



Renfrew County & District Drug Strategy

Executive Summary

In recent years Renfrew County and District (RCD), like many areas of the province and country has been experiencing an unprecedented rate of overdose deaths, emergency department visits and other harms related to the contaminated and highly unpredictable illegal drug supply. The overdose crisis is incredibly complex, making it an issue that one organization or sector cannot solve on its own. As a strategic and intersectoral response to this challenge, more than 30 RCD organizations have united to dedicate their time, energy, and expertise to develop, implement and evaluate an evidence-based strategy to reduce substance use harms.

The Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy (RCDDS) recommends **25** priorities, **5** at the strategy level and **20** across the four pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and community safety.

Renfrew County and District Drug Strategy Priorities



Enhance equity related to the client's language of choice



Reduce stigma for people who use substances



Provide culturally safe and appropriate services and care for Indigenous people and people from equity-deserving groups



Increase communication across all pillars of the strategy



Conduct ongoing surveillance and monitoring

Prevention Priorities



Improve early and equitable access to screening, assessment, diagnoses and pathways to care



Re-envision services that are family-centered, focusing on building trust and improving family engagement



Expand and integrate the community-based approach for youth care and intensive case management including mobile crisis response services



Recognize adult mental health and access to care as integral to child and youth well-being



Build a comprehensive, collaborative, interdisciplinary community approach to focus on meeting the needs of families, children and youth

Treatment Priorities



Increase and expand existing high demand outpatient services



Explore possibility of establishing medical withdrawal management and stabilization beds in Renfrew County



Increase short and long-term housing including availability and breadth of integrated services for people who use opioids



Identify and reduce barriers to access MHASUH treatment and services



Decrease stigma with training for health care partners and embedding peer support

Harm Reduction Priorities



Implement remote spotting services



Implement drug checking services



Centralize and automate drug toxicity alerts



Increase naloxone distribution



Determine feasibility of an Urgent Public Health Needs site



Maintain the Renfrew County and District Drug Toxicity Response Plan

Community Safety Priorities



Implement a comprehensive complaint reporting mechanism



Foster social order



Ensure the safe disposal of substance use supplies



Integrate enforcement by balancing proactive and reactive measures