

Tukialus

-The harm reduction work on streets



Diakonissa-
laitos

Jenny Kasinen-Wickman

Tukialus Project

- Started by Deaconess institute in 2019
- Funded by Veikkaus Ltd until 2021
- Provides active harm reduction and outreaching approach on streets. Work includes support ie. in social care needs, personal issues and daily activities
- Focuses on people who are in most vulnerable situation
- A typical client is homeless, substance abuse disordered
- Many clients have also somatic-, psychiatric- and social problems with multiple trauma layers
- Work is anonymous. We do not collect any personal information. Help is based on clients willingness



What we do

- Operates in four cities
- **Helsinki, Lahti, Tampere,**

Jyväskylä (Sovatek Foundation)

Basic work package includes:

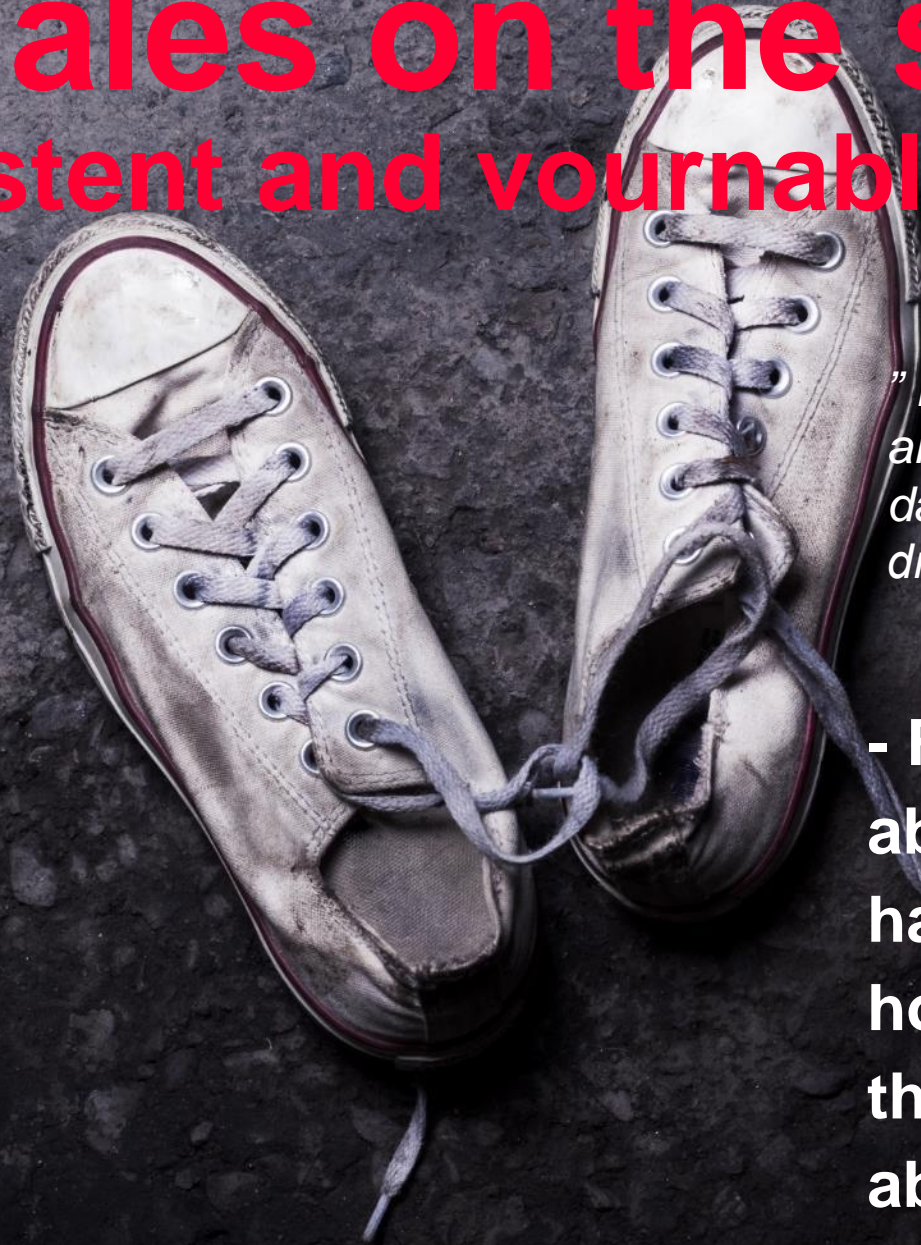
social benefit forms, food, clean syringes & needles, hygiene products, first-aid kit, condoms & lubricant, sanitary towels, computer, selfone

