

HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C Point-of-Care Testing at Pop-Up Clinics for People Who Use Drugs in Regina, Saskatchewan

Presented by Andrew D. Eaton and Heather House



APSS and The Eaton Lab Partnership



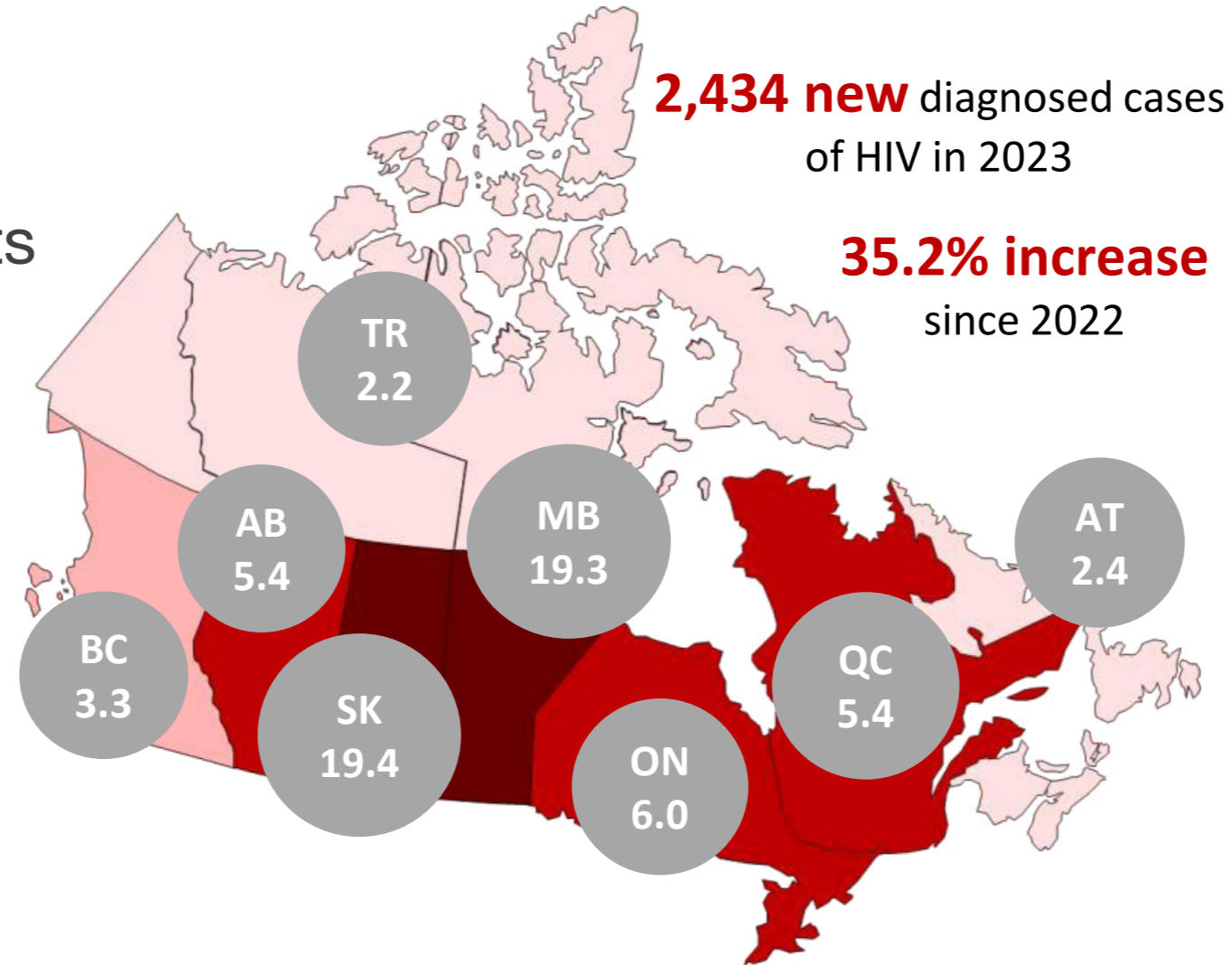
Since 1985, APSS has been helping people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. We are a community-based non-profit registered charitable organization. Our goal is to provide people living with HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C (HCV), and other Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections (STBBIs) and those at risk of contracting the viruses with relevant and current information and support services. APSS serves the larger community of Regina and Southern Saskatchewan in all HIV-related matters. APSS is a registered non-profit charity and is funded in part by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatchewan Health and the Government of Canada, as well as corporate sponsorships and donations. <https://www.aidsprogramssouthsask.com>



