



Ministry of Health

Preventing Drug-related Harm How Are We Doing?

Symposium: "Safety promotion, violence prevention:
When networks unite"

October 27, 2006
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Provincial Health Officer



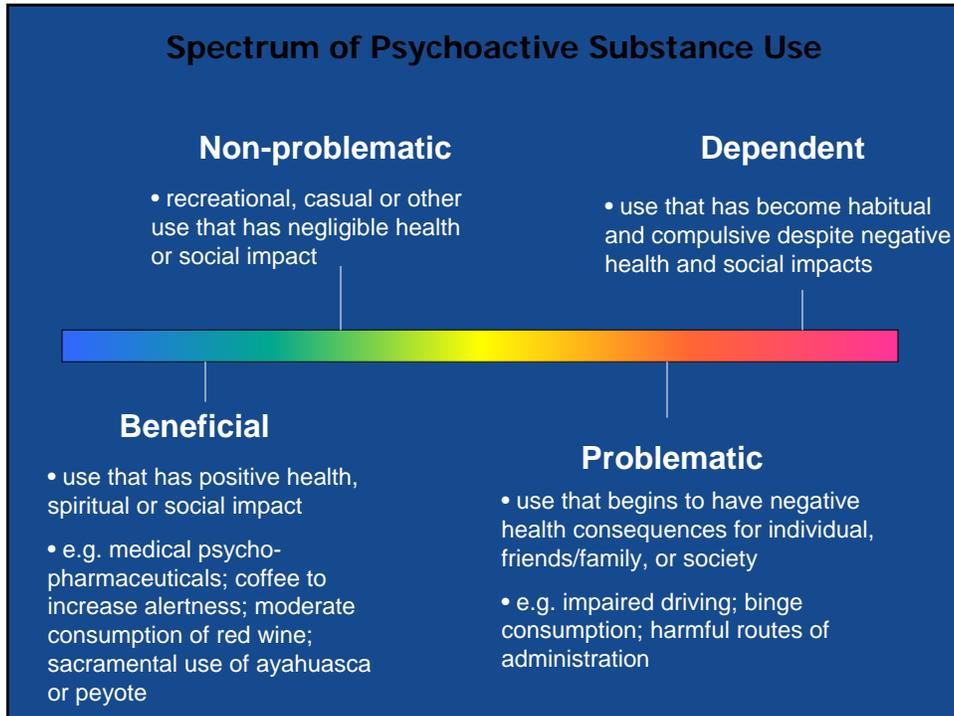
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The Nature of Drug Dependence

Addiction is a chronic relapsing disorder
that involves brain dysfunction and
needs to be treated as such.

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Cette présentation a été effectuée le 27 octobre 2006, au cours du Symposium "Promouvoir la sécurité, prévenir la violence : quand les réseaux font équipe" dans le cadre des Journées annuelles de santé publique (JASP) 2006. L'ensemble des présentations est disponible sur le site Web des JASP, à l'adresse <http://www.inspq.qc.ca/jasp>.



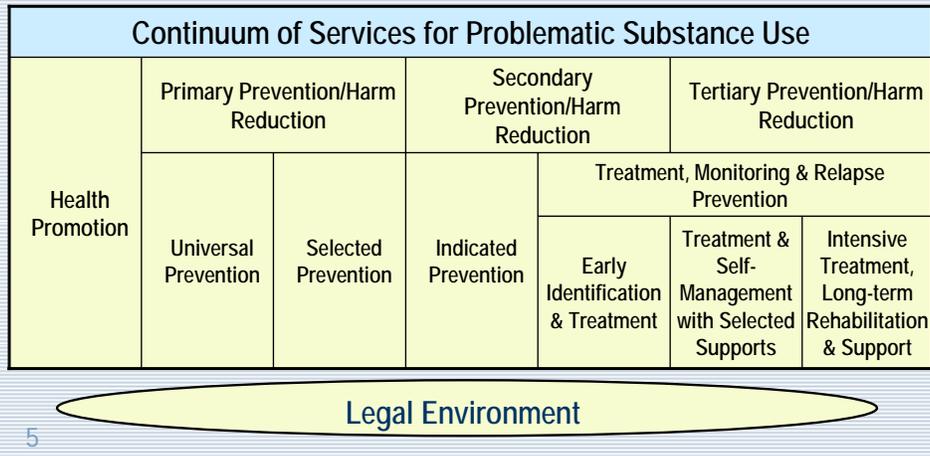

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Measures to help individuals who use drugs

- It is important for a wide range of treatment options to be available.
- However, not all people who may need it can or will access treatment.
- This group remains at great risk to themselves, and to the community.
- It is therefore important to provide effective interventions to minimize the health-related and social consequences of their drug use.

