

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION: A harm reduction approach

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THE PROBLEM:

- BC has declared a public health emergency in response to an alarming number of overdoses and deaths.
- As of September 2016, there had been 555 overdose related deaths and that number continues to grow.
- Bill C-2 raises barriers to opening new safe consumption sites.

THE AGENCY:

- ANKORS: the AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society
- Their mission is to respond to the evolving needs of those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and other blood borne pathogens; and to foster healthy, informed communities.

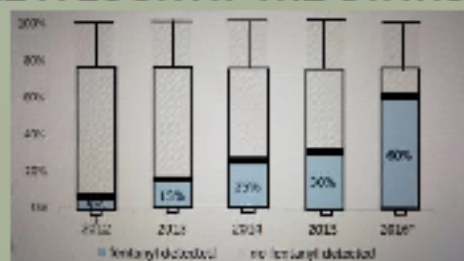
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- Implement strategies to promote community knowledge and safety around substance use and overdose prevention.
- Stakeholders include people who use substances, local business owners and health care professionals.

THE ACTIONS:

- Media Messaging Campaign: Using a multimedia campaign, we have created a number of informational resources and distributed them throughout the Kootenays
- The Survey: A questionnaire created to assess the communities' wants and needs when considering the implementation of a rural safe consumption site.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE STATISTICS:



Illicit drug overdose deaths (fentanyl detected)
2012-2016

Image adapted from: BC Coroners Service

OUTCOMES & RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Spreading a message of safer substance use and naloxone education to stakeholders in the west Kootenays.
- Position paper to interior health providing supporting evidence and review of the literature to encouraging consideration of a rural and possibly mobile safe injection site.