The Eaton Lab is a community-based, interdisciplinary health & social science lab to address aging, sexuality, mental health, and substance use. The lab is led by Dr. Andrew D. Eaton, an Associate Professor at the Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois Chicago with status-only appointments at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto and the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina. This lab is dedicated to community-based scholarship with real life impact, with a substantial focus on training the next generation of social work practitioners and researchers. <https://eaton-lab.com>

Background

HIV in Canada: 2023 Surveillance Highlights



Data for 2023 excludes cases that have been previously diagnosed outside of Canada (e.g., prior to immigration) or in another province/territory, when known. Data presented do not account for age and sex rate variations between provinces and territories. If discrepancies exist between data summarized and provincial or territorial reports, the most recent provincial or territorial report should be utilized.

TR: Territories, AT: Atlantic provinces



Background

- Saskatchewan is facing a public health crisis driven by high rates of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C (HCV) infections, particularly among people who use drugs (PWUD).
- Innovate, community-informed approaches are urgently needed to improve prevention, testing, and linkage to care.

As a medium-sized city, Regina, Saskatchewan's context reflects many other mid-sized cities across Canada where similar approaches could be applied.

ReportNeedles.ca

What the public sees when accessing the site:

Start typing to search for an address •

Drag the map to position the marker as close as possible to the needles

Map
Satellite

Google Keyboard shortcuts | Imagery ©2025 Airbus | Terms | Report a map error

Picture (optional)

Description (required) •

Contact email (optional)

Cell phone (optional)

[Submit](#)

What the organization sees on the back end:

- Needle Reports
- History
- Map
- Settings

Successful 1070

Unsuccessful 58

TOTAL NEEDLES COLLECTED

40,762

[Export](#)

City: all Province: all Status: all Submitted at: all periods

	SUBMITTED AT	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tue, Oct 14, 2025 10:05 AM	successful	Needle in front	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon, Oct 13, 2025 6:58 PM	successful	Needle is in a plastic container with a red lid in the back alley to the south of the double door garage.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sat, Oct 11, 2025 2:05 PM	successful	Needle is on back steps of the building Thanks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fri, Oct 10, 2025 10:33 AM	successful	Needle is on the side walk	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fri, Oct 10, 2025 9:43 AM	successful	Uncapped needle on the side walk	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fri, Oct 10, 2025 8:51 AM	successful	In alleyway near corner of the brown fence of It's uncapped	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fri, Oct 10, 2025 8:30 AM	successful	needle is at the south end of the parking rail, in	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fri, Oct 10, 2025 7:41 AM	successful	Broken needle near the parking rail	



ReportNeedles.ca

APSS launched www.ReportNeedles.ca in April 2021 and as of August 2024, **over 35,000 needles have been collected from over 600 reports on the app.**

April 2021-April 2022:

- **14,776** needles collected
- **136** successful reports
- **18** unsuccessful reports

April 2022-April 2023:

- **19,060** needles collected
- **217** successful reports
- **9** unsuccessful reports



April 2023-April 2024:

- **2,613** needles collected
- **265** successful reports
- **7** unsuccessful reports

April 2024-April 2025:

- **1,639** needles collected
- **253** successful reports
- **16** unsuccessful reports








January 2024: Saskatchewan government starts limiting safe drug supplies.

Three Infections, One Fight:

A Community Response

- Using hotspot maps generated from ReportNeedles.ca, the project deploys targeted **pop-up interventions** offering:
 - **Peer-led education on PrEP and PEP**
 - **Point-of-care (POC) testing**
 - **Connection to follow up care**

Pop-Up Site Services

-  **Prevention Information**
Free information on PrEP and PEP to prevent HIV
-  **Testing Services**
Quick testing for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis C, and on-the-spot phlebotomy
-  **Free Medicine Bundle**
Such as condoms and safe supplies
-  **Peer Support**
Team includes peers with relevant lived experience
-  **Connecting to Care**
Assistance connecting to care if any test is positive
-  **Follow-Up Interview**
Conducted by trained peer researchers with lived experience

