

HHS Public Access

Author manuscript *Addiction.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2016 November 01.

Published in final edited form as:

Addiction. 2015 November ; 110(11): 1777–1790. doi:10.1111/add.12993.

Project QUIT (Quit Using Drugs Intervention Trial): A randomized controlled trial of a primary care-based multi-component brief intervention to reduce risky drug use

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Abstract

Aims—To assess the effect of a multi-component primary care (PC)-delivered BI for reducing risky drug use (RDU) among patients identified by screening.

Design—Multicenter single-blind two-arm randomized controlled trial of patients enrolled from February 2011 to November 2012 with 3-month follow-up. Randomization and allocation to trial group were computer-generated.

Setting—Primary care waiting rooms of 5 federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in Los Angeles County (LAC), USA.

Participants—334 adult primary care patients (171 intervention; 163 control) with RDU scores (4–26) on the WHO Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) self-administered on tablet PCs; 261 (78%) completed follow-up. Mean age was 41.7 years; 63% were male; 38% were Caucasian.

Intervention(s) and Measurement—Intervention patients received brief (typically 3–4 minutes) clinician advice to quit/reduce their drug use reinforced by a video doctor message, health education booklet, and up to two 20–30 minute follow-up telephone drug use coaching

Trial Registration:

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Conflict of Interest Declaration: None

http://www.clinicaltrials.gov Brief Title: Preventing Drug Use in Low Income Clinic Populations (QUIT) Protocol ID: DESPR DA022445 ClinicalTrials.gov ID: NCT01942876

sessions. Controls received usual care and cancer screening information. Primary outcome was patient self-reported use of highest scoring drug (HSD) at follow-up.

Findings—Intervention and control patients reported equivalent baseline HSD use; at followup, after adjustment for covariates in a linear regression model, intervention patients reported using their HSD an average of 2.21 fewer days in the previous month than controls (p<0.005). No compensatory increases in use of other measured substances were found (p>0.10).

Conclusions—A clinician-delivered brief intervention with follow-up counseling calls may decrease drug use among risky users compared with usual care in low-income community health centers of Los Angeles County, USA.

Keywords

brief intervention; primary care; motivational interviewing; risky drug use; randomized controlled trial; community health centers

INTRODUCTION

The need for efficient interventions to reduce RDU (moderate use), particularly in vulnerable racial/ethnic populations, has been highlighted.(1–6) Early detection and management of RDU (7) might effectively reduce drug use and its consequences.(8, 9) About 68 million people in the United States (US) are estimated to be RDUs who might benefit from early BI.(10) Integrating substance use treatment into PC settings by conducting screening and BI has been encouraged by policymakers.(3, 11–15)

Although there is strong support for PC BI reducing risky alcohol use, harm, morbidity, and costs, and support for BI for reducing other drugs in various settings,(16–25) the efficacy of PC BIs for reducing nonmedical use of other drugs is less conclusive.(15, 26–33) One trial of urgent care outpatients found that heroin and cocaine abstinence were higher in those receiving a BI.(34) A multi-national trial of PC patients reporting risky drug use found marginal effects overall but no effect at the US site.(35) Similarly, two recent PC trials of BIs plus a booster session or phone contact showed no effect.(36, 37)

Because of these conflicting findings, we conducted the $\underline{\mathbf{Q}}$ uit $\underline{\mathbf{U}}$ sing Drugs $\underline{\mathbf{I}}$ ntervention $\underline{\mathbf{T}}$ rial (QUIT), which provides a BI protocol for reducing RDU in PC populations. We tested whether receiving the QUIT BI reduced self-reported past-month highest scoring illicit drug (HSD) use compared to a control group among patients identified by screening.

METHODS

QUIT was a multicenter single-blind (patients were blinded) two-arm randomized controlled trial (RCT) of a BI designed to reduce RDU among adult PC patients in five FQHCs in LAC. Median follow-up time was 3.4 months (mean 3.9, SD 1.7).

SETTING AND PARTICIPANTS

Participating Clinics—Clinic selection was based on robust patient encounter volumes and areas most affected by drug use; clinics included the largest FQHC in LAC. All 5 clinics approached agreed to participate.

Participating Clinic Primary Care Providers (PCPs)—Inclusion criteria for clinicians were: (1) staff providers trained in PC; and (2) amenable to following the research protocol and to participating in a clinician group intervention training session averaging 15 minutes and a 1–2 minute one-on-one reminder session before conducting the first intervention. Of the 80 PCPs approached, 77 (96.3%) participated, including physicians (n=57), nurse practitioners (n=9), and physician assistants (n=11).

Participating Clinic Patients—Inclusion criteria included RDU in the prior 3 months; 18 or older; spoke English or Spanish; had a PC appointment; anticipated living in the LAC area for the next 3 months; and had an active phone number. Exclusion criteria included previously screened, under drug treatment starting more than 30 days ago or pregnant. Enrollment during the first 7 months was limited to patients with risky use of stimulants (cocaine or amphetamines) (enrolled 64 patients, 9/month); to facilitate recruitment, during the final 13-month period we included risky users of all illicit drug categories (enrolled an additional 270 patients, 21/month).

