

ANKORS Street College Report

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The 2019/2020 year was extremely productive for the Street College program. It delivered focused harm reduction education relevant to the lives of approximately 181 street involved people who use drugs. Services were offered in both group and one on one sessions within the Kootenay/Boundary region. Topics such as blood borne infections, safer injection techniques, sexually transmitted infections, and overdose prevention (among many others) were covered. While most sessions occurred in the Nelson office, I also took the program to homeless camps, parks, and alleyways for short informal sessions-literally meeting people where they are at!

Throughout the year, Street College worked closely with other agencies such as Nelson Community Services, Ministry of Child and Family Development, and Interior Health. This involved both participating on care teams and/or providing guidance around harm reduction, particularly around methamphetamine use.

Street College developed a unique weekly drop-in specifically for people who use methamphetamine. Globally, there are few programs geared toward the specific needs of this population. The meth drop-in addressed this lack in services by creating a safe space where people could honestly discuss the highs and lows of meth use and share techniques for reducing harms. From these sessions Street College produced a one of a kind harm reduction guide aptly titled, *The Meth Booklet*. This is an illustrated 30 page guide covering everything from the history of meth, safer use practices, meth psychosis, nutrition, as well as a section on chemsex co-written by ANKORS Joe Reiner. As of this writing, hard copies of *The Meth Booklet* have been warmly received in the UK, United States, Germany, and throughout western Canada. An online version of this resource is currently under construction and should be up by the end of the summer.

Finally, Street College now has a dedicated website located at: www.ankorsstreetcollege.com. This site hosts the massive 72 page Street College curriculum which includes the thirteen individual learning modules, relevant weblinks, and train the trainer resources. The Street College website will also be the future home of the methamphetamine resource. With the curriculum now online, service providers and peer led groups are enabled to initiate Street College programs in their own communities.