Knowledge Exchange in the Context of Harm Reduction for Crack Cocaine Smoking

Learning from Cross Canadian Experience
Background

- High prevalence of crack cocaine
- Many harms related to unsafe crack cocaine use
- Gap in services exists
KE context

- Anti-harm reduction ideology
- Current safer-crack use services are fragmented
- Legal and policy issues do not reflect research-based evidence
Goals

- To provide a knowledge exchange venue
- To generate discussion and begin to develop guidelines
- To promote and build national networks
Safer Crack use
“Think Tank”

March 31st/April 1st 2009
Toronto Canada
Participants

- Diverse sectors
  - academic
  - policy
  - legal
  - public health
  - frontline services providers
  - users of frontline services
Setting the agenda

- What I want to learn from others in the field in Canada
- What I want to share with others in the field in Canada
Was it a KE success?

- Knowledge generation and exchange
- Identify needs and gaps
- Start to prioritize work and delegate tasks
Safer Crack Use Coalition of CANADA

A new Canadian movement!
Take Home Message

- KE difficult in a culture where public health services are fragmented, and provision of care is heavily influenced by moral scrutiny and misinformation.
- The continuation of KE activities are all the more important in this context in order to raise awareness and build momentum.