Harm Reduction Acceptability Scale (HRAS-R)

DIRECTIONS: Indicate the number that corresponds to your personal attitude.

1. People with alcohol or drug problems who will not accept abstinence as their treatment goal are in denial.

   1  2  3  4  5
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

2. It is not acceptable to teach injecting drug users how to use bleach to sterilize their injecting equipment.

   1  2  3  4  5
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

3. A choice of treatment outcome goals (for example, abstinence, reduced use of drugs or alcohol, safer use of drugs or alcohol) should be discussed with all people seeking help for drug or alcohol problems.

   1  2  3  4  5
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

4. People who live in government-funded housing must be drug and alcohol free.

   1  2  3  4  5
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

5. Doctors should be permitted to prescribe heroin and similar drugs to treat drug addiction as long as doing so reduces problems such as crime and health risks.

   1  2  3  4  5
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

6. Even if their drug use is stable, women who use illicit drugs cannot be good mothers to infants and young children.

   1  2  3  4  5
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

7. Drug users should be given honest information about how illicit drugs may be used more safely (for example, how overdose or related health hazards may be avoided).

   1  2  3  4  5
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree
8. People with drug or alcohol problems who are not willing to accept abstinence as their treatment outcome goal should be offered treatment that aims to reduce the harm associated with their continued drug or alcohol use.

   1  2  3  4  5  
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree Disagree Strongly disagree

9. In most cases, nothing can be done to motivate clients in denial except to wait for them to “hit bottom”.

   1  2  3  4  5  
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree Disagree Strongly disagree

10. It is acceptable to prescribe substitute drugs such as methadone in order to reduce crime and other social problems associated with illicit drug use.

   1  2  3  4  5  
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree Disagree Strongly disagree

11. Prisons should not provide sterilizing tablets or bleach in order for inmates to clean their drug injecting equipment.

   1  2  3  4  5  
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree Disagree Strongly disagree

12. As long as clients are making progress towards their treatment goals, methadone maintenance programs should not kick clients out of treatment for using street drugs.

   1  2  3  4  5  
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree Disagree Strongly disagree

13. Measures designed to reduce the harm associated with drug or alcohol use are acceptable only if they eventually lead clients to pursue abstinence.

   1  2  3  4  5  
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree Disagree Strongly disagree

14. People with drug and alcohol problems may be more likely to seek professional help if they are offered at least some treatment options that do not focus on abstinence.

   1  2  3  4  5  
   Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree Disagree Strongly disagree
15. The prescription of substitute drugs such as methadone should be forbidden.

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree

16. People whose drug use is stable should be trained to teach other drug users how to use drugs more safely (for example, how to inject safely).

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree

17. Making clean injecting equipment available to injecting drug users is likely to reduce the rate of HIV infection.

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree

18. Abstinence is the only acceptable treatment option for people who are physically dependent on alcohol.

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree

19. It is possible to use drugs without necessarily misusing or abusing drugs.

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree

20. Pamphlets for educating drug users about safer drug use and safer sex should be detailed and explicit, even if these pamphlets would be offensive to some people.

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree

21. Opiate users should only be prescribed methadone for a limited period of time.

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree

22. Drug injectors who are not willing to accept abstinence as a treatment goal at the beginning of treatment should be given easy access to clean injecting equipment to reduce the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases.

   1 Strongly agree
   2 Agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree
   4 Disagree
   5 Strongly disagree
23. Women who use illicit drugs during pregnancy should automatically lose custody of their babies.

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

24. People with alcohol or drug problems should be praised for making changes such as cutting down on their alcohol consumption or switching from injectable drugs to oral drugs.

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

25. Abstinence is the only acceptable treatment goal for people who use illicit drugs.

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree