

HARM REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS

(H)arm (R)eduction:

A philosophical and political movement focused on shifting power and resources to people most vulnerable to structural violence



(h)arm (r)eduction:

The approach and fundamental beliefs in how to provide the services



risk reduction:

Tools and services to reduce potential harm



The “risk itself (e.g. related to drug use or sex work) that you’re discussing

The “mindset” that someone brings to the situation, including thoughts, mood, and expectations



The physical and social environments of where the person is, and their perception of how that can promote/reduce risk

RISK

- What issue is being presented?
- What other possible sources of harm might be connected to the main issue?
- What drug is being used? What is the risk of overdose?

SET

- How are they feeling? Confident? Angry? Anxious?
- Are they physically in pain or hurt? Do they need to get well?
- Can they engage with you fully? Are their basic needs being met?

SETTING

- What is the physical environment where the potential harm is occurring? In a home? At work? On the street?
- Who is around them? Police, bystanders, other participants? How does the person present to these people? How will they react?

Case Study : Jessica

Jessica has been using heroin on and off for the past 10 years. Jessica stopped using for a few months while she was with her ex, but they recently broke up. She is feeling depressed and anxious and is looking to use again. She buys a bag and heads to the syringe exchange for some new points and heads to her encampment in a rush.