



Our Goal:
Zero new HIV
Infections

Optimal health for
those with HIV

AIDS Program South Saskatchewan Update for our Supporters

February 29, 2016

What's up with HIV in Regina in relation to the rest of Saskatchewan?

SK HIV Snapshot (2014)

- 112 new cases, a 13% decrease
- 71% report Aboriginal ancestry
- 29% indicate heterosexual risk
- 13% indicate MSM risk (15)
 - all but two between 20-39 years
 - none reported ID use

(HIV & AIDS in Saskatchewan – 2014, published by Sask. Health)

RQHR HIV Snapshot (2014)

- 27 new cases, down from 30 (2013)
- 63% report Aboriginal ancestry
- 33% indicate heterosexual risk (9)
- 11% indicate MSM risk (3)

(RQHR stats provided by RQHR)

What are we doing to reduce the influence of HIV in Regina?

Client Care for HIV + Individuals

Caring for HIV-positive individuals from all walks of life is at the heart of what APSS is about as an agency.

From July to December 2015, our Client Care Coordinator assisted HIV-positive individuals on 273 occasions involving 33 Infectious Diseases Clinic appointments and 183 hospital or home visits, rides to appointments, personal consultations or advocacy engagements on behalf of clients.

The Wellness Fund, which is supported entirely by donations, allows us to provide services that aren't covered by our healthcare system to HIV+ people. Donated funds help with appointment transportation costs, prescription filling costs, access to professional counselling services, advocacy and one on one encouragement and support.

Education and Outreach

We continue to provide education and outreach events at no cost to schools, post-secondary students, community groups and other organizations. Our goal is to provide people with the information they need about HIV and Hep C so they can make informed choices and reduce the risk of infection. *We continue to be surprised by what people don't know about HIV!*

From July to December 2015, 46 HIV/HCV education and outreach events were delivered to roughly 1318 people including 330 high school students and 50 inmates at Regina Correctional Centre.

APSS also participated in the World AIDS Day Fundraiser at the Q that included on-site testing, entertainment, and some excellent HIV education thanks to the team at the Q!

The Queen City Exchange (2911 5th Avenue)

The Drop-In and Needle Exchange are open six days a week and are operated by two full-time and several casual staff. The goal of the Queen City Exchange (QCE) is harm reduction through education, referrals and the distribution of clean rigs for people who are injecting drugs.

Our Goals:

Our vision at AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan is to stop new infections of HIV and Hep C in Regina and southern Saskatchewan, and to help people already infected with HIV and or Hep C experience optimal quality of life.

We are working to provide relevant and accessible services so that this dream becomes reality.

Our Website:

www.aidsprogramssouthsask.com

Sign up for our NEWSLETTER on our home page.

Check out the "About Us" tab on our website to see copies of our annual reports.

If you would like to see our financial reports, please call the office and we can make them available to you.

Contact Us:

-Office: 306-924-8420

-Confidential HIV counseling:
1 - 877 - 210 - 7623

-Email: aidsprograms@sasktel.net

During the 2015 calendar year there were 23,401 visits to the needle exchange, and we estimate there were approximately 30,000 visits (inclusive) to the Drop-In. Considering that injection drug use continues to be the number one risk factor for HIV infection in Saskatchewan, the work of the QCE is vital.

Support Groups

We currently have several support and community groups for people affected by HIV:

- Monday night addictions support group
- Tuesday group for people who use injection drugs
- We are trying out bi-weekly Wednesday gatherings that will provide information and discussion on wellness topics
- Thursday group for people particularly at risk of HIV

What are we doing to expand services?

-Launch an online learning system that will provide Saskatchewan specific modules for grade 4-9 students. Roll-out date is September, 2016.

-Renew relationships with LGBTQ communities and work together to establish a new strategy to reduce HIV infection

-Many HIV+ clients are in need of services that aren't provided by our healthcare system. In 2014-15 the Wellness Fund contributed roughly \$25,000 to HIV+ client needs. We need to secure additional funding and donations if we are to continue to offer that level of support

-Work with Regina Correctional Centre and possible funders to provide HIV education to every cellblock in the coming year

-Care for more marginalized HIV+ individuals by working more effectively with HIV+ clients, the Infectious Diseases Clinic and Public Health

Thank-You for your support of this agency, our staff and the people we serve. Your investment is helping to reduce the effects of HIV in Regina and southern Saskatchewan.

We want to hear from you!

Do you have ideas for some HIV/HCV education, outreach or care? We want to hear your suggestions.