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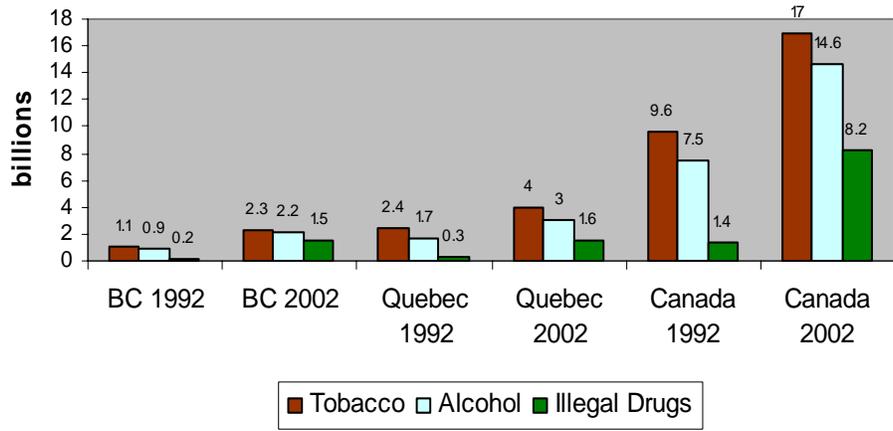
Harm Reduction is integral to a comprehensive continuum of services



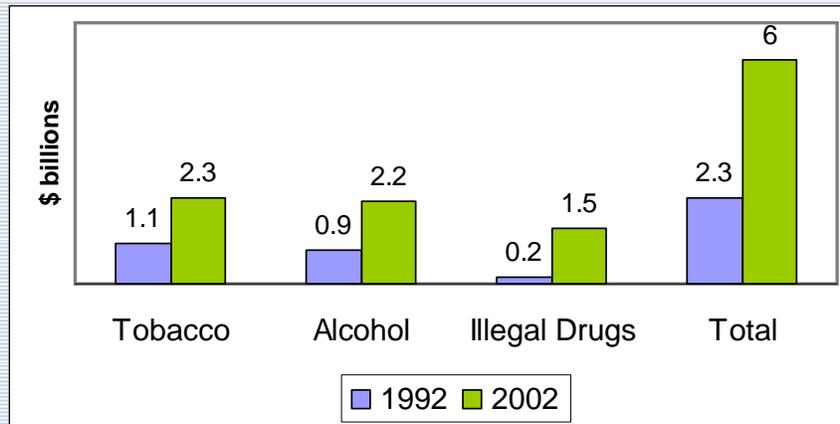
Harm Reduction

- A pragmatic response that focuses on keeping people and communities safe and preventing disease and injury, while recognizing the activity may continue despite the risks.
 - Harm reduction practices are entrenched in our society in many ways, including:
 - Use of condoms to prevent sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy
 - Campaigns to reduce drinking and driving
 - Designated smoking areas to reduce the harms associated with second-hand smoke
 - Seatbelts and airbags in automobiles
 - Helmets for bicycling and skiing/snowboarding
 - Plastic (rather than glass) mugs in drinking establishments
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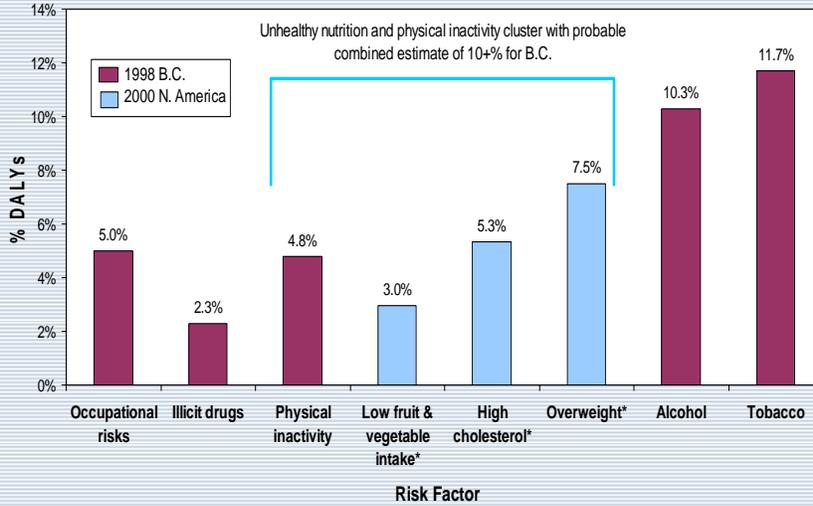
Cost of Substance Use



