

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES:

Islanders living in poverty experience barriers to accessing health services.

We heard... that the stress of living in poverty impacts all aspects of people's health – physical, mental and emotional.

10,000

ISLANDERS ON
THE PATIENT
REGISTRY

WAITING

FOR A FAMILY
DOCTOR.

We heard... from rural Islanders - that feel they have to fight to keep services in their community - they are concerned about the health services leaving their communities – this creates greater barriers to accessing services.



ADDICTIONS

We heard... the rates of addictions are increasing on Prince Edward Island.

MENTAL HEALTH

We heard... there are long wait lists for mental health services on PEI.

THERE IS A STIGMA:

People using these services feel **ashamed** and **embarrassed** when other people know they use mental health services.

“People treat us differently because we have a label.”

2012 saw 328 IV drug users admitted to Mount Herbert (Provincial Addictions Treatment Facility)

2013 saw 462 IV drug users admitted. (as of July, 2013)

40%



IN LESS
THAN A YEAR

We heard... people with addictions and their families say there are many roadblocks to getting the help they need.



We heard... from family members who felt that they don't receive enough support from their community.

“We have benefits and supportive neighbours coming together for other serious health conditions but not addictions or mental health issues.”

60%

There's been a 60% increase in the usage of the needle exchange program in the last 3 years. 2010 saw 670 visits and 2012 saw 1014 visits.



2011 88,000 needles distributed
75,000+ returned

2012 112,000 needles distributed
59,000+ returned

SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICE CHALLENGES:

Invest in preventive and treatment programs for addictions and mental health.

Increase access to addictions and mental health services.

PEI needs a residential treatment centre for addictions with diverse therapy options.

Continue to provide health care services in rural areas.

Provide access to abortion services on PEI.

Increase front line accessibility in communities. People need to be able to reach practitioners.

Increase access to drugs, dental and complimentary care for low-income Islanders.