

SAFEWORKS

The Alberta Health Services Harm Reduction Program

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES

MOBILE OUTREACH & PEER SUPPORT

WRAP AROUND SERVICES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

A social justice-based approach to addiction and healthcare:

- ★ Reducing the risk and harms associated with the use of psychoactive substances, and with sexual activity
- ★ Minimizing death, disease and injury related to substance use, while understanding that **abstinence is not always a realistic goal for everyone**
- ★ Recognizing that all human beings deserve to be treated with **dignity and respect**, and to belong to an inclusive community that supports people who use substances

In 2017,

733

people in Alberta died of opioid overdoses.

SAFEWORKS PROGRAMS

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES ("THE SCS")

Open 24/7!

- 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



Services are mobile and free!

- A mobile outreach team made up of nurses, social workers and outreach workers that provide a variety of services to the Calgary zone
- The Van provides harm reduction, safer sex and safer drug use education, immunizations, harm reduction supply distribution (needle exchange)
- Services also include STI, HIV and Hep C screening & treatment, pregnancy testing & counselling, overdose prevention and response training, and referrals for social services



SAFEWORKS CONNECT ("THE CONNECT TEAM")

- 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

Safeworks services are free and do not require Alberta Health Care

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.



NO!

HARM REDUCTION NOT ONLY PROVIDES MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR ADDICTION, IT ADDRESSES SOCIAL ASPECTS LIKE

STIGMA

Stigma

SHAMING

DISTRUST

FEAR

BIAS

STIGMA PREVENTS

PEOPLE FROM SEEKING HELP.

the social process of negatively stereotyping, devaluing, labelling and discriminating against others

HOW DOES SAFeworks AIM TO REDUCE STIGMA?

People-First Language

Labelling people solely by their substance use (i.e.: drug addict, drug abuser) can **increase public stigma** and can also impact how folks **think about themselves and their ability to change**

Education & Engagement

Educating communities and professionals on the barriers faced by people who use substances promotes **understanding, compassion and social inclusion**

Respecting Human Rights

Providing low-barrier access to healthcare and harm reduction programs (accessible, accommodating, affordable and accepting) respects folks' rights to autonomy and **promotes health equity**

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 Healthcare (Elbow River Healing Lodge, Indigenous Health and Nutrition Team, Indigenous Mental Health Program)

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

References

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