Procedure—Research assistants conducted enrollment. They greeted all adult patients in PC waiting rooms before their clinician appointment. To enhance portability and minimize staffing effort, patients self-administered all questionnaires on touch-screen "talking tablet PCs" tailored to the unique needs of low-literacy immigrant populations.(38)

The ASSIST identified RDU patients as "at moderate risk of health and other problems because of their drug use".(7, 39) The ASSIST asks about tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, crack/cocaine, methamphetamine/amphetamine type stimulants, inhalants, sedatives, hallucinogens, and opioids. Its ability to classify patients based on degree of illicit drug use has been validated, including the self-administered version.(7, 35, 40–42) Patients' use of each drug category (excluding alcohol and tobacco) was coded as: no or low use (score 0–3); risky (moderate) use indicating clinician brief advice (score 4–26); or high use (score 27 and above). Patients were paid \$30 for the initial assessment (average 42 minutes) and \$50 for the follow-up assessment (average 50 minutes); those completing all study activities were eligible for a \$500 lottery. Informed consent was obtained -- orally for screening and in writing if they qualified for enrollment.

Consenting patients were given tablets to answer screening and study questions and if study eligible, were assigned equally to the intervention (n=171) or control group (n=163) by an automated computer-generated adaptive urn randomization program that blocked on ASSIST scores of 4–16 versus 17–26.(43) A central server was used to store the study data and to evaluate and perform the randomization.(38) The research assistants knew the ASSIST scores and randomization group, but they would not share this information with the participants. The consent and screener included 8 chronic conditions, exercise, tobacco and alcohol use to mask the purpose of the study, naming it the "Living Well Study" to promote

healthy lifestyles. The research protocol was approved by UCLA's Institutional Review Board.

Table 1 shows baseline characteristics, as delineated in the Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations. (44–46)

INTERVENTIONS

Intervention Group—At baseline, these patients received a face-to-face brief intervention during their PCP visit. They subsequently received a Drug Health Education Booklet with a Report Card for their HSD, and viewed a video (2 minutes) reinforcing the clinician message.(47–49)

A research assistant gave the clinician a one-page summary; which advised that their patient scored in the risky range on the HSD; it also included a list of other substances used in the risky range and a suggested counseling script. Clinicians followed a scripted protocol based on the patients' HSD; two-thirds of the interventions lasted at most 3–4 minutes; only 3 (1.5%) required more than 10 minutes. The message covered drug addiction as a chronic brain disease; (50) the need to quit or reduce using drugs to prevent this disease; the physical and mental consequences of drug use; and the potential accelerated progression towards addiction caused by poly-substance use. If a patient scored in the risky range on multiple drugs, clinicians focused on the HSD, but also recommended reduction of the other drugs. If a patient scored in the risky range for a stimulant (methamphetamine, amphetamines, cocaine), clinicians focused on that stimulant even if it was not the HSD, since prior investigation found that stimulants were the most common serious drugs used illicitly by the patient population. We intentionally targeted low-income populations in safety net clinics because there is a high rate of problem drug use(51) in these communities and a lack of attention paid to their drug use.(11, 52) It is an important setting to test the efficacy of brief intervention in patients identified by screening because of the large volume of patients seen in safety net clinics. Clinicians also told patients that they would receive telephone calls 2 and 6 weeks later from a drug-health educator. Clinicians were not incentivized for delivering their brief advice.

The 2- and 6-week telephone drug-use coaching sessions (20–30 minutes each) reinforced the clinicians' message, and followed a scripted patient-centered interview protocol. Lay health educators (HEs) were initially trained over 4 sessions, totaling 12 hours. Training was supervised by the investigators including an addiction psychologist and included motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral techniques,(53) and rehearsing mock health education calls until proficiency was obtained. Trainees shadowed experienced HEs (i.e., listened in on actual calls with patient permission), and their initial calls were observed for supervision and feedback. Weekly meetings with the PIs and project director fostered a HE "learning community," where every case was discussed to maintain fidelity to the protocol. All 171 intervention patients received clinician brief advice and 134 (78%) had at least 1 telephone session (93 (54%) two sessions, 41 (24%) one session). Study instruments and intervention materials are available from the authors.

Control Group—Control patients completed the ASSIST but did not receive clinician BI or coaching sessions; they did receive a video and information booklet on cancer screening. At study exit, control patients were given all intervention materials and, if they scored 4 or higher for any drugs on the 3-month ASSIST, with their permission the results were given to their doctor. Usual care at the study clinics did not include SBI for drug use.

