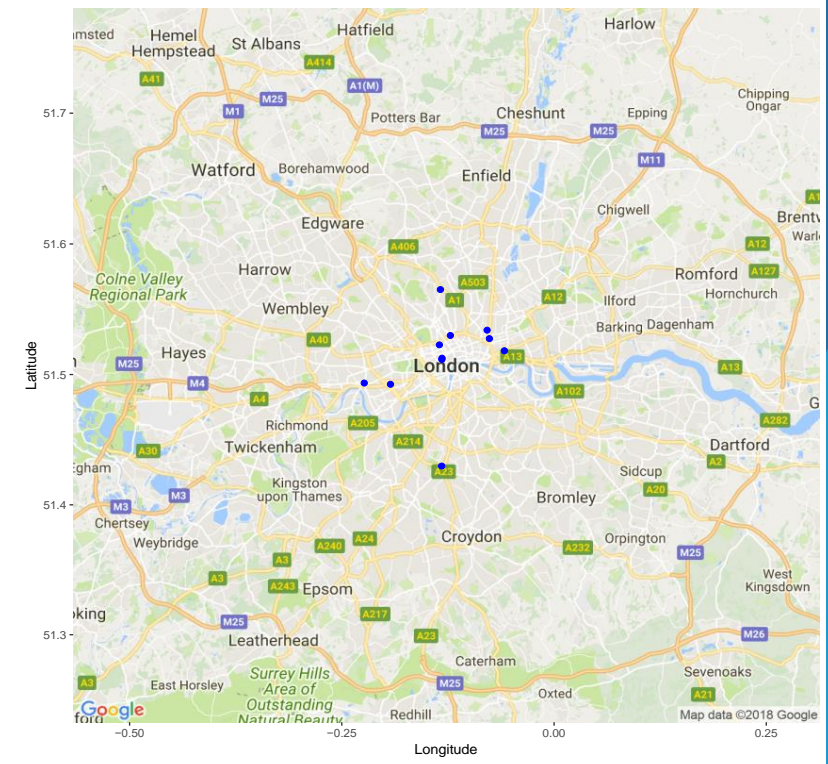
1995



2007



2018



Collection bias?

Summary

- ▶ Services for sex workers in London has **reduced** since its peak in the noughties
- ▶ **Less comprehensive**, increased focus on clinical services and specialist advice
- ▶ **Funding** is a key issue
- ▶ **Policing** has affected access to services
- ▶ **Geographical inequality** in service provision

Limitations

- ▶ 1995 and 2007 data difficult to verify
 - ▶ Definition
 - ▶ Method of data collection
- ▶ Current changes in service provision
 - ▶ E.g. Safe Exit
- ▶ Opinion of sex workers was not included

Future Work

- ▶ Opinion and experiences of service users
- ▶ How these changes have affected service users and their care?
- ▶ What effects will this have on health and wellbeing in the sex work community?

Acknowledgements: Professor Helen Ward, Professor Sophie Day, Imperial College London Public Health Department, Cardiff University

Thank you for listening

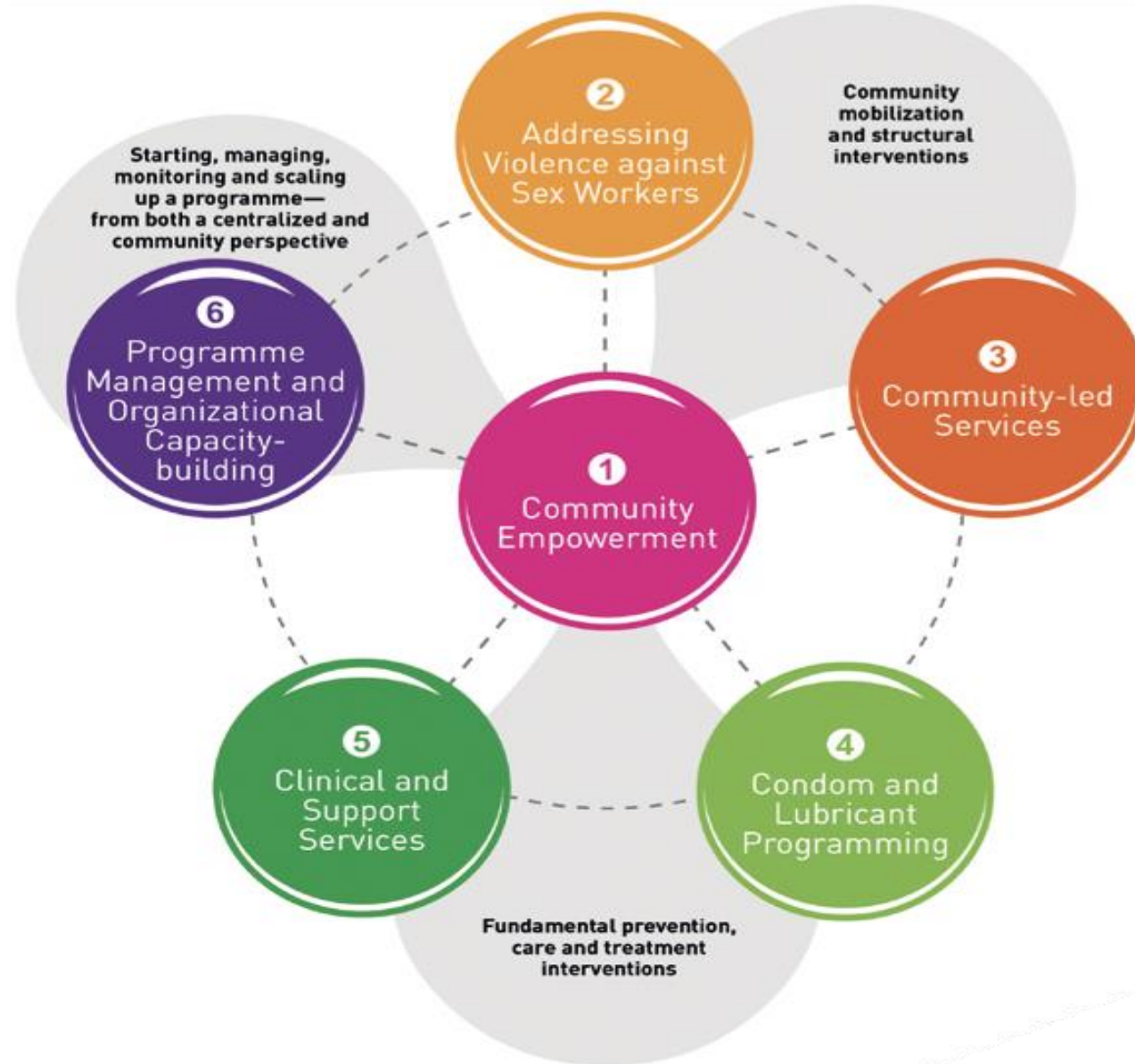
Any Questions?



