

Community Maps, Collective Care and Empowering Through Connection

Presented by

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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>



Our Project Response

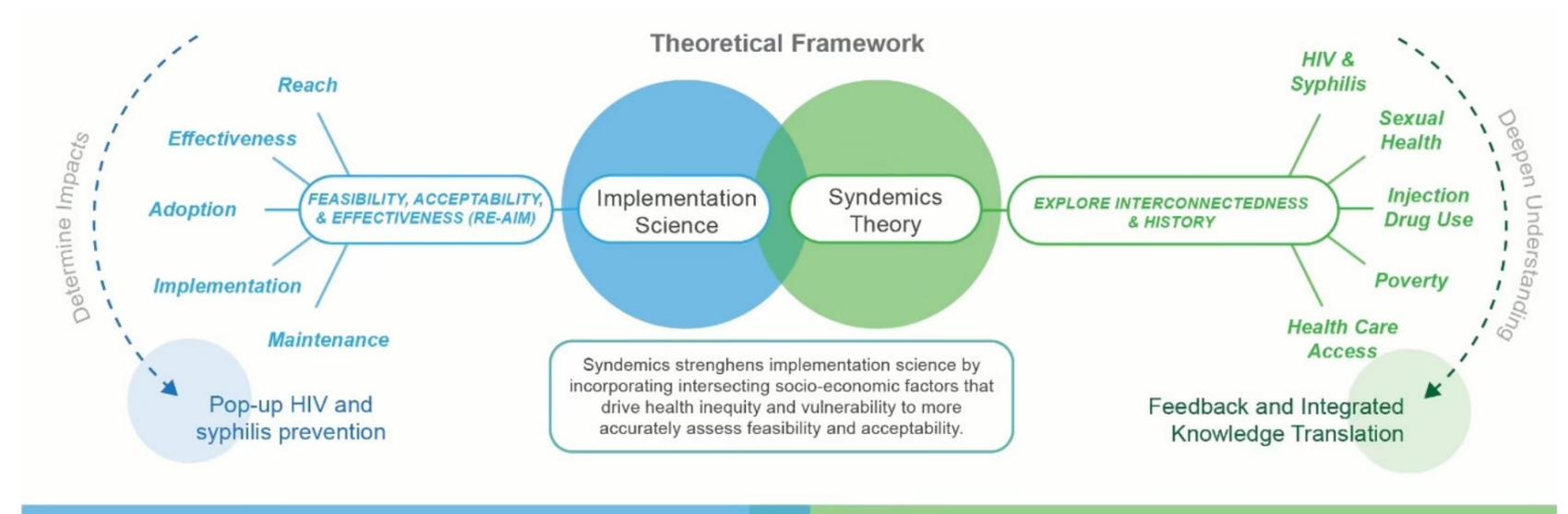
Real-time **GIS mapping** of community needle prevalence, used to inform community-based interventions.

Mapping Needles, Reducing Harm

- Naloxone training
- Support group

3 Infections, 1 Fight

- HIV, Syphilis, and Hep C POC Testing, Phlebotomy, & Linkage to Care
- Education on safer sex & safer drug use





www.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:

- **2,616** needles collected
- **265** successful reports
- **7** unsuccessful reports

