

Safe Consumption Sites (SCS) in Ontario

What You Should Know

..... **Overdose Prevention**

Harm Reduction

Community Health

What is a safe consumption site?



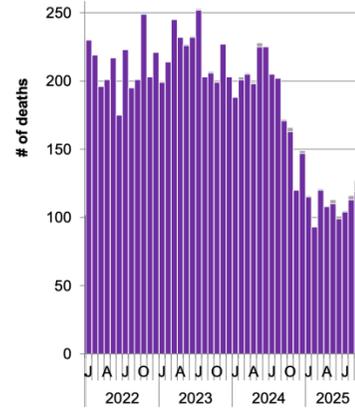
- ✓ supervised drug use
- ✓ medical staff on-site
- ✓ sterile equipment

! people use pre-obtained drugs!



Why do they exist?

Ontario is facing an **opioid overdose crisis!**

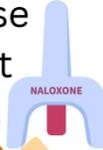


On average in 2025:
112 overdose deaths per month, or 5 deaths per day, with 1 in 5 occurring in someone who is homeless (ODPRN, 2026)

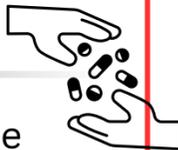


Many overdoses happen alone!

What they provide

- ✓ Overdose response + clean equipment 
- ✓ Wound care 
- ✓ HIV & Hep C testing
- ✓ Referrals to Care:
 - Treatment 
 - Detox 
 - Housing 
 - Mental health

What they DO NOT do

- ✗ Provide illegal drugs 
- ✗ Allow drug sales 
- ✗ Delay or replace treatment 



Harm Reduction is Health Care!



Drug use happens whether we give people a space to use or not!

Safe consumption sites work!

- Give people a safe, clean, non-judgemental space to use with immediate access to medical care.
- Save lives- no recorded deaths on-site!
- More people connect to treatment!
- Reduce public drug use and discarded needles

Community Concerns

MYTH

EVIDENCE

SCS encourage drug use

SCS are a form of HARM REDUCTION!

 overdose-related deaths

 disease transmission from shared needles (ex. HIV, Hep C)

 public drug use & discarded needles

 access to counselling, detox, and rehab

SCS increase crime

Studies in Vancouver, Toronto, and Sydney show that SCS DO NOT INCREASE, and in some cases reduce, crime rates in surrounding areas.

SCS attract drug users and homeless people

NO EVIDENCE for this. SCS just provide a place for your community members/neighbours who do use drugs to do so in a safe, monitored setting.

SCS are a waste of tax-payer money

– SCS are cost-effective and SAVE PUBLIC FUNDS!
– Prevent expensive emergency room visits, ambulance calls, and the long-term cost of treating infections like HIV.