URINE DRUG SCREEN

Urine drug testing was conducted at baseline and follow-up to validate self-reported drug use. One clinic would not allow urine collection, citing concerns about patient sensitivity and privacy. The Confirm BioSciences, San Diego, Integrated QuickScreenTM CLIA Urine Cup was used since it reliably tests for up to 12 drugs (96–100% sensitivity). Of the patients in assenting clinics, 180/197 (91%) provided specimens at baseline and 143/150 (95%) did so at follow-up. Underreporting was calculated for cocaine/crack, cannabis, opiates and amphetamines (other categories were excluded due to inexact matches between urine testing and self-reports). At baseline, the proportion of patients testing positive who did not disclose use of their HSD varied from 0% (0/2) for opiates to 2.7% (2/74) cannabis, 12.5% (1/8) amphetamines, and 17.7% (3/17) for cocaine/crack. At follow-up, underreporting ranged from 0% for cocaine/crack (0/17) and opiates (0/1) to 10.4% (5/48) cannabis, and 14.3% (1/7) for amphetamines. No group differences were found at baseline or follow-up for underreporting one or more drugs, although at follow-up control patients had a numerically higher rate of underreporting: baseline 5.9% (I:5.0%, C:7.3%), 3 months 8.2% (I:5.3%, C: 11.4%).

MEASUREMENTS

Outcome—The outcome measure was number of days in the 30 days preceding the follow-up interview (Addiction Severity Index)(54–56) that patients reported using their HSD. A similar question was asked at baseline. The ASI is a standardized data collection tool that has excellent psychometric properties.(57–59) For this study, we employed only self-reported use of substances for the past 30 days, which is identical to accepted timeline follow-back methodology.(60, 61)

Covariates—The Behavioral Model for Vulnerable Populations (Figure 1) guided selection of variables used as covariates in analyses.(45) All of the baseline variables in this figure were potential covariates. Single items elicited information about socio-demographics, past month use of substances in the ASSIST, history of substance use and quitting attitudes, family substance use, chronic conditions, victimization, socio-legal problems, criminal and HIV/STD risk behaviours and health service utilization. Past month income was dichotomized at \$500/month. The ASSIST was used to categorize patient drug use. Perceived general, physical and mental health status were assessed by the SF-12.(62, 63) Readiness to change drug use was assessed by the validated scales.(64, 65) Baseline and follow-up questionnaires were identical except fixed information (e.g., gender) was collected at baseline only.

ANALYSIS

Primary Analysis—The intervention and control groups were contrasted with respect to HSD use at follow-up using a linear regression model that included an indicator variable for the intervention group and time between the baseline and follow-up surveys and adjusted for the fixed effects of baseline measures including initial HSD use. Although the residual distribution is somewhat asymmetric, using an untransformed outcome has the advantage of interpretive simplicity and still yields unbiased estimates while the large sample ensures sufficient power for statistical tests. Both complete sample and intent-to-treat (completed sample) analyses were conducted. In a preliminary two-way analysis of variance using treatment group and clinic, the clinic main effect and the clinic-by-treatment group interaction were not significant; consequently, clinic was excluded from the primary regression models. We also used fixed effects and a random intercept model as sensitivity analyses to ensure that intra-clinic correlation does inflate the type 1 error. The study goal was to detect a low-moderate between group difference of two-fifths of a standard deviation in HSD use at follow-up at an alpha level of 0.05. A sample of 400 patients divided about equally between groups yielded over 90% power to detect this difference allowing for 80% attrition.(66)

For both complete and completed sample analyses, baseline variables in Figure 1 associated with follow-up HSD use at the 0.15 level were candidate covariates. The initial regression models included 18 variables satisfying this criterion. Parsimonious final models were obtained by manually removing covariates one at a time in descending order of p values until only those associated with follow-up HSD use at the 0.10 level remained and multicollinearity wasn't a problem. For the completed sample analysis, missing values of 3-month HSD use were replaced with baseline HSD use (last observation carried forward--LOCF); multiple imputation (SAS 9.3 PROCs MI and MIANALYZE) was used to estimate missing values for predictors. The multiple imputation model included all the initial covariates, plus variables in Figure 1 that were associated with loss-to-follow-up at the 0.15 level. Twenty sets of imputed values were produced.

Subgroup Analyses—To test whether intervention efficacy varied with baseline HSD use, an interaction between intervention group and baseline HSD use was added to the main effects models. It was significant at p<0.01, so baseline HSD use was dichotomized at the median of 5 days and stratified analyses were performed. The effects of the intervention in key demographic subgroups were also assessed by examining the fixed effects of these characteristics and their interactions with treatment group. The effect of different types of HSD was also investigated and completion of telephone sessions was assessed in a regression analysis controlling baseline HSD use.

Secondary Outcomes—Since reduction in HSD use could be accompanied by increased use of non-HSD substances, non-HSD changes when HSD use declined by at least 1 day were also examined.

