



Community Advocacy for Supervised Consumption Spaces in San Francisco and Beyond

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PROJECT INFORM

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A Question...

What if I told you that there was a public health intervention that:

- ▶ Eliminates drug overdose deaths;
- ▶ Minimizes risks for abscesses, bacterial infections and endocarditis;
- ▶ Minimizes the risk of HIV, hep B and hep C transmission;
- ▶ Provides a gateway for entry to drug treatment, medical care and social services;
- ▶ Reduce discarded syringes, litter, and other public disorder concerns related to injection drug use

Would you be interested in employing that intervention?

The answer...YES!!!

Supervised Consumption Services

Supervised Consumption Services

"Supervised injection sites are legally sanctioned and supervised facilities designed to reduce the health and public order problems associated with illegal injection drug use. They enable the consumption of pre-obtained drugs in an anxiety and stress-free atmosphere, under hygienic and low risk conditions. Commonly, the purpose of SIS's are to reduce public disorder and enhance public safety, reduce overdose morbidity and mortality, reduce transmission of blood-borne infections, and improve access to other health and social services."

--"What is the effectiveness of supervised injection services?"

Ontario HIV Treatment Network, May 2014

Effectiveness of SCS



- ▶ They are cost-effective (Irwin 2016)
- ▶ They reduce HIV and HCV infections (Wood 2005)
- ▶ Facilitate entry to drug treatment programs (Wood 2006)
- ▶ No overdose deaths (Harm Reduction Coalition 2016)
- ▶ Reduce public disorder issues (Wood 2006)

The Think Tank

- ▶ A national gathering of experts—people who use drugs, harm reductionists, epidemiologists, lawyers, and other policy advocates—met to discuss central issues related to establishing safer drug use spaces (SDUS) in the U.S.
- ▶ Representatives from Harm Reduction Coalition, Drug Policy Alliance, Open Society Foundation, AIDS United, amFAR and more;
- ▶ Drug User Unions and people who identified as PWID/PWUD were significantly represented;
- ▶ People from 7 cities at various stages of SDUS: San Francisco, New York City, Seattle, Portland, Denver, Baltimore and Ithaca

Key Outcomes

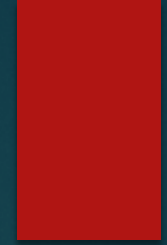
- ▶ People who use drugs have to be the head of this movement in all aspects of planning, operating, evaluating and organizing;
- ▶ These spaces must include safer smoking spaces;
- ▶ These sites are intimately related to criminal justice and drug policy reform because they offer alternatives to policing drug use; additionally they create safe spaces for black and brown people to use and limit their contact with police.

Key Outcomes

- ▶ We need to expand our outreach beyond the harm reduction, and even the HIV and HCV movements and engage unlikely, but still sympathetic allies.
 - ▶ LGBTQ orgs
 - ▶ Racial justice orgs
 - ▶ Sex worker orgs
 - ▶ Faith communities
 - ▶ Business community
 - ▶ Families impacted by the opioid crisis
- ▶ We cannot erase the representation of the people who are most impacted by establishing these sites—PWUD themselves—just to have an easier sell with policy makers.

San Francisco Efforts: Collaboration Across Disciplines

- ▶ San Francisco Drug Users Union
- ▶ TL HIP
- ▶ Drug Policy Alliance
- ▶ RTI International
- ▶ Local and State officials



Questions, comments, discussion...

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