

# Regina CCENDU Report Highlights 2005

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The Regina CCENDU site collects indicator data from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. According to the RQHR 2003/04 report, the Region has a total population of 245,800 residents. Although most live within the city of Regina, roughly 25% live in smaller centres, rural areas and on First Nation reserves. Approximately 15% are seniors and the growing First Nations population makes up 8% of the residents. The data collected from health and police agencies represent the work of an active site committee. Data limitations include differences in geographic boundaries and time frames/reporting periods for specific indicators. This report is an update of 2002 data available in the 2004 report and covers 2003 and part of 2004.

## Prevalence

- No new data on substance use, specific to the RQHR, are available for 2003. The Canadian Addiction Survey, which applies to all of Saskatchewan, suggests that the rate of alcohol and drug use is lower for this province than the national average.
- Cannabis, cocaine and hallucinogens are the most prevalent illicit drugs of abuse in the RQHR.
- Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority data show a slight (2-4%) increase in the volume of sales of spirits, beer, and wines and coolers in 2003/04. However, the volume of absolute alcohol sold showed a 3.5% decrease, indicating that consumers are choosing beverages with lower alcohol content.

## Enforcement

- In 2003/04, 973 individuals were charged and convicted of drinking and driving offences—a slight (4%) increase from the previous year. Of these, 804 were referred for assessment under the

Saskatchewan Government Insurance Safe Driving Legislation.

- Total cannabis-related violations under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act increased 18% over the previous year.
- Charges for possession of cannabis remained relatively steady, while charges for trafficking increased by 164% in 2003 (14 to 37).
- Statistics for 2003 indicate that there was a 142% increase in cocaine-related violations over the previous year (34 vs. 14 in 2002).
- Charges for possession of cocaine rose by approximately 45%, from 11 in 2002 to 16 in 2003. Trafficking charges showed a 500% increase (3 to 18).
- Charges related to heroin, morphine and other narcotics showed a slight (8%) decrease, mainly due to a decrease in possession charges (63%). Charges for trafficking in narcotics increased by 140% (5 to 12)

## Treatment

- A total of 4,306 treatment episodes for people who identified using alcohol in the previous year were

recorded in 2003/04. Use was identified as causing problems in 3,190 (74%) of these episodes

- A total of 2,290 treatment episodes were recorded for people who had used cannabis in 2003/04. Use was identified as causing problems in 1,523 (67%) of the episodes
- There were 1,295 treatment episodes in which people identified using cocaine. Of these episodes, 84% involved use that was identified as creating problems.
- Sixty-five percent (65%) of the 1,093 users of prescription narcotics and 58% of the 1,040 non-prescription narcotic users identified their use as causing problems.
- A total of 1,296 treatment episodes involved the use of intravenous drugs, an increase of 26% over the previous year. Of these, 54 were for people aged 18 or younger.
- The most commonly reported drug injected was cocaine, followed by opiates, then Talwin and Ritalin (T's and R's). T's and R's, the most frequently injected drug in 2002/03, declined due to supply shortages.
- In 2003/04, 856 people were actively on the methadone programs within the RQHR. This represents an increase of 14% over the previous year.

### **Morbidity**

- In 2003, the number of alcohol-involved collisions (100) and the number of persons injured (145) remained consistent with the previous year.
- In 2003/04, the RQHR recorded 2,024 alcohol-related diagnoses, an increase of 29 cases over the previous year.
- Cannabis-involved diagnoses increased by 18% in relation to 2002/03 (290 to 341).

- Cocaine-related diagnoses increased by 47% (196 in 2002/03 to 290 in 2003/04).
- In 2003/04, there were 308 opiate-involved diagnoses, an increase of 10% over the 279 recorded the previous year.
- Hospital separations involving sedative/hypnotic drugs totaled 274 in 2003/04, an increase of 9%.
- Stimulant-related diagnoses, which include crystal meth, decreased by 30% (91 in 2003 vs. 116 in 2002).

### **Mortality**

- In 2003, the Coroner's Branch, Saskatchewan Justice, investigated 64 deaths where alcohol was present in the deceased. The Saskatchewan Coroner's Branch investigated one (1) death where cannabis was present, five (5) that involved the presence of cocaine and six (6) where opiates/methadone were present in the deceased.
- In 2003, the Saskatchewan Coroner's Branch investigated 69 deaths in the RQHR where drugs were found to be present. The deaths were classified as natural death (38), accidental (18), suicide (9), undetermined causes (3) and homicide (1).
- The RQHR recorded 14 deaths in which alcohol or other drugs were involved. Alcohol was involved in five (5) deaths, cannabis was involved in three (3), opiates were involved in three (3), sedative/hypnotic drugs were involved in two (2), and cocaine was involved in one (1).

### **HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis C**

- In 2003/04, the RQHR recorded 12 new cases of HIV.
- A total of 189 people were diagnosed with hepatitis C in

2003/04, a slight decrease from 197 in 2002.

- In the city of Regina, the needle exchange programs handed out 1,369,503 needles to intravenous drug users in 2003/04, an increase of more than 260,000 over 2002.



**Regina**