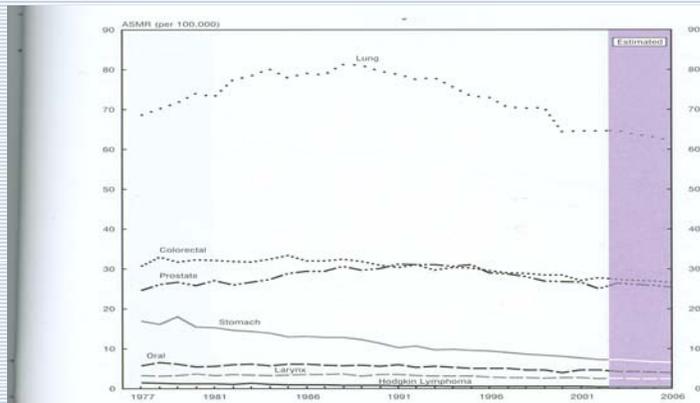
**Economic Costs of Substance Use
- British Columbia 1992 & 2002**



Burden of Disease by Selected Major Risk Factors, B.C., 1998

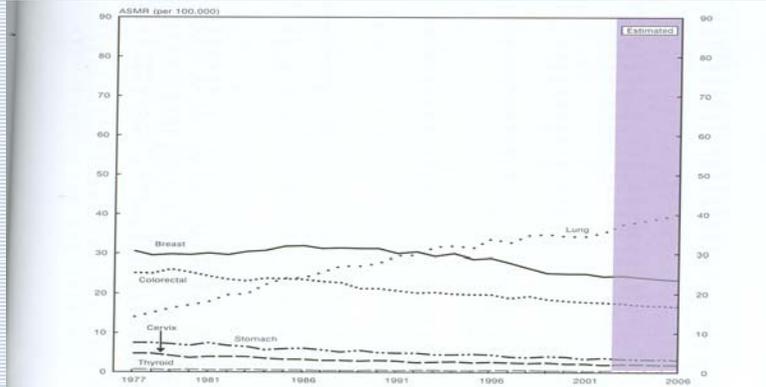


Age Standardized Mortality Rates (ASMR) for Selected Cancer Sites, Males, Canada, 1977 - 2006



Note: Rates are standardized to the age distribution of the 1991 Canadian population. See Table 7.2 for data points.
Source: Surveillance Division, CCDPC, Public Health Agency of Canada

Age Standardized Mortality Rates (ASMR) for Selected Cancer Sites, Females, Canada, 1977 - 2006



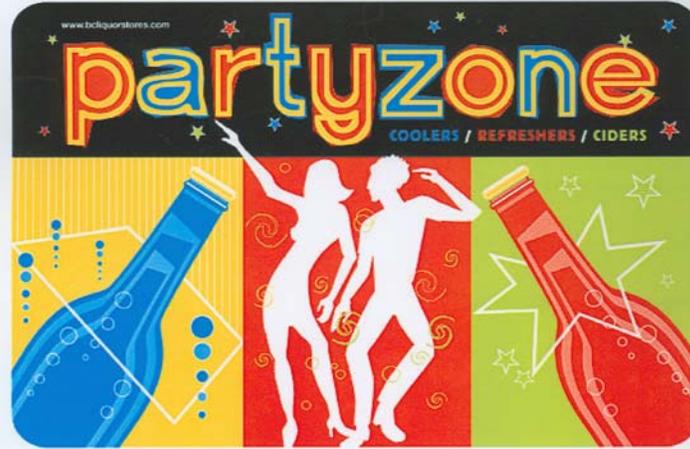
Note: Rates are standardized to the age distribution of the 1991 Canadian population. See Table 6.2 for data points.
Source: Surveillance Division, CCDPFC, Public Health Agency of Canada

