



Harm Reduction and the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Northumberland (HKLN) Drug Strategy

Presentation for:
City of Kawartha Lakes Committee
as a Whole

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Chair
HKLN Drug Strategy



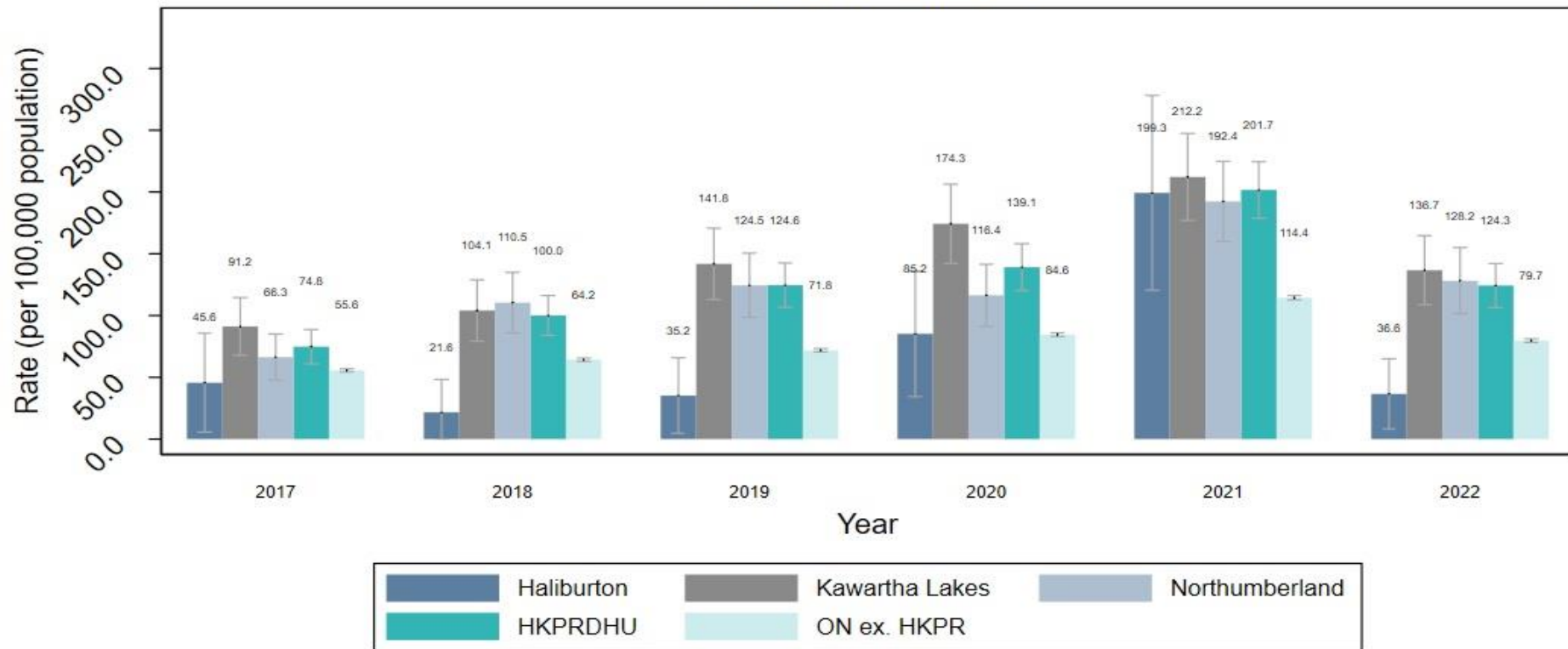
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Outline

- The issue
- 4 Pillar Approach
- What is Harm Reduction
- Overview of Needle Syringe Program (NSP)- Harm Reduction Works
- Explore Safe Disposal Units in the City of Kawartha Lakes
- HKLN Drug Strategy
- Next Steps

