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**Building Capacity across Alberta:
A Provincial Harm Reduction
Approach**

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June 2019 

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Disclosure

We have no actual or potential conflict of
interest in relation to this topic or
presentation

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Overview
Harm Reduction Services Team (HRST)

- Team Members, Vision and Mission

Team Priorities

- Community Based Naloxone Program
- Partnerships
- Harm Reduction Approach
- Harm Reduction for Psychoactive Substance Use Policy

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Harm Reduction Services Team

Provincial team supporting harm reduction learning and development within AHS

Operation of Community Based Naloxone Program

Partnership and collaboration with Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) and other community agencies

Contact us via harm.reduction@ahs.ca

- Director & Medical Lead**
 - Amy Woroniuk & Dr. Nick Etches
- Admin Support**
 - Corie Raddis
- Provincial Manager**
 - Debra Morrison
- Business Intelligence**
 - Abhaya Prasad
- Scientific Director**
 - Dr. Elaine Hyshka
- Educator**
 - Sara Gill
- Zone Leads**
 - North – Dorothy Baker
 - Edmonton – Jennifer McLaren
 - Central – Dianne Johns
 - Calgary – Robin Maher
 - South – Krista Worobec

Harm Reduction Services Team

Vision

- Our vision is a compassionate Alberta – committed to promoting the health of people who use substances, their families and friends.

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Harm Reduction Services Team

Mission

- We collaborate with community and health system partners to promote a harm reduction approach to substance use in Alberta.

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Harm Reduction Services Team

Values

- **Health Equity** – We are committed to addressing systemic and systematic barriers to health faced by people who use substances.
- **Integrity** – We are committed to vigorously upholding the principles of Harm Reduction.

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Harm Reduction Services Team

Values

- **Inclusion** – We are committed to amplifying the voices of individuals with lived experience.
- **Collaboration** – We are committed to working in partnership with community agencies, internal/external groups and community members to develop shared goals and objectives.

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Harm Reduction Services Team

Values

- **Innovation** - We are committed to demonstrating tenacity and flexibility in finding creative solutions and promoting structural and organizational change.

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Community Based Naloxone Program

Administration of Community Based Naloxone (CBN) Program

- Ordering
- Distribution – more than 1,900 sites
- Oversight of Monthly Reporting

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Community Based Naloxone Kit Distribution

Year	Total	Monthly Average
2016	6,376	531
2017	32,186	2,682
2018	86,038	7,170
2019 January 1 – March 31	19,935	6,645
AH Pilot Project ACCH***	3,250	---
TOTAL	147,785	3,789

***Alberta Health Pilot Project Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH)

June 2019 Source: Community Based Naloxone (CBN) Kits Surveillance Dashboard 11

Community Based Naloxone Program

- **147,785 kits put in the hands of Albertans**
- **1,950 Providers**
 - Registered Sites
 - Community Pharmacies
 - Medical First Responders
- **AH Pilot Project ACCH**
- **9,386 reported reversals**

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Partnerships

Alberta Community Council on HIV

- CBN curriculum
- Awareness
- Stigma reduction

ACP and RxA

- *Guidance for Pharmacy Teams: Community Based Naloxone*

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Partnerships

Emergency Medical Services

- Data informs some of the team’s work
- Their data led to increase in number of vials in CBN kits from 2 to 3
- Identification of “hot spots”

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Harm Reduction refers to policies, programs and practices that aim to reduce the adverse health, social or economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal psychoactive substances without necessarily reducing consumption.

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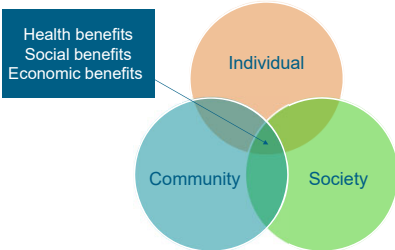
Harm Reduction Approach

- Compassionate, holistic, ethical and evidence-based
- Accepts that abstinence may not be a realistic or desirable goal for everyone
- Abstinence is not a prerequisite for accessing health or social services
- Interventions targeted at the individual, family, community or society
- A component in the continuum of care

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Benefits of Harm Reduction



(Newcombe, 2010)

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Psychoactive substances are substances that once consumed affect mental processes (i.e., thoughts, behaviors, emotions).

Equivalent to the term psychotropic drug; neutral and descriptive terms for the whole class of substances, legal or illegal and does not imply abuse or dependence.

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Resources

- AHS Community Based Naloxone Program | <https://www.ahs.ca/naloxone>
 - AHS Enhancing Concurrent Capability Toolkit | <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page14889.aspx>
 - AHS Harm Reduction | <https://www.ahs.ca/harmreduction>
 - AHS Opioid Treatment Information | <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services/otp.aspx>
 - AHS WHS Fentanyl/Opioid Worker Safety Information | <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/hr/Page16357.aspx>
 - Alberta Addicts Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly (AAWEAR) | <http://www.aawear.org>
 - Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) | <https://acch.ca>
 - Alberta Nurses Coalition for Harm Reduction | <http://www.anchr.ca>
 - Drugsafe.ca | <http://www.drugsafe.ca>
 - Government of Canada Opioid Crisis & Drug Prevention Campaign | <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/drug-prevention.html>
 - Government of Alberta Opioid Crisis Response | <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-opioid-crisis-response.aspx>
- <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page16330.aspx> •••••

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