

# Harm Reduction in Saskatchewan 2017

## WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

In 2017, harm reduction programs provided supplies and services to reduce the risks associated with injection drug use (IDU). These include services to enhance the knowledge, skills, resources, and supports for individuals engaging in high-risk behaviour.

## OUR GOALS



REDUCE THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIONS



REDUCE SHARING OF SUBSTANCE USE EQUIPMENT



PROVIDE RETURN AND DISPOSAL OPTIONS



LINK TO CARE AND SUPPORT



EDUCATE ABOUT SEXUAL HEALTH



ADDRESS SUBSTANCE MISUSE

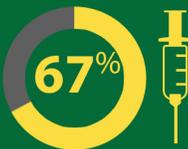


EDUCATE ABOUT TESTING AND TREATMENT OPTIONS



OVERDOSE PREVENTION

## WHY HARM REDUCTION?



Injection drug use was the most common risk factor reported among individuals newly diagnosed with HIV.



Programs provide basic medical care by reducing visits to emergency rooms and hospitalizations as a result of complications such as endocarditis (serious heart condition).



Poverty, mental illness, addictions, past trauma and other social inequalities affect people's vulnerability to drug-related harm.



The cost savings associated with preventing HIV are significant. A study completed in Ontario found that every dollar spent on HIV prevention saved \$5 in the health system.

## THE NUMBERS

### HARM REDUCTION (2017)

**4,928,173**  
needles were issued

**4,874,262**  
(99%) needles were returned or recovered

**61,861**  
visits — most were by males and people aged 30 to 39 years.

**25 fixed & 3 mobile**  
provincially-funded harm reduction sites

### ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT (2017-18)

**356**  
treatment beds in 15 detox facilities, 11 inpatient facilities, and 5 transitional housing units

**19%**  
of the individuals admitted for alcohol and drug treatment injected drugs — an increase from 16% in 2016-17

The most frequently injected drugs for those who accessed alcohol and drug treatment services were:

- 1) morphine / Demerol®
- 2) crystal methamphetamine
- 3) cocaine

For the full Harm Reduction Programs & Services Report (2017), please visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/addictions>