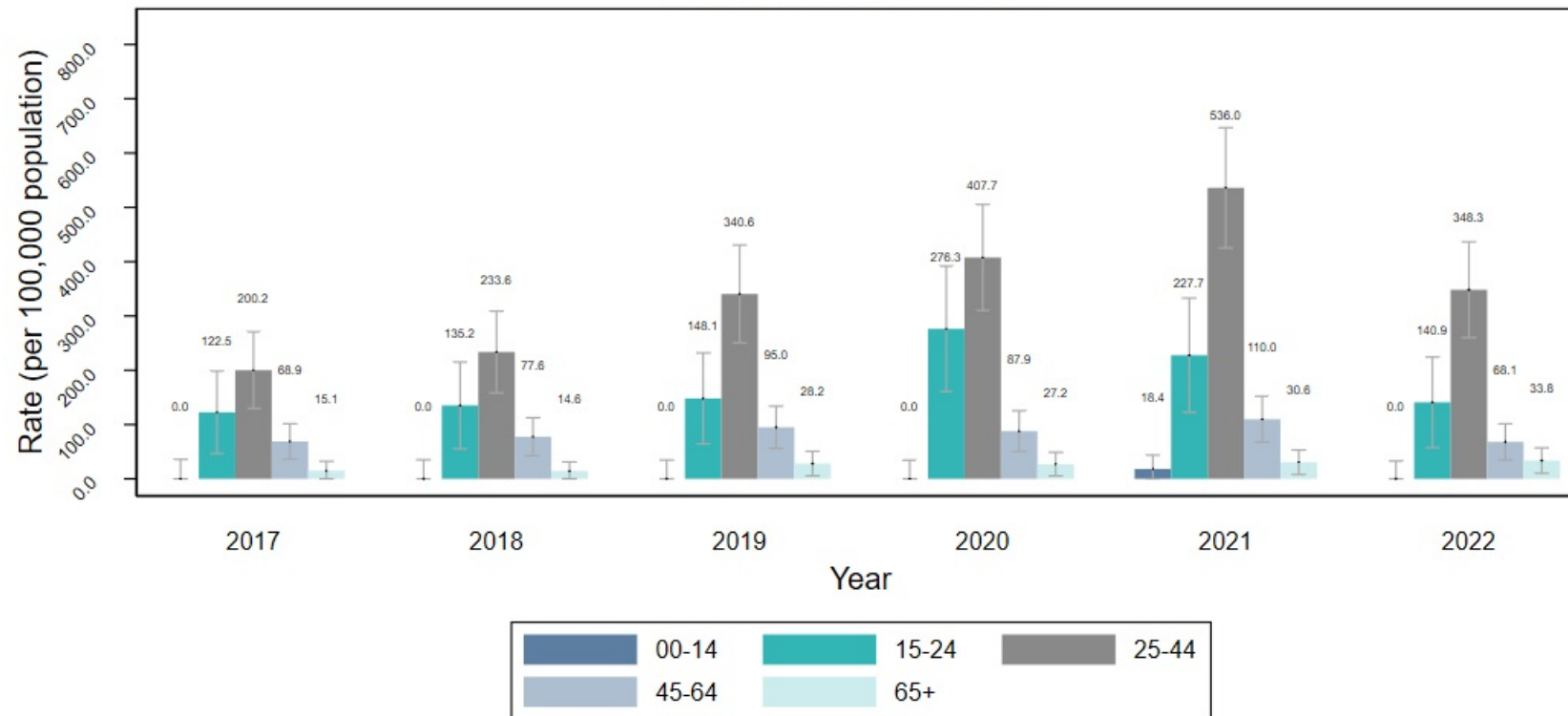
Trends for Emergency Department Visits 2017-2022

Age-standardized rate (all sexes) of opioid-related ED visits between 2017 and 2022



