Abstract

Mongolia has one of the highest rates of injected medicine use in the world. The spread of infectious diseases through injections has been a global concern. This exploratory qualitative study aimed to describe perspectives concerning injection practices in a peri-urban area of Mongolia. Focus group discussions were conducted to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of a residential population. Key informant interviews with providers and visual surveys of pharmacies helped provide the context of injection practices.

Discussions revealed that residents were knowledgeable about risks of injection use, and avoided re-using needles and syringes. Residents reported believing that injections were faster and more effective compared to oral medication, although they preferred pills if they were equally effective. Home treatment with injections was common practice. Residents reported that family members often gave injections. Insights gained in this study can be used when considering public health interventions to reduce injection use in Mongolia.