Canadian Cancer Society/National Cancer Institute of Canada: *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2006* 39

Harm Reduction & Prevention

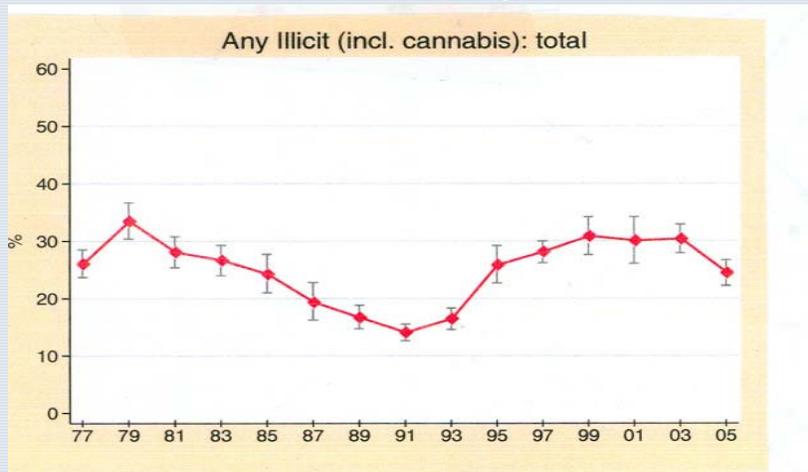


Harm Reduction and Prevention



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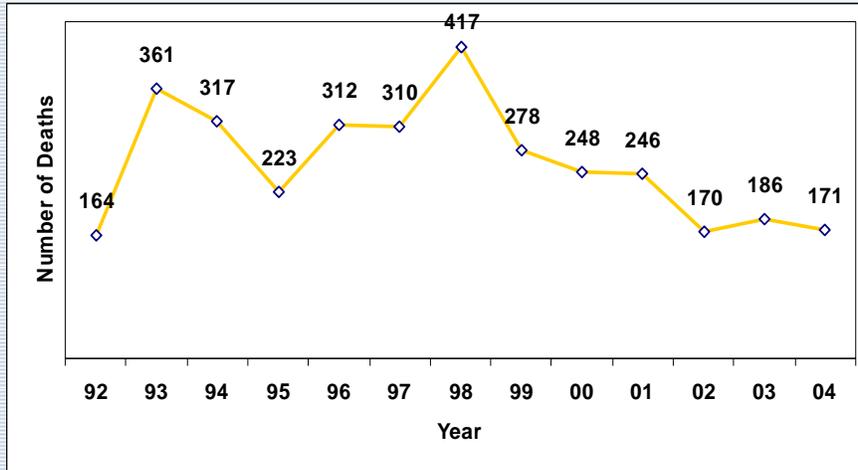
Past Year Use of Any Illicit Drug *Including Cannabis*
(excludes inhalants, club drugs, prescription drugs)
OSDUS 1977 – 2005 (Grades 7, 9, 11 only)



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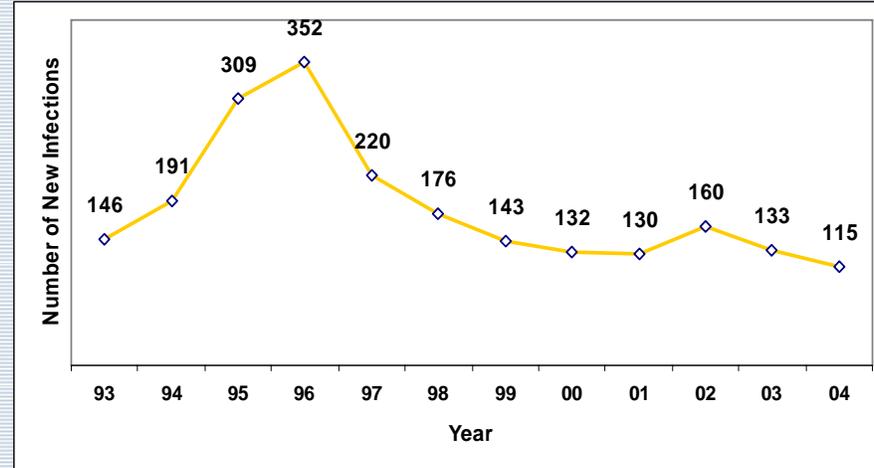
Drug Use Among Ontario Students, 1977 - 2005, Centre for Addictions and Mental Health, Ontario