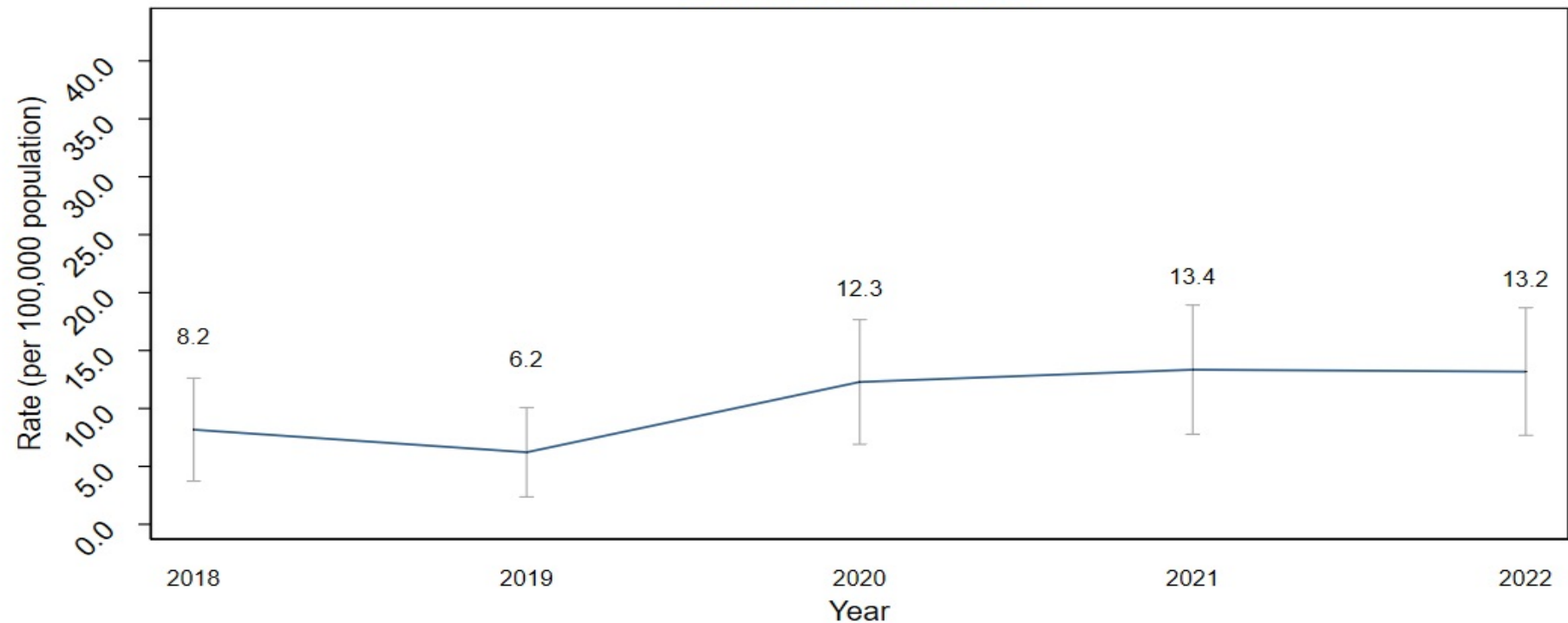
Trends for Emergency Department Visits by Age 2017-2022

Age-Specific rates (Kawartha Lakes) of opioid-related ED visits between 2017 and 2022



Confirmed Opioid Toxicity Deaths, City of Kawartha Lakes, by Year

Kawartha Lakes Crude rate of opioid-related ED visits
between 2017 and 2022



Source: Office of the chief Coroner for Ontario.

Approaching a Complex Issue

*The Four Pillar Approach to Drugs and Substances**



**Adapted from the Canadian Drugs and Substance Strategy*

What do we mean by Harm Reduction?

- Aim to reduce harms associated with drug use
- Do not need to stop use
- Meet people where they are at

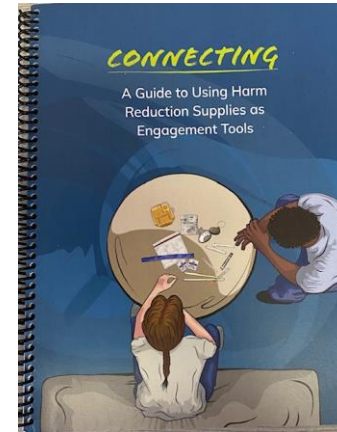
Harm Reduction



Increase access to new injection and inhalation supplies



Provides safe disposal of used equipment



Provides education on supplies and their use



Provides increased access to naloxone

Harm Reduction – Myths vs Reality

- Substance use affects all of us. We all know someone affected by the harms of drug use. Harm reduction programs lead to:
 - Decreased overdose deaths, decreased spread of blood-borne infections (e.g. Hepatitis C, HIV), reduced health care costs.
 - Less drug equipment found by bystanders.
 - Increased participation in treatment options.
 - Does NOT lead to increased substance use or attract people to use drugs.
 - Does NOT lead to increased rates of robbery, theft, drug-related loitering or drug related criminal offences in surrounding neighbourhoods.

