



KIDS ON THE BLOCK

TRUST & STORIES SAVE LIVES

Presented by: Jade







COMMUNITY IS HARM REDUCTION

- It all started with 76 youth drug-related deaths (Ages 10-29) in SK in 2021, and some personal loss for Jade in 2020.

- Ran by Jade from 2020-2024.
- Years had different topics:
 - Crystal Meth (unofficial - pilot project)
 - Opioids
 - Relationships & Sexual health



CRACKDOWN

Crackdown has a first person perspective.

Crackdown is led by people who use drugs.

Crackdown tells stories.

Crackdown democratizes research knowledge.

Crackdown is a part of the community.



YEARLY GOALS

Blank Book Project

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**“Opioids and
Overdose”
“Rocky Relations”**

Naloxone kits/training

**Harm reduction
education sessions**

**Unused supply
distribution**

**Bridging gaps between
necessary harm reductive
services and youth facing
multiple barriers.**


- STBBI Testing clinics
- Community
Paramedicine program

PLANNING



FATAL YOUTH FENTANYL POISONINGS, SK

- Periodic surveys
- Informal discussion
- **RELATIONSHIPS - ALWAYS**
- Ethics first
- **MORE YOUTH VOICE - Listen to capacity needs of youth/youth leaders**

A group of approximately ten young people, mostly of Asian descent, are posing for a photo in a room decorated for the holidays. They are wearing winter clothing like jackets, hoodies, and beanies. Some are making peace signs. The background features a window with string lights, a dartboard, and a sign that reads "CHOKECHERRY STUDIOS". The room is lit with warm, yellow lights. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent text box containing the title and list. There are also decorative green wavy lines in the corners.

EXECUTION

- **Thursdays from 3pm-9pm**
 - **Cooking a meal prior to session**
 - **Regular check-ins, formal and informal**
 - **Remaining unattached to outcomes**
 - **Following the lead of the youth participants**

RESULT

- 2022 had 50% fewer AFAB and 16% fewer AMAB youth deaths caused by fentanyl (as compared to the year before).
- Youth relationships built with services they'd otherwise refuse - i.e. shelters, food banks, paramedics, etc.
- Minimum of 3 lives directly saved by staff of Chokecherry (Naloxone administration)
- Lasting programming extending into healthy relationships, sexual wellness, and "How to Adult", run by current program coordinator, Connor Rodriguez.



CONCLUSION/MY EXPERIENCE

Youth voices are to be included at every table. In the same breath, youth must be given the tools to succeed.

Including youth without transparency and training is just as bad as not including them - it is harm INDUCTION.

THANK YOU

