

# **BASIC COMPONENTS of HARM REDUCTION**

- 1. Recognition that non-medical use of psychoactive drugs is inevitable in our society.**
- 2. Acknowledgment that such use will inevitably produce significant social and individual harm.**
- 3. Understanding that drug policies must be pragmatic. They must be assessed on their actual consequences not their symbolic import.**
- 4. Acceptance that drug users are an integral part of the larger community. Protecting the health of the community as a whole requires protecting the health of drug users; this requires integrating them into the community rather than marginalizing them.**
- 5. Awareness that drug use leads to individual and social harms through many different mechanisms, so a wide range of interventions is needed to address these harms.**

**(Adapted from DesJarlais)**