RESULTS

PARTICIPANT FLOW

Enrollment occurred between February 25, 2011 and November 2, 2012. A total of 15,648 screenings were done in waiting rooms to identify adult patients with a PC appointment (Figure 2); 2,773 declined and 2,280 were not there for their own visit. Of 10,595 screenings, 5,730 were excluded, primarily for having a non-PC visit (37%) and having been previously screened (27%). The main cause of unknown eligibility was lack of time to complete the screener before their appointment (n=424). Of the 4,188 patients who remained eligible for the study, 3,915 (95%) completed the ASSIST. Of 3,915 ASSIST completers, 413 (11%) were RDUrs in the past 3 months; the remainder were excluded as follows: no/low use (74%), high use (7%), risky use but had not used in the past 3 months (5%), and non-stimulant risky use early in the study (3%).

Time to complete the ASSIST items averaged 4.9 minutes (SD: 5.6, median: 3.6); 75% of patients needed less than 7 minutes. The interview administered and self-administered pre-ASSIST screening questions took 1.6 minutes (SD: 1.4, median: 1.1) and 3.6 minutes (SD: 1.7, median: 3.2), respectively. Of the 413 qualifying patients, 334 (81%) enrolled (Figure 2), 42 (10%) declined to participate (due to confidentiality reasons), and 37 (9%) did not have time to finish the assessments. There was a non-significant trend (23.4% vs. 16%, p<. 10) for higher dropout among intervention patients.

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS (Table 1)

The sample was ethnically diverse. Despite using their HSD for about of 20.4 years, only 28% reported receiving clinician counseling. The mean HSD ASSIST score at baseline was 14.5 (range 4–26) and the most common HSD was cannabis (52%), followed by stimulants (32%).

AVAILABILITY OF OUTCOME INFORMATION

In total, 78% (n=261) (I: 129, C: 132) self-reported their HSD use at follow-up.

PRIMARY OUTCOME

Unadjusted Analyses—HSD use was balanced at baseline (Table 2, top panel). While control patients' reported HSD use remained unchanged over time, intervention patients reported a significant mean reduction of 3.5 days (33% reduction). No group differences were found for less frequent users (middle panel). For more frequent users (bottom panel), intervention patients reported using less often than controls at follow-up and had a significant mean reduction of 7.8 days (41% reduction).

Adjusted Analyses—Adjusting for 18 covariates in a linear regression model for the complete sample, intervention patients reported using their HSD at follow-up 3.9 fewer days than controls (p < 0.001) (adjusted means at follow up – I:7.1, 95% CI 5.8–8.5; C:9.8, 95% CI 8.5–11.2). In a reduced model adjusting for baseline HSD use, the baseline HSD ASSIST score, duration of HSD use, interest in quitting/reducing HSD use, gender, self-reported general health, history of tuberculosis, and the interval between surveys, the intervention

group used their HSD an average of 3.5 fewer days at follow-up than the control group (p < 0.001).

Because the complete sample analysis assumed that data were missing completely at random, sensitivity analysis was conducted using LOCF for missing HSD use and multiple imputation for missing predictors. Using the completed sample produced a larger model with a treatment group effect of -2.4 (p=0.005) and a reduced model with an efficacy of -2.2 days (Table 3, top model). To ensure that clustering of patients within clinics was not causing the intervention effect to be overestimated, clinic was added to the larger regression model first as a fixed effect and then as a random effect. In both cases, the intervention effect remained strong (p < 0.01).

Subgroup Analyses—Adding a baseline HSD use x group interaction to the reduced models in both the complete and completed samples showed that intervention patients reduced use more than controls as baseline frequency of HSD use increased (p < 0.05 for both samples). When baseline HSD use was divided at the median of 5 days, intervention patients with higher frequency HSD use in both the complete (p < 0.001) and completed sample (Table 3, bottom model) had lower HSD use at follow-up compared to control patients. No group differences were found for lower frequency HSD users in the complete or completed (Table 3, middle model) samples. Interactions of group with age, gender, race/ ethnicity, homelessness, and mental health status were tested, but were not significant. However, in the completed sample, there was a trend (p=0.074) for the interaction involving gender. When the reduced model was rerun by gender, female intervention patients used 4 fewer days at follow-up than female controls (p = 0.005), while intervention males only used 1.2 days less than control males (p = 0.221) (not shown).

Effect of Telephone Education—Intervention patients were divided into those who had completed both telephone education sessions (n=93) and those who had not (n=78) and compared to controls in a regression model controlling baseline HSD use. No group differences were found in either the complete or completed sample for patients with at most one telephone session, but strong effects were found for intervention patients with two telephone sessions versus controls (both samples, p<0.001, not shown).

Effect of Drug Category—Table 4 shows that intervention patients, compared to control patients, had the lowest numerical follow-up HSD use in all drug categories except methamphetamine/amphetamines. When the complete sample reduced regression model was fit to data for patients whose HSD was cannabis, and for those whose HSD was cocaine, a sedative or an opiate, intervention patients again used less than controls (both p<0.01, not shown).

SECONDARY OUTCOMES

Results of Wilcoxon signed rank tests in the complete sample indicated that patients who reduced (baseline – follow-up) their HSD use by a day or more also had reductions of 1.2 days for alcohol, 3.7 days for tobacco, use and 4.1 days for cannabis (all p<0.001, not shown). No significant changes were observed for other non-HSD drugs.

