Harm Reduction in British Columbia

What is harm reduction?
Harm reduction is a respectful nonjudgmental approach to reducing harms of drug and alcohol use that meets people “where they are at.” For example:

- Needle distribution/supervised injection site
- Access to clean crack pipes
- Distributing condoms
- Access to naloxone to counter opioid overdose
- Managed alcohol programs
- Methadone maintenance programs
- Peer support

The Numbers:

- **268** sites in BC received harm-reduction supplies (in 2015)
- **4412** naloxone kits dispensed (2012-Jan 2016, via BC's take home naloxone program)
- **11,832,750** needles distributed BC-wide (in 2015)
- **3,784,200** condoms distributed BC-wide (in 2015)
- **14,662** patients enrolled in methadone maintenance programs (in 2014)

The Results:

- **56%** decrease in new reported cases of Hep C (2002-2012)
- **49,404** referrals from distribution sites to other services, including mental health & social services (2012)
- **373** overdoses reversed with naloxone (2012-Jan 2016, via BC's take home naloxone program)
- **81%** decrease in new reported cases of HIV among people who inject drugs (2002-2012)
- **Zero** overdose deaths at Insite

Did you know?
- BC has two supervised injection sites: Insite and the Dr. Peter Centre
- Vancouver is home to Canada's first ever crack-pipe vending machine
- One formal Managed Alcohol Program (MAP) in BC provides supported housing and regulated doses of alcohol to residents with severe alcohol dependence

Sources: College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, towardtheheart.com, supervisedinjection.vch.ca, BC Harm Reduction Strategies and Services Committee Policy Indicators Report, BC Centre for Disease Control, July 2014