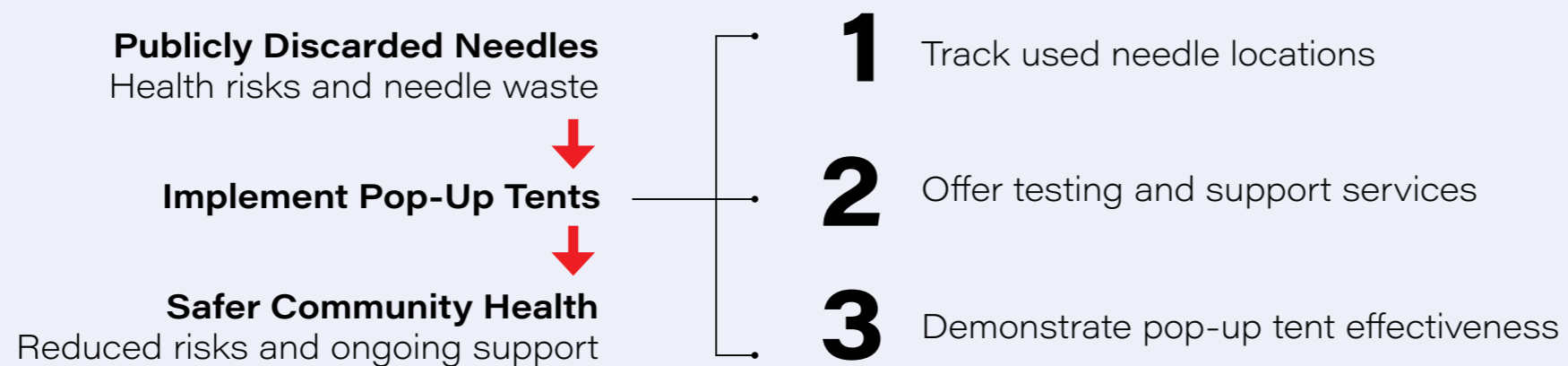
Objectives

The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the **feasibility** and **acceptability** of a geospatially informed rapid assessment and response system for PWUD in Regina.

The secondary objectives are:

- a) To assess the **preliminary effectiveness of pop-up HIV, syphilis, and HCV prevention interventions**, including POC testing and tailored PrEP/PEP education, using the RE-AIM framework.
- b) To **develop and refine a rapid assessment and response model** that addresses the syndemic needs of highly vulnerable populations and can be adapted for other medium-sized cities.

Improving Health with Pop-Up Tents





To Date

Pop-up Procedure

From June-Nov 2025, we have had 9 pop-ups; three indoor and six outdoor.

We have two 10x10 tents to coordinate pop-up procedures.

Tent 1 (open tent): PrEP & PEP educational sessions and study questionnaires are completed.