DISCUSSION

This study had four key findings. First, BI patients reported a 33% decline in mean HSD use, and had an adjusted 2-day reduction in reported past month HSD use at follow-up compared to controls; there was no compensatory increase in use of other substances. Second, for more frequent users, BI patients reported a 41% decline in mean HSD use and had an adjusted 4-day reduction in reported past month HSD use at follow-up compared to controls. Possibly due to a floor effect for infrequent users, QUIT efficacy was muted by including both low and high frequency risky users. Third, QUIT appeared to work best with risky cannabis, sedative and opiate users and with two telephone sessions. The stronger effect with two sessions is consistent with results of other studies that have found greater alcohol and drug reduction efficacy with multiple contacts.(67, 68)

Our positive findings for PC BI for risky drug use contrast with those of previous primary care-based BI trials. A trial conducted in inner-city outpatient clinics found higher abstinence in hair testing confirmed abstinence and reductions in cocaine and opiate use after six months.(34) In contrast, two recent PC trials showed negative effects.(36, 37) In one trial, there were no differences in hair-testing confirmed drug use at 6-month follow-up. (37) In the other trial, which featured a brief motivational intervention and a telephone-booster at 2 weeks, there were no differences in hair-testing confirmed drug use abstinence or severity during the one-year follow-up.(36)

Several study differences may explain the different results. Perhaps most important, PCP involvement in the BI was a key component of QUIT, but PCPs were not included in the BI of the negative trials. This is consistent with the alcohol BI trials where the biggest effect size and most robust outcomes were conducted in PC with the patients' primary care clinicians conducting the intervention.(15, 29, 32) Perhaps the most important variable that helps people change their health behaviors is empathy and the relationship and trust with their family doctor. Further, the latter two trials(36, 37) used hair testing, which maybe more valid, rather than urine to validate self-report drug use and both had longer follow-ups (6 and 12 months) than QUIT.(35)

QUIT appeared to work regardless of age and race/ethnicity and for all drug classes except for stimulants (particularly the amphetamines). Had we not initially only enrolled patients with risky stimulant use, we might have found stronger results given the greater reduction for cannabis, opiates, and sedatives. Stronger BIs may be required for risky use of amphetamines. Women appeared to respond better than men, possibly due to different drug use profiles.

Study limitations included 1) The intervention effect for drug, alcohol, and tobacco use reduction may be due to reporting bias. However, compared to urine drug testing, there were low rates of HSD underreporting. Further, since there is substantially more incentive to underreport use of illegal drugs than to underreport use of alcohol or tobacco, it is also possible that the reductions in alcohol and tobacco were real and part of an effort to improve health. Some underreporting may reflect use of medications that can cross-react with the amphetamine test, such as over-the-counter cough syrups and cold/allergy preparations.

Moreover, underreporting of one or more drugs at follow-up was numerically greater among control patients, potentially leading to conservative relative reduction findings. 2) Representativeness/Generalizability - limited by the 10% who declined enrollment and one geographic setting. Further, 18% of people in the waiting room declined screening. However, many were probably not patients or would have been excluded if screened; indeed, most of the 6,018 excluded patients were non-PC patients, repeaters, or currently receiving substance use treatment. 3) Attrition; however, our 75% follow-up was comparable to other studies of low-income patients and drug use.(36, 37) 4) Relatively short 3-month follow-up. 5) Small sample size made it difficult to detect interactions. 6) In the future, screening tools using the ASSIST strategy should add a question about recency of use of substance (e.g., past 3 months) at the end to identify the most appropriate candidates for BI or referral to treatment.

CONCLUSIONS

QUIT findings show one way to integrate screening and a multi-component BI protocol for reducing RDU into PC, and if confirmed in additional studies, might be used to inform guidelines on integrating screening for illicit drug use into primary care, to optimize use of information technology (computer tablets) for behavioral health screening in safety net clinics,(69–71) to advise clinician BI intervention techniques, and to improve the health of the individual and potentially the health of the public. Additional larger RCTs are needed to address questions of efficacy in similar and other settings and populations, costs, sustainability, and longer term effects. QUIT, together with these future studies, has the potential to fill an important gap in care - regarding whether to integrate BIs for RDU into FQHCs and other PC settings.(1, 3)

