

Mobile Outreach
AGM
2025/26

The Mobile Outreach Program maintained and expanded critical frontline support across the Kootenay/Boundary region throughout 2025/26, responding to escalating health, safety, and social challenges faced by street-entrenched individuals. Services were expanded in Trail through the addition of Friday outreach, doubling the program's presence and allowing teams to serve up to 40 individuals per outreach day. Outreach was also increased in Grand Forks, while new relationships and service connections were established in Greenwood, Nakusp, Kaslo, and surrounding rural communities.

Across all quarters, the program provided a broad range of supports including food, hydration, wound care, hospital transportation, harm reduction supplies, health navigation, referrals, social supports, and seasonal survival gear. During the summer months, water, cooling supplies, and sun protection were distributed, while colder seasons required tents, tarps, sleeping bags, gloves, hats, and other winter survival equipment. The outreach van also served as a vital refuge from rain and cold weather.

The program served more than 143 individuals over the reporting periods, providing extensive health and social interventions. Harm reduction trends continued to shift, with inhalation supplies significantly outpacing needle distribution as many community members reported moving away from injection drug use. However, severe health impacts persisted, including widespread wounds and burns potentially linked to xylazine and medetomidine contamination in the drug supply. Outreach workers regularly responded to overdoses, violence, fires, and escalating mental health crises affecting both clients and service providers.

Community conditions remained difficult throughout the year. Outreach teams reported increasing tension, grief, and exhaustion among both street-entrenched individuals and frontline workers. Multiple overdose deaths deeply impacted the communities served, including the loss of several long-standing secondary supply distributors.

Despite these challenges, the program achieved important positive outcomes. Several individuals were successfully connected to detox and treatment services, referrals were made for medical and social services, and collaborative work continued with public health nurses, Indigenous serving agencies, and regional harm reduction initiatives. Outreach staff also contributed expertise to harm reduction cabinet planning and participated in coordinated care discussions for highly vulnerable youth.

Throughout 2025, the Mobile Outreach Program remained a consistent and trusted presence for vulnerable populations across the region, adapting services to emerging community needs while continuing to build relationships, strengthen partnerships, and provide compassionate, life-saving support.