



Detoxifying Psychiatry: reducing coercion in mental health care.

Despite significant advances in the organisation and delivery of mental health services globally, coercion remains a central theme within contemporary mental health care and clinical practice. Coercive practices continue to be legitimized, approved and routinely employed as part of mental healthcare in rich and poorer countries and in hospital and community settings. These are some of the most controversial issues in mental health and entail significant human rights violations, amounting to “an unresolved global crisis”.

In this presentation, we consider the spectrum of coercive care and epidemiology of coercion within mental health. We review the current evidence in relation to reducing coercion and set out specific actions to make psychiatry less coercive, more consensual and consistent with the principles of UN CRPD. This will require a conceptual shift within psychiatry and a fundamental change in the culture of mental health care.

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