

Streetworks

Boyle Street Community Services

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History

Started in 1989 with 2 outreach staff

Harm Reduction, Health Promotion and Primary Health Care for people who use substances by injection or inhalation, and street-based sex workers.

Started as HIV prevention and now includes Hep C, endocarditis, talcosis, skin conditions, STIs, etc.

Currently falls under Boyle Street Community Services – new since 2020.

Mixed team of outreach workers, nurses, social worker

Provide outreach, referrals, “going with”, counselling, information/education, STBBI testing/treatment, overdose prevention, immunizations, first aid/wound care, advocacy, training, etc

Mission/Vision

Vision People who use injection drugs and/or work in the sex trade will have the harm reduction skills, knowledge, resources and support they need to be safer and healthier.

Mission Guided by the social determinants of health and harm reduction principles, Streetworks will be a leader in the prevention of transmission and the impact of HIV, Hepatitis C and other blood borne pathogens and STIs for people who inject/smoke drugs, sex trade workers, and other marginalized populations.

Locations

Fixed Sites - Boyle Street Community Services, Boyle McCauley Health Centre – plus 25 satellite sites across the city

Van - 7 evenings per week, 2 afternoons a week

On Foot Outreach

Program operates mainly in 20x30 block area, but go beyond when called.

There are few other locations in the northeast part of the province so many people come to Edmonton to get supplies. Also some workers in other parts come to the city for their supplies.

Data - Prior to COVID

2.4 million needles distributed annually

35,000 visits per year (recorded)

Male – 65%

Female – 34%

Transgendered – 1%

White – 44%

Indigenous – 54%

Other – 2%

Teens – 1%

Twenties – 16%

Thirties – 28%

Forties - 35%

Fifties+ - 20 %

Programs

Core program

Overdose prevention – Streetworks first to do community naloxone in Canada (2005). Have a team of 2.4 people for presentations and training. Whole team does overdose response

HER Pregnancy Program – nurses, outreach workers, social worker do outreach to pregnant street-involved women who are not accessing or under-accessing prenatal care. High success rate.

STI Prevention – 2 year project to decrease the rate of syphilis, and other STBBIs

Involved in SCS/OPS, AAWEAR, COVID response

Currently the team's nurses are working on COVID prevention and identification in addition to their regular activities

Issues

Layers of epidemics – COVID19, STBBIs, COVID

Homelessness, poverty

Overdoses (poisoning), and a needing a different response- <https://gettingtomorrow.ca/>

Legitimacy of Harm Reduction policy and practice

Stigma, discrimination, lack of understanding, biased/poorly researched information about substances and substance use

Unable to reach many mainstream people who use substances

Funding and policies