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the following, without whose support we could not have conducted this study. The National Institute on Drug Abuse of the US National Institutes of Health, our funder and greatest supporter: Nora Volkow, MD, Wilson Compton, MD, MPE, Eve Reider, PhD, and Jacqueline Lloyd, PhD. The hard working partners: the clinicians and staff of our study clinics, and the patients - who were willing to consider drug use behavior change. Our colleagues and collaborators: Robert Ali, MD, University of Adelaide; Corey Arnold, PhD, UCLA Medical Imaging Informatics; C. Hendricks Brown, PhD, Northwestern University; Alex Bui, PhD, UCLA Medical Imaging Informatics; Sonya Gabrielian, MD, MPH, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System; Mars Lan, PhD, UCLA Department of Computer Science; Michael McCoy, MD, Regenstrief Institute; Adeline Nyamathi, ANP PhD FAAN, UCLA School of Nursing; Majid Sarrafzadeh, PhD, UCLA Department of Computer Science. The medical directors of our study clinics: Maria Chandler, MD, MBA; Michael Eaton, PA; Paul Gregerson, MD, MBA; Michael Hochman, MD, MPH; Karen Lamp, MD; Elisa Nicholas, MD, MSPH; Jehni Robinson, MD; and Martin Serota, MD. Senior Statistician: Yihang Liu. Health Educators: Nell Baldwin, Yohanna Barth-Rogers, Janet Beyan, Jacqueline Euan, Peggy Leung, Yu-Ming Ni, Alex Rice, and Kelly Townsend. Research Assistants: Rahul Abraham, Maureen Albia, Claire Alvarenga, Esther Baek, Ryan Bakhit, Nataly Barragan, Daniel Benhuri, Ben Benhuri, Vasthi Becerra, Ashley Brumell, Cindy Chen-Wu, Ryane Daniels, Evelyn Diego, Pauline Do, Colleen Duro, Phil Garrity, Rahel Gebregziabher, Nora Ghodousi , Kidan Habtay, Lea Heller, Marissa Hernandez, Niree Hindoyan, Aida Martinez, Sareen Melikian, Hannah Mendoza, Edward Mezian, Blake Johnson, Aram Kim, Camille King, Jinsol (Gene) Lee, Jordan McCrary, Angel Mendoza, Jose Muniz Castro, Maki Nakazato, Christian Neckelmann, Gem Nelson, Osose Oboh, Beverly Okereke, Daniel Pak, Hahnnah Park, Rakshya Pokharel, Francesca Rozo, Desiree Sanchez, Henry Teaford, Ashley Torkan, Daniel Toro-Lira, Clara Tsou, Gina Tucker, Anmy Vu, Christine Vu, Hugo Yepez, and Charlette Yoon.

This research was primarily funded by a grant from NIDA ("Preventing Drug Use in Low Income Clinic Populations." R01 DA022445-01). Special thank you to Hendricks Brown and Juan Villamar from the Center for Prevention Implementation Methodology (Ce-PIM) NIDA P30 DA027828.

ABBREVIATIONS

ASSIST	W.H.O. <u>A</u> lcohol, Smoking and <u>Substance Involvement Screening Test</u>
BI	Brief intervention
FQHC	Federally qualified health centers
HSD	Highest scoring drug
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse
QUIT	Quit Using Drugs Intervention Trial
RCT	Randomized controlled trial
RDU	Risky drug use
LAC	Los Angeles County
PC	Primary Care
PCPs	Primary Care Providers

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QUIT CONSORT Flow Diagram



Figure 1. Behavioral Model of QUIT Intervention for Risky Drug Use





Table 1

Baseline Characteristics of QUIT Study Participants by Treatment Group

Characteristic	Total	Control	Intervention	Pa
All subjects	334	163	171	
PREDISPOSING				
Sociodemographics				
Age, mean (SD)	41.7 (12.7)	40.8 (13.1)	42.4 (12.3)	.250
Education 12yrs, n (%)	253 (83.8)	124 (84.4)	129 (83.2)	.790
Male, n (%)	210 (62.9)	97 (59.5)	113 (66.1)	.214
Race/Ethnicity, n (%)				.616
White	126 (37.7)	63 (38.7)	63 (36.8)	
African American	76 (22.8)	34 (20.9)	42 (24.6)	
Hispanic	113 (33.8)	56 (34.4)	57 (33.3)	
Other	19 (5.7)	10 (6.1)	9 (5.3)	
U.S. Born, n (%)	286 (87.2)	140(87.5)	146 (86.9)	.870
Marital status, n (%)				.074
Married	39 (11.7)	11 (6.8)	28 (16.4)	
Widowed	11 (3.3)	5 (3.1)	6 (3.5)	
Separated	24 (7.2)	10 (6.2)	14 (8.2)	
Divorced	67 (20.2)	34 (21.0)	33 (19.3)	
Never married	191 (57.5)	101(62.7)	90 (52.6)	
Parenting status (children < 18 yo), n (%)	71 (21.3)	35 (21.6)	36 (21.1)	.902
Homeless history, n (%)				
Homeless, lifetime	203 (61.0)	94 (58.0)	109 (63.7)	.285
Homeless, current	86 (26.2)	36 (22.4)	50 (29.9)	.119
Highest Scoring Drug (HSD) History and Beliefs				
Duration of HSD use (mean years, SD)	20.4 (13.4)	19.1 (13.6)	21.6 (13.1)	.081
Counseled by clinician about HSD ever, n (%)	82 (28.5)	41 (29.3)	41 (27.7)	.623
Perception has problem with HSD n (%)				.360
Do not have drug problem	193 (67.0)	98 (70.0)	95 (64.2)	
Probably have drug problem	66 (22.9)	27 (19.3)	39 (26.4)	
Definitely have drug problem	29 (10.1)	15 (10.7)	14 (9.5)	
Interest in reducing/stopping HSD, n (%)				.645
Very	125 (37.4)	60 (36.8)	65 (38.0)	
Somewhat	100 (29.9)	46 (28.2)	54 (31.6)	
Not at all	109 (32.6)	57 (35.0)	52 (30.4)	
Confidence about reducing HSD Use, n (%)				.024
Not at all confident	23 (6.9)	8 (4.9)	15 (8.8)	
Somewhat confident	108 (32.3)	44 (27.0)	64 (37.4)	

