

Peel Supervised Consumption Site Study Findings

What are supervised consumption services?

Supervised consumption services allow people who use drugs to bring pre-obtained substances to consume under the supervision of trained personnel.

These **life-saving services** can:

- prevent or reverse overdoses;
- reduce the risk of bloodborne infections like HIV and Hepatitis C; and
- facilitate access to health services and treatment

Peel Public Health led a study in partnership with Moyo Health and Community Services and the Canadian Mental Health Association-Peel Dufferin to assess the need for and feasibility of supervised consumption services in the Region of Peel.



Key findings from the study:

There is a Need for Supervised Consumption Services in Peel.

Opioid related harms and deaths have increased markedly since 2013.

109 people died in Peel in 2018 due to overdose

2018
2017
2016
2015
2014
2013

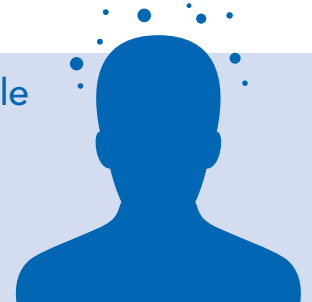
Findings from the Survey of people who use drugs showed:

97% of respondents reported **using alone**

64% of respondents had **overdosed** in their lifetime

85% of respondents reported **using drugs in public** at least once in the last 6 months

68% of people who died from opioid overdose in Peel in 2018 were **alone at the time of death**



People who use drugs would use **Supervised consumption services** if available.



Findings from the Survey of people who use drugs showed:

87% of respondents would use **supervised consumption sites**

76% of respondents preferred to get services at a **consistent location**

Respondents ranked **access to other services** like counseling, health services and assistance with housing and employment as **important**.

Services should be **inclusive** and consider the needs of women, youth, newcomers and Indigenous users.

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Establishing a location(s) for SCS should be driven by local data and need, along with community consultation

Community consultation to increase acceptability should occur.

The **most common concerns** reported by respondents to the general community survey around having supervised consumption services in Peel were:

More people who use drugs in the area

52%

More drug trafficking in the area

47%

Decreased property values

46%

Impact on the neighbourhood

45%

Personal safety concerns

42%

The **most commonly reported benefits** of supervised consumption services by general community survey respondents were:

- Reduced risk of injury and/or death from overdose (**52%**);
- Connecting users and their families to health and social services (**49%**);
- Reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C transmission (**48%**);
- Less public drug use (**45%**); and
- Less used needles in public (**43%**).



Next Steps



- 1** A lead agency interested in applying for and implementing an SCS should be identified.
- 2** People who use drugs and the general community should be involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of a potential SCS, with special consideration given to seeking input from women, youth, newcomers and Indigenous people.
- 3** Education and outreach to the general community on the benefits and purpose of SCS should be planned.