Harm Reduction in the City of Kawartha Lakes

- Harm Reduction Supplies: 6 fixed locations; 3 mobile
- Community bin: 1 location



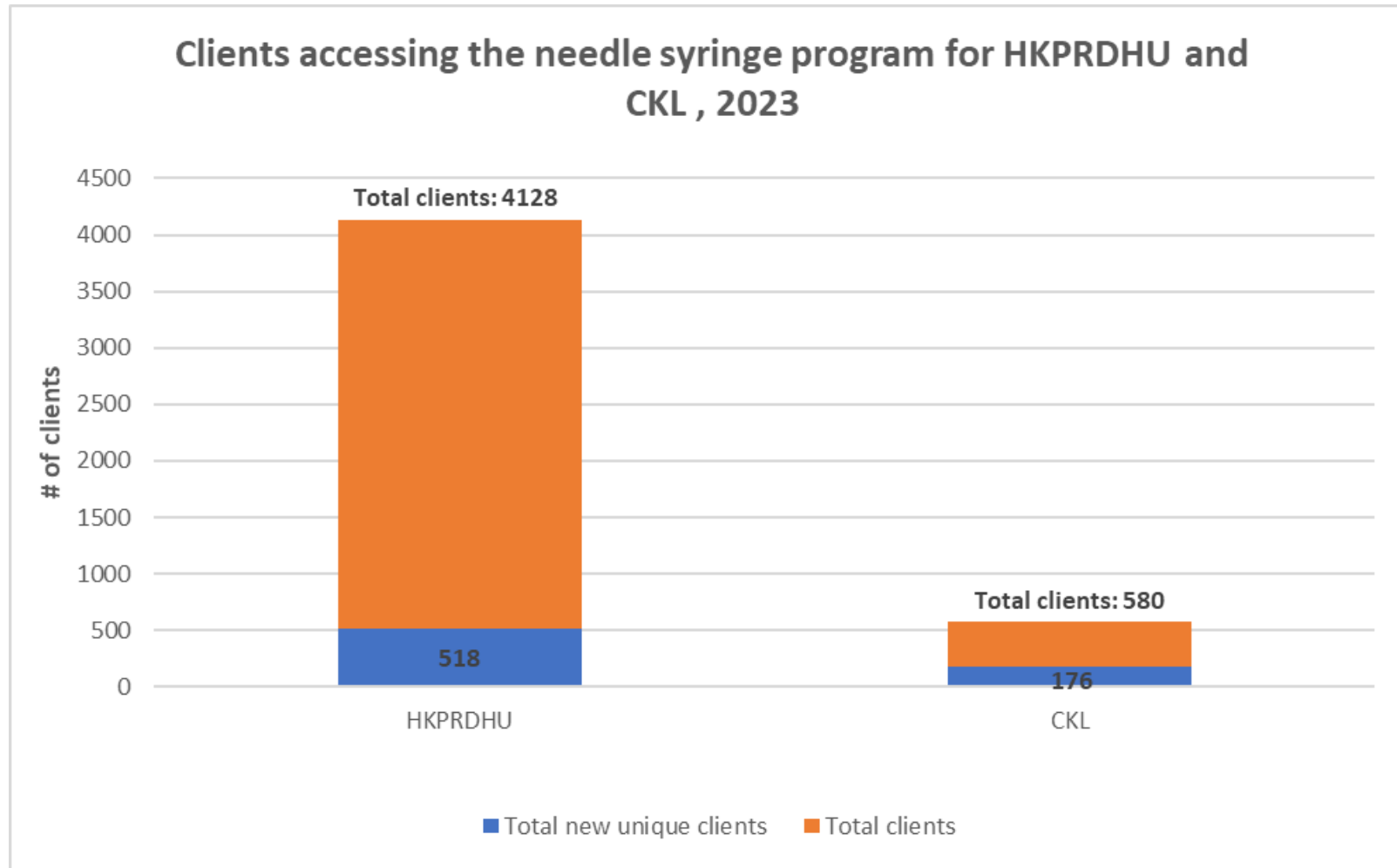
Supplies



Disposal Bin

[Find Supplies - Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program \(ohrdp.ca\)](http://ohrdp.ca)