- Hearing, listening, caring and support
- Ready to see, hear and listen heart-breaking issues without losing orientation to the work
- Problem solving capabilities
- Guiding and standing by in a different services ie. ER, health- and social care, housing and Kela Services



Females on the streets

-persistent and vournable



"I just want someone to see me as a human, not just as an addict. I'm much more: I'm a women, mother, daughter, wife, worker and student. I'm fragile, but I have dreams. Just like you have."

- Females who have substance abuse disorder, tells often that they have to choose already in early age how to survive in their life. One of the coping mechanism is substance abuse.

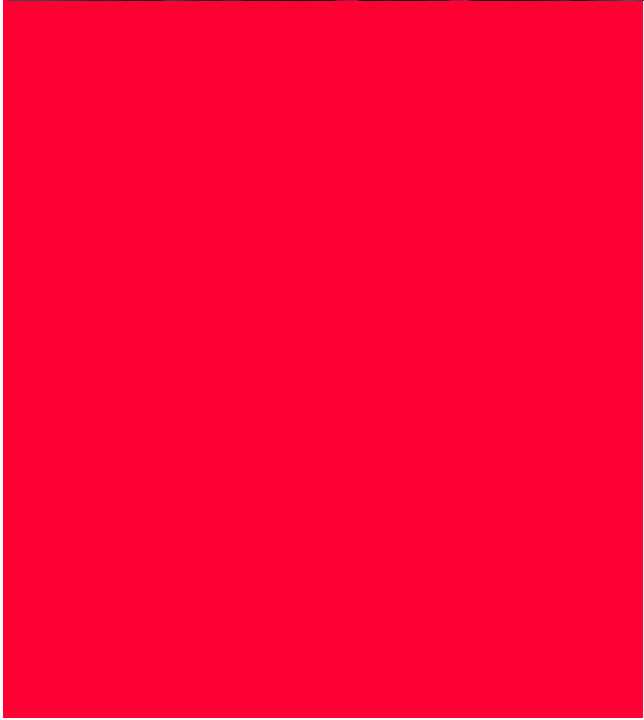
793

Female clients



Age between

10-65+



Female clients

The typical age range is

There is no typical socio-economic background.

However there are many unifying factors:

Unsolved trauma from childhood: neglect, physical-, mental- and sexual abuse, domestic violence, parents active substance abuse was present in home, childcare / foster care, school problems, etc.

Teenage years and adulthood: (**coping abuse**) **early started substance abuse**, physical-, mental and sexual abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, incarceration, crimes, trafficking, violence, (kids have been) taking in custody, stigma etc...



Sex and violence

Many of our clients have told that they haven't had chance to speak sexuality and sexual health issues:

"I cannot ask my boyfriend to use condom, because then he thinks that I have been cheating."

Many females don't recognize violence as a violence:

"My boyfriend is not violence towards me. He hasn't never hit me with a fist, he has just choked and slap me few times."

- Sexual counselling is part of a job
- Be approachable
- Ask about violence, speak sexual health issues
- Give time to answer
- Ask open questions
- Know your regional helping & service system
- Believe
- Do not confront
- Build confidence



”If you look at me, look kindly and without judgement”

- See a women
- Treat as a human
- Ask & listen
- Don't judge

Treat as you would like to be treated



Thank you!

jenny.kaasinen@hdl.fi

+358 50 337 1879

robert.koski@hdl.fi

+358 50 594 5293

 [@HDLsaatio](https://twitter.com/HDLsaatio)

 facebook.fi/diakonissalaitos



Diakonissa-
laitos