Characteristic	Total	Control	Intervention	Pa
All subjects	334	163	171	
Totally confident	203 (60.8)	111(68.1)	92 (53.8)	
Readiness to change, Mean (SD)				
Precontemplation	-0.65 (3.6)	-0.50 (3.7)	-0.79 (3.5)	.376
Contemplation	0.28 (4.2)	0.06 (4.2)	0.49 (4.3)	.403
Action	1.65 (4.2)	1.91 (4.4)	1.40 (4.0)	.252
ENABLING				
Income \$500/month, n (%)	193 (58.0)	93 (57.4)	100 (58.5)	.843
Insurance, past 3 months, n (%)	109 (32.7)	53 (32.7)	56 (32.8)	.995
NEED				
Fair or poor general health, n (%)	137 (41.1)	70 (43.2)	67 (39.2)	.455
Perceived physical health, on SF-12 (Likert scale 1-6), mean (SD)	43.0 (12.0)	43.1 (12.0)	43.0 (12.1)	.922
Perceived mental health status on SF-12 (Likert scale 1-6), mean (SD)	42.8 (12.4)	42.9 (12.3)	42.7 (12.6)	.855
# Chronic medical conditions, mean $(SD)^b$	1.1 (1.1)	1.1 (1.1)	1.1 (1.1)	.645
Baseline Tobacco Use Days past month, mean (SD)	12.08 (13.4)	12.50 (13.4)	11.68 (13.4)	.577
Baseline Alcohol Use Days per week, past month, mean (SD)	2.83 (1.5) ^c	2.91 (1.5) ^c	2.74 (1.5) ^c	.304
Baseline Any binge drinking day, past month, n (%) d	199 (59.6)	102 (62.6)	97 (56.7)	.276
Baseline HSD ASSIST Score, mean (SD) ^e	14.5 (6.6)	14.3 (6.5)	14.6 (6.7)	.609
HSD, n (%)				.109
Cannabis	173 (51.8)	82 (50.3)	91 (53.2)	
Cocaine/Crack	67 (20.1)	26 (16.0)	41 (24.0)	
Amphetamines	41 (12.3)	21 (12.9)	20 (11.7)	
Sedatives	29 (8.7)	18 (11.0)	11 (6.4)	
Opiates	22 (6.6)	14 (8.6)	8 (4.7)	
Other (inhalants, hallucinogens)	2 (0.6)	2 (1.2)	0 (0)	

 $^{a}\mathrm{Based}$ on chi-square, two-sample t, or two-sample Wilcoxon test

^bNumber of 8 chronic medical conditions in lifetime: asthma, hepatitis, epilepsy, cancer, tuberculosis, HTN, diabetes, or HIV/AIDS

 C Corresponding to about 1–2 drinking days per week in the past month

 $d_{\mbox{Binge}}$ drinking day is defined as 5+ drinks for men <65 yo, 4+ men >= 65 yo and all women

 $^{e}\mathrm{Baseline}$ ASSIST Score for Highest Scoring Drug on the ASSIST

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Table 2

Profile of Past 30-Day Highest Scoring Drug^a (HSD) Use at Baseline andFollow-up among All Patients and by Baseline Level of HSD Use

					<u>To</u>	tal Sam	ple			
					# Day	s Used 1	Highest Scori	ing Drug, Pas	st 30 Days ^b	
		Baseline			Follow-up		Reductior	ı ^c Over Time	Adjusted HSD Group	Difference at Follow-up ^f
	Mean	Median	pd	Mean	Median	pd	Mean	pe	Mean	95% CI
Program:			.933			.073			2.68*	0.76, 4.60
Control Group (N=132)	10.7	5		9.6	4		0.83	.211		
Intervention Group (N=129)	10.6	5		7.1	2		3.47	.001		
		Pa	tients W	/ho Used	their High	est Scor	ing Drug 0–4	Days at Base	eline	
					# Days	Used H	ighest Scorin	ıg Drug, Past	30 Days ^b	
		Baseline			Follow-up		Reduction ⁽	² Over Time	Adjusted HSD Group D	ifference at Follow-upf
Program	Mean	Median	$\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{d}}$	Mean	Median	$\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{d}}$	Mean	pe	Mean	95% CI
Control Group (N=58)	1.9	2	.133	2.2	0.5	.637	-0.33	.592	-0.44	-2.45, 1.58
Intervention Group (N=62)	1.5	1		2.7	0		-1.15	.170		
	P	atients Who	Used tl	<u>neir High</u>	est Scoring	Drug	5 Days at B	iseline		
				# Days	Used High	est Scor	ing Drug, Pa	st 30 Days ^b		
		Baseline			Follow-up		Reduction ⁶	^c Over Time	Adjusted HSD Group Difference at Follow-up	J.
Program	Mean	Median	p ^d	Mean	Median	$\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{q}}$	Mean	e Mean	95% CI	

p < .01 ** p < .001

2.43, 8.60

5.52 **

.109

1.74 7.75

.015

15

15.9 11.2

.419

15 21

17.6 19.0

Control Group (N=74) Intervention Group (N=67)

^aHighest scoring drug in risky range (4–26) on WHO ASSIST

^bBased on complete cases with follow-up data ^cBaseline minus follow-up HSD use $^{\rm f} {\rm Program}$ difference at follow-up adjusted for baseline HSD use ^dTwo-sample t-test for group difference d Two-sample t-test for group difference ePaired t test for change ^bBased on complete cases with follow-up data ^cBaseline minus follow-up HSD use ${}^{f}\!Program$ difference at follow-up adjusted for baseline HSD use ^dTwo-sample t-test for group difference dTwo-sample t-test for group difference ^ePaired t test for change ^bBased on complete cases with follow-up data ^cBaseline minus follow-up HSD use ^fProgram difference at follow-up adjusted for baseline HSD use ^dTwo-sample t-test for group difference $^{d}\mathrm{Two-sample}\ \mathrm{t\text{-test}}\ \mathrm{for}\ \mathrm{group}\ \mathrm{difference}$ ePaired t test for change

Table 3

Multiple Linear Regression Models for Past 30-Day Follow-up Use of Highest Scoring Drug (HSD^a)^b

<u>Total Sample (1</u>	<u>n=334)</u>			
Measure	Estimate	s.e.	95% CI	Р
Intervention Program	-2.21	0.79	-3.76, -0.65	.005
Baseline HSD Use	0.69	0.04	0.61, 0.77	.001
HSD ASSIST Score	0.14	0.07	0.01, 0.28	.037
Interval between baseline and follow-up surveys $\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$	0.68	0.25	0.20, 1.16	.006
General Health Status ^d	-0.73	0.40	-1.50, 0.04	.064
Interest in quitting/reducing HSD use ^e	1.44	0.69	0.09, 2.79	.037

Patients with Baseline Hi	ghest Scoring Di	ug Use 0–4	Days, Past 30 Day	<u>ys (n=154)</u>
Measure	Estimate	s.e.	95% CI	Р
Intervention Program	0.08	0.75	-1.39, 1.55	.915
Interval ^C	1.29	0.24	0.83, 1.17	.001
Health ^d	-1.06	0.37	-1.79, -0.33	.004

Patients with Baseline Highest Scoring Drug Use 5 or More Days, Past 30 Days (n=180)						
Measure	Estimate	s.e.	95% CI	Р		
Intervention Program	-4.01	1.33	-6.63, -1.40	.003		
Baseline HSD Use	0.69	0.07	0.56, 0.83	.001		
HSD ASSIST Score	0.21	0.12	- 0.02, 0.45	.075		
Male	2.94	1.41	0.19, 5.70	.036		
Action ^f	-0.32	0.18	-0.67, 0.04	.078		
TB History	-7.82	4.59	-16.82, 1.17	.088		

^aHighest scoring drug in risky range (4–26) on WHO ASSIST

 b After multiple imputation of missing predictor values

^{*c*}Interval in days between baseline and follow-up surveys

dGeneral health (1 = Excellent, 5 = Poor)

^eInterest in quitting/reducing HSD use (1 = very interested, 3 = not at all interested)

fScore on the Action Readiness to change scale

Table 4

Past 30-Day Use of Highest Scoring Drug (HSD^a) at Follow-up as a Function of Drug Type

	Number of Drug Use Days, Past 30 Days, at Follow- up				
HSD Drug Type	Control Group mean ^b (n)	Intervention Group mean ^b (n)	Group Difference	95% CI	
Cannabis	11.72 (68)	9.22 (69)	2.51	-0.34, 5.35	
Cocaine/Crack	6.16 (20)	3.39 (30)	2.77	-0.08, 5.63	
Methamphetamine/Amphetamine-Type Stimulants	6.86 (14)	6.85 (14)	0.01	-7.57, 7.58	
Sedatives	9.40 (16)	5.20 (8)	4.19	-2.92, 11.31	
Opiates	11.63 (12)	3.81 (8)	7.82	-0.44, 16.08	

^aHighest scoring drug in problem range (4–26) on WHO ASSIST

^bAdjusted for baseline HSD use (NOTE: due to small sample sizes none of these results are significant, so no p values are shown)HKVB