

Harm Reduction

What it is ?

A pragmatic and humanistic approach based on a simple observation: drug addiction exists in society, despite the criminalization of drug use and possession. These leaves us a choice: to control drug use and mitigate its harmful effects through safety and sanitary measures or, to try to control it with laws that lead to imprisonment.

6 PRINCIPLES FOR ACTIONS



to control drug use
by people



inform, educate, and
communicate
effectively about drug
use



provide psychosocial
support



provide sterilized and
single-use equipment



offer substitution treat-
ments, especially for
opioid dependence



refer people to other
medical or
social resources

DID YOU KNOW ?

The term “réduction des méfaits” has been adopted by Quebec – and translators from English Canada – as a translation of the term “harm reduction,” which was first coined in Britain when the concept was introduced and has become its name of reference. In Europe (in France, Switzerland, and Belgium, for example) the less literal translation “risk reduction” is more commonly used.

Sources : aidedrogue.ca

