

NADA training for prison staff

In 2011 the administrators at a local prison invited us to provide training for their staff. The prisoners at this facility had been receiving weekly NADA sessions from local addictions treatment center staff for some years. The desired outcome for this training was to increase treatment frequency for this high-needs population.



the prison yard during lunch



The NADA treatments have been added to existing prison services such as counseling and HIV testing.



trainees practicing point location



some of the prisoners had previously received NADA treatments in UK prisons



Handcuffed prisoners receiving NADA



This man received his arm injury through “mob justice” when he was caught stealing.



female prisoners swab their ears before treatment

NADA Treatment for Children

Because NADA is so flexible, it can be adapted to any context, and any population group. In many of the communities where we have provided training and treatment, children make up a large part of the affected population, and respond very well to NADA treatment.

As a general rule, we offer needles to those children who will tolerate them, reducing both the number of needles and the retention time. In most high-needs areas where we work, many children will accept needles, especially after seeing family members or peers receiving them. The main points we use when needling are shen men and either kidney, liver, or lung.

Some parents will pressure children into receiving needles, but if the child is distressed by this idea, we prefer to apply ear beads. For children under five we often use only one bead on shen men on either the front or the back side of the ear. We advise the parent or guardian when to remove the bead, and advise them to contact a NADA provider with any questions or concerns.

In our experience, children often exhibit the effects of psychological or emotional trauma through symptoms such as increased bed-wetting, anxiety, or increased aggression with siblings or peers. Family members often report reduction in these types of symptoms after one or more NADA treatments.



children receive beads while their parents receive needles



children showing their ear beads



child with beads on Shen Men and Kidney



girl with Shen Men and Kidney points needled



children receiving needles with their family