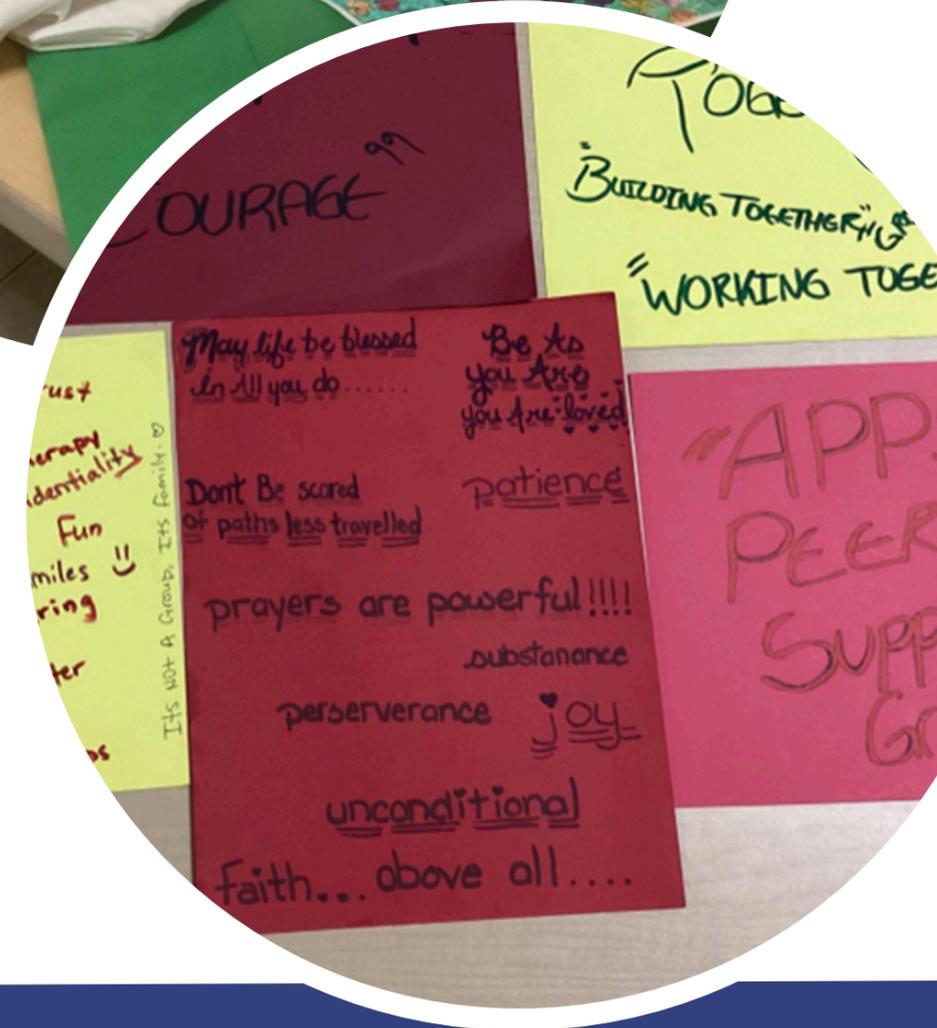
April 2024-April 2025:

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



Support Groups

- Low barrier, Harm reduction support groups offered in community
- Structured format = Low attendance
- Creative peer-led interactive groups = Higher attendance
- Trust and safety grew through shared activity and relationship



Naloxone Trainings

Naloxone Trainings:

- 7 pop-up trainings held between August 2023 and August 2024.
- Pop-up overdose trainings in high-need areas successfully improved participants' knowledge of opioid overdose response and naloxone use.



Overdose Rates

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SASK	412	370	455	346	331
Regina	198	155	197	129	53





Pop-up Testing

- *Outdoor*: Two 10 x 10 tents; one enclosed for confidentiality
- Bicillian shot offered if POC+
- PReP and PEP knowledge
- *Indoor*: Having separate area for questions creates safe space for conversation
- Participants like the informality of pop-ups



Care Starts with Trust

1 Participants / women feel safe and comfortable speaking with familiar staff

2 15 repeat participants — increased engagement and follow-up

3 Relationships built over time

4 Creating a safe space — show we care



Why Peer-lead Matters & Why it Works

- Reducing stigma through lived experience
- Build trust faster than traditional setting; meeting people where they're at
- Familiar faces



Suitability and Acceptability Scale *(Items adapted from Turner, 2016)*

Items ranked 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

Question	Mean
The pop-up was well advertised (you felt it was easy to “know” about the pop-up happening)	3.90 ←
The place where the pop-up was held was appropriate	4.94
There was enough privacy for open conversation with staff at the pop-up	4.72
There was enough privacy for taking the tests	4.96
The staff were welcoming	4.99 ←
The staff were professional	4.95
The information given by the staff was helpful	4.93
Other information provided (such as leaflets) was helpful	4.33
The range of services provided was good	4.94
I would use a pop-up service again	4.94
I would advise a friend to attend a pop-up clinic	4.95



Demographics *to date*

Demographics: *Gender Identity*

Man	Woman	Two-Spirit	Genderfluid
85	75	2	1

Demographics: *Race*

Indigenous	White	Multi-Racial
131	24	7



Testing Results

	POC+	Need Treatment	Connected to Care	Refused TX
HIV	23 (2 repeat)		20	1
HCV	63	28	19	9
Syphilis	32	19	14	5





“

***It was easy, come in meet you
everyone is friendly and nice,
I felt like I could trust you.***

- Participant