Overdose Deaths from Illegal Drugs B.C. 1992-2004



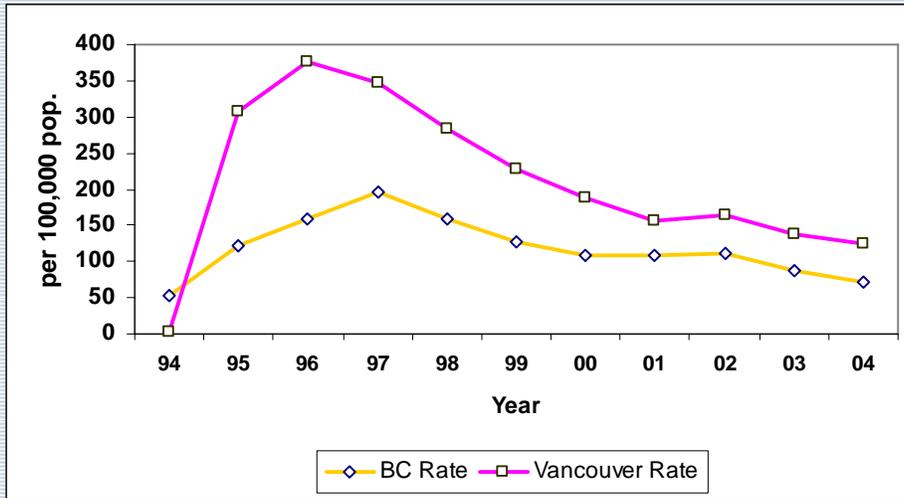
BC Coroners Service

HIV Infections with Injection Drug Use as a Risk Factor - B.C. 1992-2004



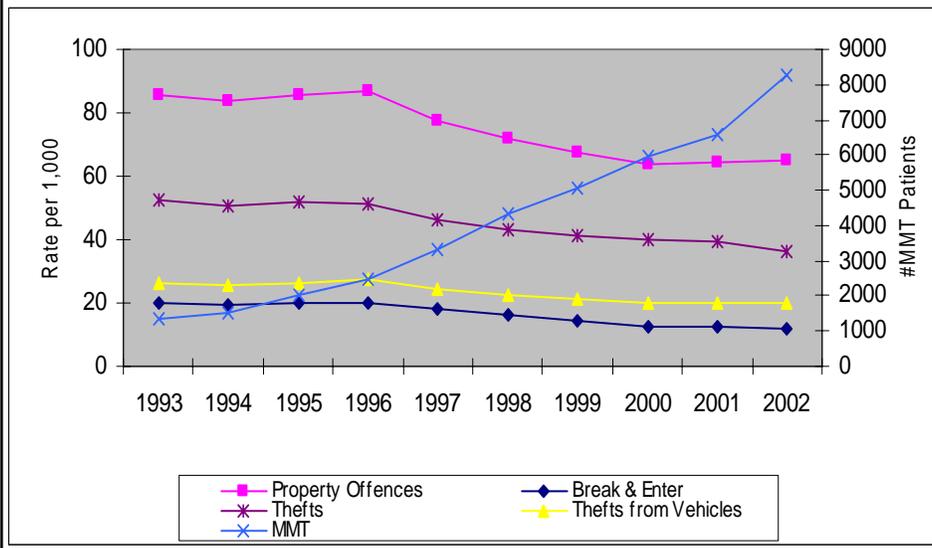
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Rates of Hep C, Vancouver and B.C.



CCENDU 2005

Comparison of BC Crime Rates with Methadone Program Enrollment 1993-2002



"In North America, starting in the 19th century, alcohol has played an important social role as a scape goat. Something that can be condemned so that society, having expelled it, will automatically improve, while any need to address other social ills is comfortably alleviated".