Extra bits: SWIT

Service Provided

- Drop-in
- Clinical Services
- Needle exchange
- Drug treatment
- Counselling
- Specialist Advice
- Email and Web Support*
- Outreach*



* Only data from 2007
& 2018

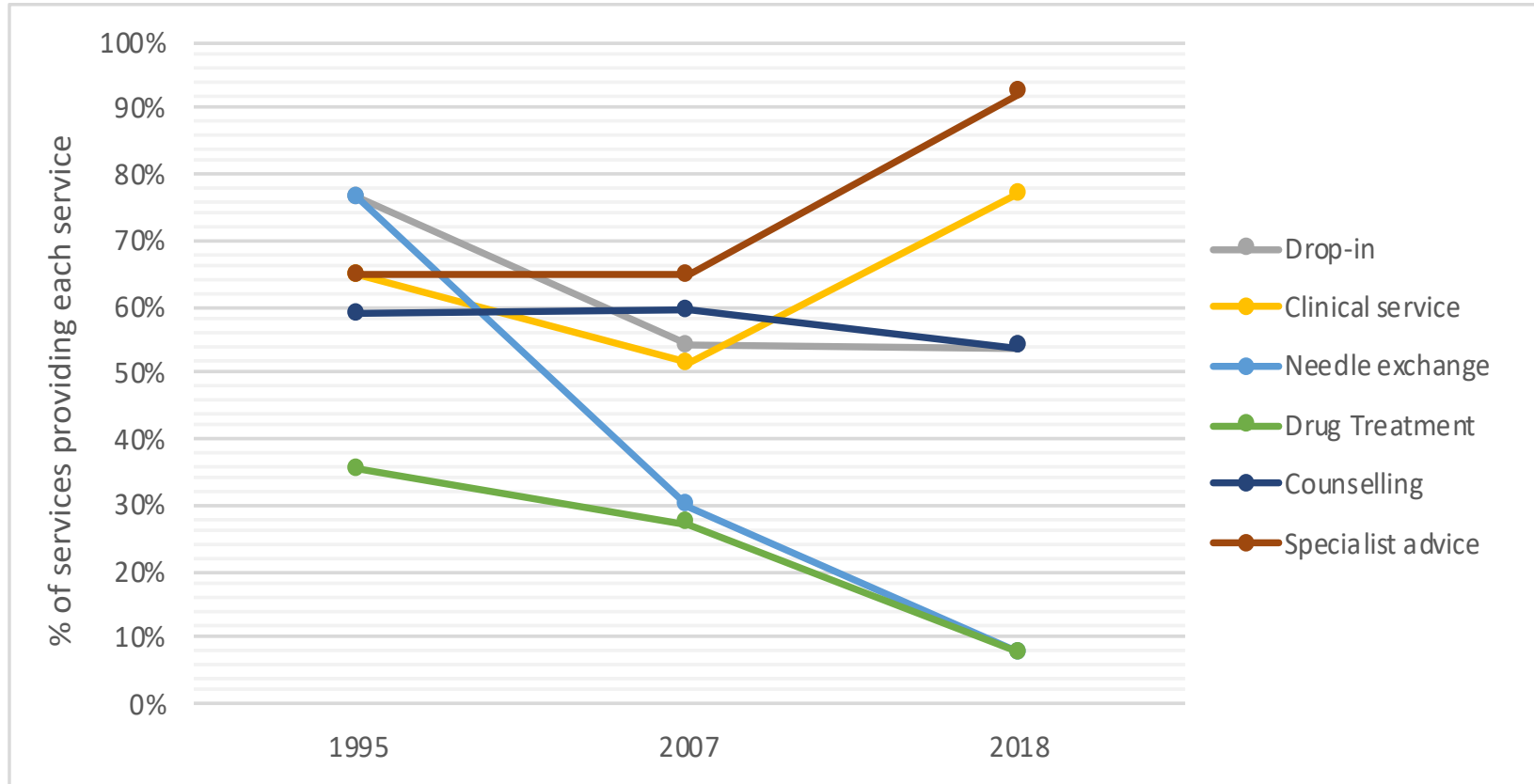


Figure 5 Graph of the percentage of services that provide each criteria of service at each time-point