SAFeworks Programs

Clients can use drugs in a monitored, hygienic environment with the support of nurses, paramedics and peer support workers.

Clients can access free harm reduction supplies like condoms, clean needles, bio-hazard bins and naloxone kits.

Clients are offered additional services like counselling, opioid dependency treatment, STI testing and treatment and social work referrals.

A team of outreach workers and peer support workers available 24/7 to assist Safeworks clients with navigating health and social services.

Services include supply distribution and education, overdose response, counselling and navigational support for housing, detox and addiction programs, clothing, food and shelter.

The Connect Team also offers needle debris pickup services for the community and liaises with neighbours, residents and business owners.

Target Populations

People who inject drugs
People who work in the sex trade
Men who have sex with men
People who experience homelessness related to addiction

SERVICEs are free and do not require Alberta Health Care.

References


SAFeworks is located at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre in the downtown Beltline neighbourhood of Calgary, Alberta.

BETWEEN 2017 AND 2019 SAFeworks STAFF HAVE:

- Responded to 1,251 overdoses
- Maintained a 100% success rate in reversing overdoses
- Provided 2,343 referrals to other supports (housing, treatment, etc.)

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Supervised consumption services are an integral part of a continuum of services that are necessary to address addiction and the opioid crisis in Alberta. Harm reduction saves lives.

Harm reduction not only provides medical interventions for addiction, it addresses social aspects like stigma.

Stigma:

Shaming, distrust, fear, bias, preventing people from seeking help.

How does SAFeworks aim to reduce stigma?

- People-first language
- Education and engagement
- Respecting human rights

WHAT OTHER SERVICES ARE OFFERED AT THE SHELDON M. CHUMIR HEALTH CENTRE?

- Urgent care
- Urgent mental health
- Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team (CSART)
- Opioid Dependency Program (ODP)
- Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (IOAT)
- AHS ID program
- Wound clinic
- Indigenous-centred health care

In 2017, 733 people in Alberta died of opioid overdoses.