HARM REDUCTION

NTRODUCTION TO UNDERSTANDING BASIC PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION

HARM REDUCTION IS A WAY OF BEING, A SET OF PRINCIPLES AND PHYSICAL MODALITIES TO REDUCE HARM.

HARM REDUCTION

beliefs

HARM REDUCTION IS THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF THAT INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES DESERVE RIGHTS, CARE AND HEALTH; THOSE NEEDS ARE MET WHERE THEY ARE AT. HARM REDUCTION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT DAILY LIFE AND BEHAVIORS HAVE HARMS ATTACHED AND PROVIDING TOOLS TO DETER THOSE HARMS IMPROVES OUTCOMES MORE THAN POLICING OR STRICT ABSTINENCE.

HARM REDUCTION IS BUILT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF COMPASSION, COMMUNITY AND CARE

History

MODERN MODELS OF HARM REDUCTION ARE ROOTED LARGELY IN THE 80'S INITIATIVES TO RESPOND TO THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS.

THE GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY AND CARE MODELS MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES DEPLOYED TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER WHEN THE STANDARD SERVICES REFUSED DUE TO STIGMA, THIS HARM SYSTEMICALLY KILLED MANY.

(BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PWUD, SEX WORKERS, TRANS AND QUEER FOLKS)

History...

MODERN HARM REDUCTION IS LARGELY FOCUSED ON THE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND AWARENESS OF HARM FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS (PWUD).

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION OF OVERDOSE, HIV AND HEP C TRANSMISSION, SAFER USE PRACTICES FOR OVERALL HEALTH EDUCATION TO PWUD AND WIDER COMMUNITIES ABOUT HARMS AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE

What does this look like?

- SUPERVISED SAFER USE SITES (INJECTION, SNORTING AND INHALATION)
- ACCESSIBILITY TO GEAR, CONDOMS, NALOXONE
- PEER LED EDUCATION
- COMMUNITY SPACES
- POLICIES AND PROGRAMS INFORMED BY PWUD
- WITHDRAWL MGMT, RECOVERY PROGRAMS
- O.A.T AND OTHER CRAVING MEDICATIONS
- NEEDLE SYRINGE PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY BIO BINS, CLEANUP PROGRAMS FOR SAFE DISPOSA
- ACCESS TO STIGMA FREE HEALTHCARE
- HIRING PEERS AND SUPPORTING THEM
- CULTURAL SAFETY, MEDICINES, PRACTICES
- EDUCATION; REDUCING STIGMA
- SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
- COMMUNITY CARE!

Injection sites in Canada

JANUARY 2017 – NOVEMBER 2024

OVERDOSES: 62, 193

FATAL OVERDOSES: 0

OVERDOSES REQUIRING INTERVENTION: 45,471

OVERDOSES REQUIRING NALOXONE: 18,356

TOTAL VISITS: 5, 103, 278

INDIVIDUAL UNIQUE VISITORS: 488, 380

Why is this important?

PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT. REGARDLESS OF IF SOMEONE IS YOUR PARENT, SIBLING, EXTENDED FAMILY, FRIENDS. THEY ARE YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR NEIGHBORS.

PWUD DESERVE CARE.

HARM REDUCTION SAVES LIVES

SUPPORT NOT STIGMA