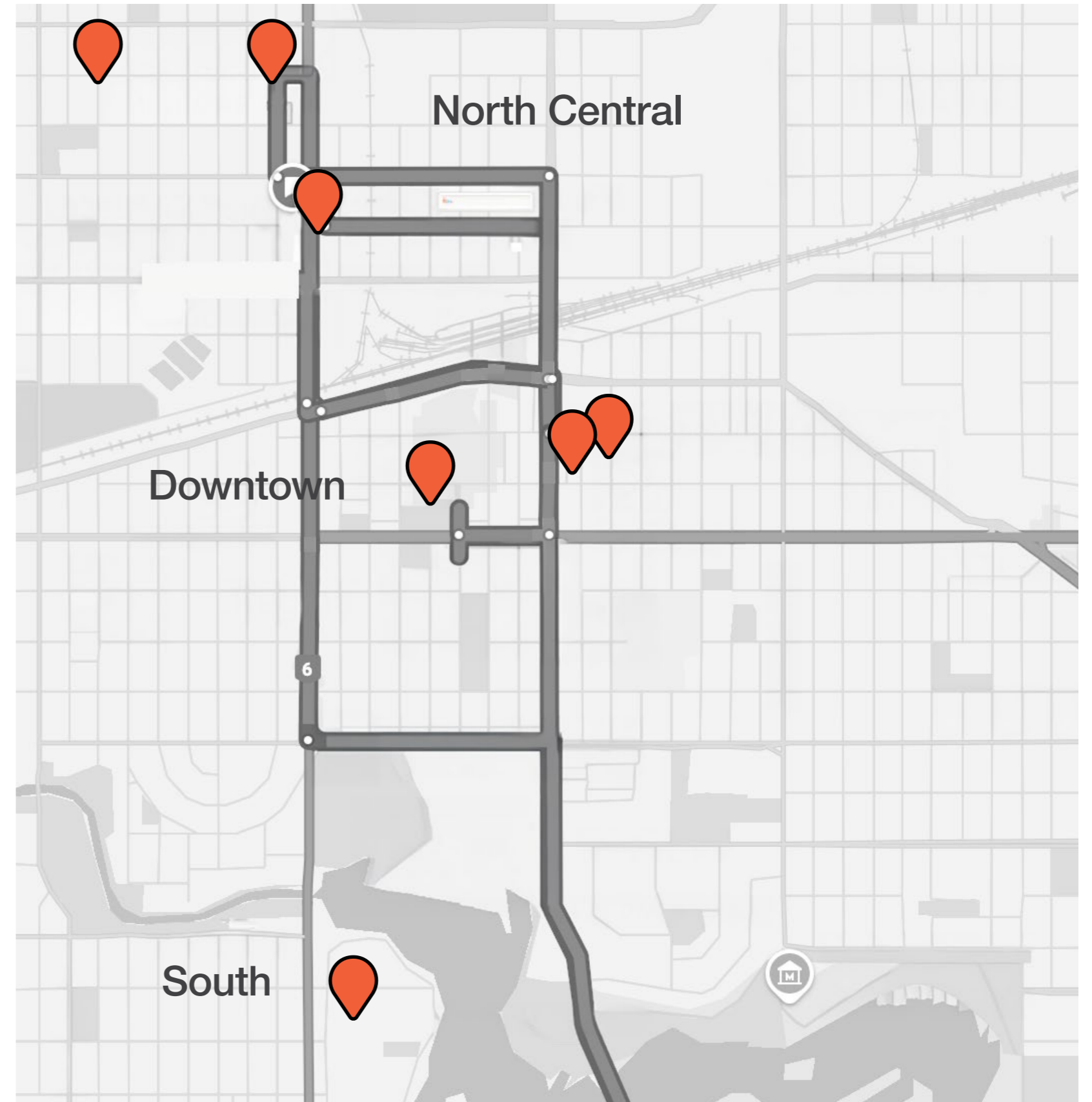
Tent 2 (confidential tent): Consent, honorariums, and POC testing are completed.

If participant tests positive on POC, we provide on site confirmatory blood work in Tent 2. If participant tests positive for syphilis, we offer 1st dose of Bicillin treatment in Tent 2.

Pop-Up Locations

Based on the geographical locations of where we have picked up needles (hot spots), we are able to partner with community organizations, public parks, gas stations, etc. to “pop-up”.

73.6% of participants reported that the pop-up location they attended was within a 15-minute walk from where they were living at the time of participation.



To Date

Demographics

In total we have **147 *unique*** participants.

- 16 participants have been invited back for interviews.
12 participants completed interviews to date.
- 1 participant withdrew.
- 13 repeat participants (excluded subsequent visits from analyses).

To Date

Demographics

<i>Demographics: Gender Identity</i>		
Man	Woman	Two-Spirit
84	61	2

<i>Demographics: Race</i>		
Indigenous	White	Multi-Racial
118	23	6

To Date

Demographics

<i>Demographics: Indigenous</i>	
Indigenous to Canada	Not Indigenous to Canada
122	22

<i>Demographics: Indigenous to Canada</i>	
First Nations	109
Métis	12

To Date

Demographics

***Demographics:* Housing Status**

Renting	52
Unstably Housed	49
Shelter	18
Living with parent(s) and/or other family	21
Other	7

To Date

Testing Results

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):

- 21 positive POC test results (2 repeat)
 - 17 were connected to follow-up care
 - 2 denied being connected to follow-up care

To Date

Testing Results

Hepatitis C (HCV):

- 56 positive HCV results—of these, 35 had no viral load
 - 3 refused confirmatory blood work
 - 8 participants sent to follow-up treatment
 - 7 participants refused follow-up treatment
 - 2 participants already on TX
 - 1 completed TX – opst TX blood work done

To Date

Testing Results

Syphilis:

- 29 positive POC test results—of these, 10 had no viral load
 - 6 participants completed full treatment
 - 2 participants completed partial treatment (lost to follow-up)
 - 3 participants refused treatment
 - 7 participants already connected to follow-up care,
1 participant connected to out-of-province follow-up care

Resources Distributed

Resource	Quantity
Maps	50
Syphilis Pamphlet	32
HIV Basics	30
7 Ways to Prevent HIV	16
HIV Testing	15
HCV Basics	24
PrEP	46
PEP	55
Freddie	15
Pipe Pamphlet	16
Condoms	457
Lube Packages	190
Dental Dams	50
Safer Smoking Supplies	71



Resources



**Mapping Needles,
Reducing Harm**
Community Report

SAFER SEX. SAFER DRUGS.

SEXUAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 1 APSS - Needle Exchange
1325 Albert St. / (306) 924-8420
- 2 Nāwo-Yōtina Friendship Centre (Safe Injection Site)
1635 11th Ave. / (306) 525-5042
- 3 Carmichael Outreach
1510 12th Ave. / (306) 757-2235
- 4 All Nations Hope Network
3115 5th Ave. / (306) 924-8424
- 5 Swap
1355 Albert St. / (306) 525-1722
- 6 Harm Reduction Methadone Clinic
1048 Albert St. / (306) 766-6350

HEALTHCARE

- 7 Four Directions Community Health Centre
1504 Albert St. / (306) 766-0200
- 8 Sexual Health Clinic
2110 Hamilton St. / (306) 766-7788
- 9 Regina Urgent Care Centre
1320 Albert St.
- 10 YQR Pharmacy
1420 Albert St. / (306) 347-5777
- 11 The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy
3934 Dewdney Ave. / (306) 522-5300
- 12 Queen City Wellness Pharmacy
1120 11th Ave. / (306) 522-2266
- 13 Al Ritchie Heritage Community Health Centre
1550 14th Ave. / (306) 766-6320

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

- 14 Social Income Assistance (SIS/SAID)
2045 Broad St. / (306) 787-3700
- 15 YWCA
2817 12th Ave. / (306) 525-2141

COMMUNITY FRIDGES

- 16 3037 Dewdney Ave.
- 17 2104 Garnet St. / Cathedral Fridge is located on east parking lot of Holy Rosary Cathedral
- 18 1510 12th Ave.

YOUTH RESOURCES

- 19 Rainbow Youth Centre / 977 McTavish St. / (306) 757-9743
- 20 North Central Family Centre / 2931 5th Ave. / (306) 347-2552
- 21 Street Culture Project / 2151 Scarth St. / (306) 565-6206

Part of the 3 Infections, 1 Fight Study funded by CIHR and SHRR. Contact Principal Investigator Dr. Andrew Eaton: andrew.eaton@uregina.ca

Use this map to find safe spaces and helpful resource locations in Regina, SK.

SAFER SMOKING TIPS
& How to Safely
Prep Your Meth Pipe

Preprints
A preprint is an early version of a manuscript that has not yet undergone peer review at a journal. The appearance of a preprint on this platform should not be seen as confirmation of its accuracy, reliability, or appropriateness for use as established knowledge or for informing clinical practice.

Publications

Heterosexually Identified MSM
Social science research on sexual identity-behaviour discordance amongst cisgender adult men who self-identify as heterosexual and have sex with other men.

Crisis Mental Health
Publications focused on civilian-led and co-response models to build capacity and readiness to improve the crisis mental health responses in Canada.

ReportNeedles.ca
Research focused on harm reduction in Regina, Saskatchewan.

1 Mapping Needles,
Reducing Harm
Community Report

2 Resource Map for Sexual
Health & Substance Use
Services in Regina

3 Pamphlet on
Safer Meth Pipe
Preparation

4 Publications & Preprints

All available at www.eaton-lab.com

Three infections, one fight: an implementation study to map needle prevalence and evaluate HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C prevention interventions in Regina, Saskatchewan — a protocol

BMJ Open Publication

Andrew D Eaton

Megan W Rowe

Shiny Mary Varghese

Heather House

Nelson Pang

Sandra Kwan

Pam Ford

Vidya Dhar Reddy

Tashia Acoose

Jason Littleford

Kelly Lang

Erin S Foreman

JoLee Sasakamoose

Mamata Pandey

Priscilla Medeiros

Mona R Loutfy

Daniel Grace

David J Brennan

Kedi Zhao

Paul A Shuper

Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco

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