

Opioid Town Hall

Charleston, West Virginia

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Prevention

**Harm
Reduction**

Treatment

Enforcement

What is harm reduction?

- Focus is on reducing harms of substance use
- Can include abstinence

Does it work?

- ↓ overdose and death
- ↓ disease transmission
- ↓ harmful use
- ↑ connects people to services

Does it work?

- ↓ discarded needles
- ↓ crime and recidivism
- does not increase drug use
- cost effective

Does it work?



World Health
Organization

The WHO recognizes harm reduction as best practice.

- Build relationships
- Sterile supplies
- Education
- Testing/vaccination
- Primary care



- Overdose prevention
- Counselling
- Referrals
- Supervised injection





Health services where people inject drugs under supervision.

- Operating 30+ years
- No deaths
- Both a public health and public safety response

- ↓ overdose and death
- ↓ disease transmission
- ↓ public drug use
- ↓ discarded needles

- ↑ use of detox and treatment
- does not increase crime
- cost effective

Supervised injection services



Toronto



Vancouver

Thank you!