Needle Syringe Program 2023



Harm Reduction: Needle Syringe Program Data

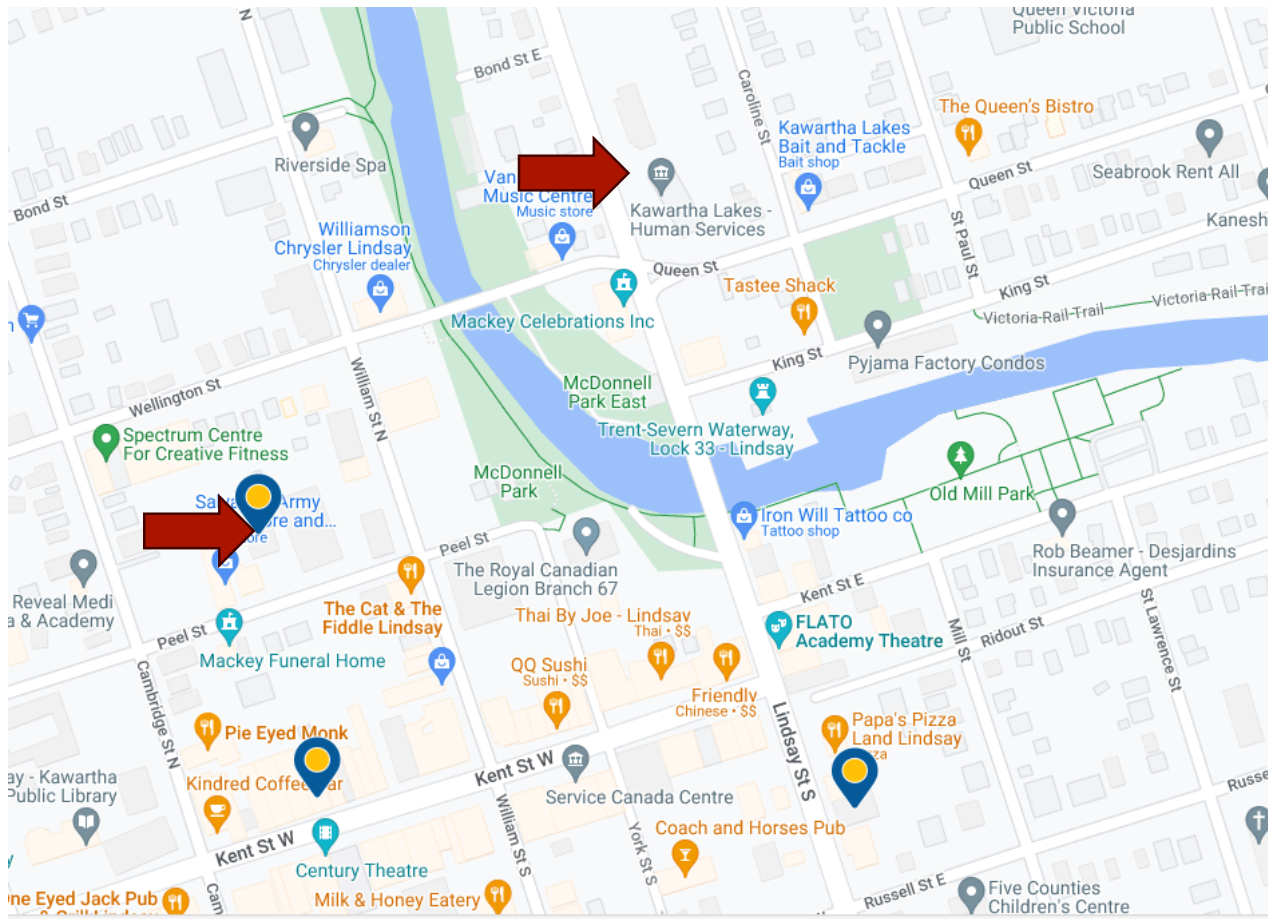
| Category | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Needles Out | 160,000 | 259,102 | 285,237 | 176,479 | 136,772 | 82,670 | 48,338 |
| Needles In | 89,802 | 161,472 | 235,307 | 126,620 | 97,112 | 37,663 | 13,657 |
| Estimated Return Rate | 56% | 62% | 82% | 71.7% | 71% | 45% | 28% |

Harm Reduction Safe Disposal

- Aim to increase safe disposal kiosks in community
- Sharps: including syringes, pipes, stems



Proposed City of Kawartha Lakes Safe Disposal



HKLN Drug Strategy



"The purpose of the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland (HKLN) Drug Strategy is to facilitate a collaborative, evidence-based approach to minimize the risks and harms associated with substance use in the County of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County, including Alderville First Nation."

HKLN Drug Strategy Membership

- Health
- Social Service Agencies
- Enforcement
- Municipalities
- Emergency Medical Services
- Charities
- Indigenous communities
- Harm Reduction groups and agencies
- People with lived/living experiences
- Shelters

Policy Solutions to End the Drug Poisoning Crisis



**Adapted from the Drug Strategy Network of Ontario*

Next Steps

Harm Reduction program

- Biohazard disposal bins in the community
- Naloxone expansion opportunities
- Early Warning Surveillance System and Response Plans

HKLN Drug Strategy

- Needs assessment survey
- Application for funding to hire a Coordinator
- Support community conversations to address the drug poisoning crisis
- Local KL Drug Strategy group



‘Healthy People, Healthy Communities.’

Reach Out to Us

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