Walking for Harm Reduction through Street Engagement 2.0

Our objectives stem from the priorities of Indigenous people who provide and access harm reduction services

Department of Health and Society
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

elevate NWO
HIV | AIDS | HCV | HARM REDUCTION

Ontario Aboriginal HIV | AIDS Strategy

Lakehead UNIVERSITY

McMaster University

CIHR IRSC

Our project

- Guided by a team of largely Indigenous people.
- Sex and Gender-based to inform harm reduction needs for different demographics.
- Recognizes the importance of Indigenous knowledges, values and cultures.

We are

- The Benoit Lab at the University of Toronto - Conducts community-engaged and priority-driven transdisciplinary Indigenous health research.
- Elevate NWO (Thunder Bay) - A community-based, not-for-profit organization that provides services, opportunities and programs to improve the lives and empower people living with, affected by or at risk of HIV/AIDS and Hep C.
- Oahas (Thunder Bay, Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury) - Provides culturally respectful programs to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic among Indigenous Peoples in Ontario.

Purpose

Understand Indigenous-specific harm reduction needs in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Sault Ste Marie.

We will collect data

- By distributing questionnaires and conducting interviews in the 3 cities, and;
- This study is confidential and anonymous.

This data will help us identify and implement

- Diverse harm reduction practices,
- Peer and outreach programs, and;
- Culturally based approaches to harm reduction.

Short-term outcomes

1. Identify STBBI* and substance use rates and harm reduction practices
2. Identify factors that delay IDU**
3. Increased awarness and use of harm reduction practices

Long-term outcomes

1. Strengthen relationships between Indigenous communities and Oahas and Elevate NWO
2. Establish northern Indigenous database on harm reduction, enable us to assess harm reduction services
3. Develop knowledge translation resources and tools

*STBBI - Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infections
**IDU - Injection Drug Use

Find more details about WHiSE 2.0
https://www.anitacbenoit.com/research