

Caring and inclusive approaches to community safety



NURTURING SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social networks, trust, and relationships contribute to the safety and overall wellbeing of a community. As reciprocity increases between and within communities, there is increased ability to make change.

How Neighbourhoods Nurture Social Capital

- Asset mapping
- Organizing events that bring together multiple organizations or groups
- Leading support groups, community kitchens, or other bonding activities
- Inviting residents to participate directly in events and safety strategies
- Art-based programs and approaches to community development

Caring and inclusive approaches to community safety



Usable and accessible greenspaces such as parks and gardens contribute to safety. Well-maintained green spaces can positively impact both the perceived and actual safety within a neighbourhood.

How Neighbourhoods Cultivate Good Greenspace

- Redeveloping vacant lots into parks, gardens, or other public spaces
- Campaigning to increase municipal spending on greenspace within the neighbourhood or across the city
- Advocating to protect or renew the tree canopy
- Organizing and maintaining community gardens

Caring and inclusive approaches to community safety



SEEING YOUR NEIGHBOURS

As the amount of outdoor activities and public socialization happening in a community grows, so does the sense of safety. Knowing and seeing your neighbours is an important piece of feeling safe.

How Neighbourhoods Practice Seeing Your Neighbours

- Developing diverse public spaces used at various times and by various groups
- Advocating to increase access to public spaces and free facilities
- Promoting local institutions, shops, and other important spaces
- Public discussions and forums on how to shift from watching to seeing each other

Caring and inclusive approaches to community safety

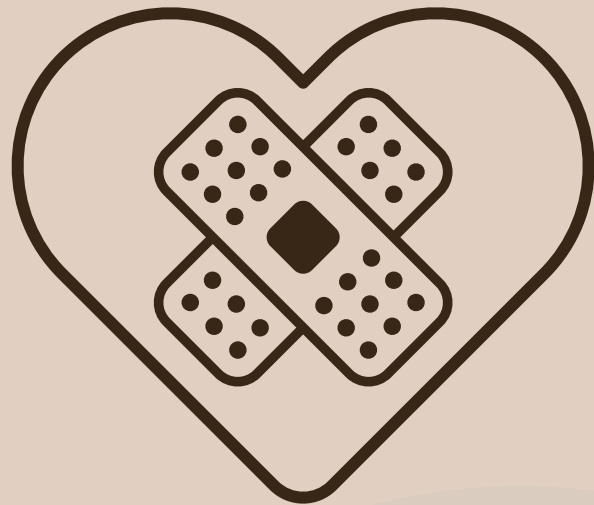


A spectrum of responses to crisis and harm can support de-escalation rather than criminalization of people in distress. This is important to ensure everyone feels they belong, are cared for, and can be safe.

How Neighbourhoods De-escalate Crisis Situations

- Raising awareness of crisis response lines
- Raising awareness of outreach supports
- Raising awareness of safe spaces
- Compiling lists of alternative resources and making them publicly accessible
- Advocating to expand social supports and non-criminal emergency response services

Caring and inclusive approaches to community safety



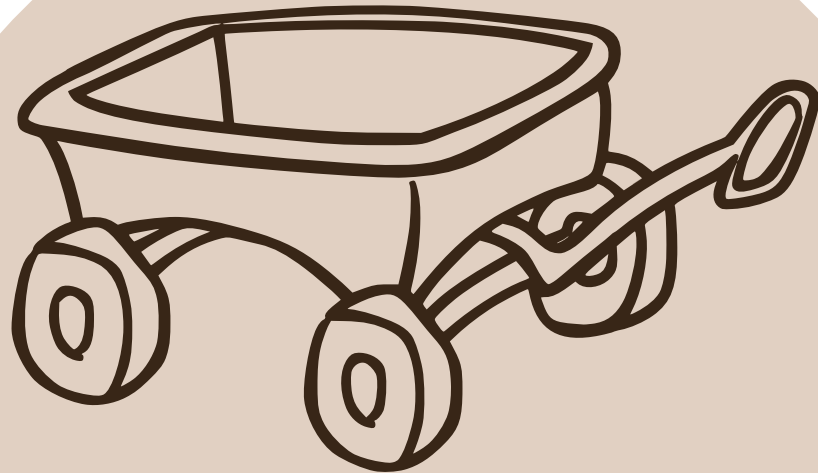
PROMOTING HARM REDUCTION

Providing supplies, supports, and spaces to ensure risky activities can be done safely or with minimal harm. Harm reduction has improved community quality of life and may also help reduce crime.

How Neighbourhoods Promote Harm Reduction

- Distributing clean injection and inhalation supplies, condoms and other safer sex supplies
- Distributing Naloxone kits and training people to use them
- Training residents in overdose prevention
- Supporting the creation of safe injection sites
- Creating support groups that are not based on an abstinence model

Caring and inclusive approaches to community safety



DOING STREET OUTREACH

Communities engaged in doing street outreach can bring people together and provide an accessible point of support and safety for people who otherwise might not feel connected to the community.

How Neighbourhoods Do Street Outreach

- Doing neighbourhood walks that offer support rather than surveillance
- Offering food, water, clothing, or other supplies
- Providing safe transportation through a mobile van or a safe walk
- Ensuring community ownership and involvement of the full diversity of the community

Caring and inclusive approaches to community safety

Read the full report online

Perrott, D. & Chamberlain, J. (2022). Grassroots and anti-oppressive approaches to safety. Winnipeg, MB: South Valour Residents Association & Urban and Inner-City Studies, University of Winnipeg. mra-mb.ca/publication/grassroots-anti-oppressive-approaches-to-safety.

For more info contact South Valour Residents Association:

<https://south-valour-residents-association.mailchimpsites.com/>

Email: info@svrawinnipeg.org



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Department of Urban
and Inner City Studies