

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES

Supervised consumption sites (SCSs) provide safe space and sterile equipment for individuals to use pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of health care staff. Consumption refers to taking opioids or other drugs by injecting, smoking, snorting or taking them orally. SCSs provide fundamental services for people who use drugs. SCSs are health care facilities that are part of a full array of harm reduction services.

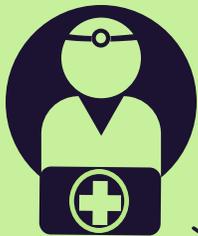
## SCSs outcomes:



### Reduce individual harms

- Decrease deaths and hospital visits due to overdose or injection related emergencies
- Lower injection rates
- Reduce unsafe injection practices that are associated with HIV and Hepatitis C transmission

SCSs **do not** promote riskier substance use practices and **do not** increase substance use rates.



### Increase access to health care

- Increase access to:
  - addiction treatment & counselling
  - basic health care services, such as wound care and immunisations
  - needle exchange services
  - naloxone distribution programs
  - Hep C, STI and HIV testing

SCSs **do not** discourage people who use drugs from seeking addiction treatment.



### Decrease community harms and costs

- Lower overall health care spending
- Decrease public injection
- Reduce publicly-discarded syringes

SCSs **do not** lead to an increase in thefts, drug dealing, drug-related crimes, or drug use initiation.

## What people are saying:

*“Reduced morbidity, mortality, reduction of high-risk drug use, increased uptake of health and social care, including drug treatment, decreases risk of individuals losing their housing. Those are all benefits. Safe and non-judgmental environment in which they can go and seek further assistance.”*

(Toronto healthcare provider, TOSCA Report)

*“I’d feel a lot better about doing it in a safe injection site than at home, because, you know, you could wind up dead at home.”*

(Toronto person who uses drugs, TOSCA Report)



**Public acceptance of SCSs increases over time.**

## To apply for an SCS, or to access one in your community

**Visit:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-abuse/supervised-consumption-sites/status-application.html>

**Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS)** are a type of SCSs that are time-limited, low-barrier and faster to open. They offer more limited services.

To open an OPS in your community visit: [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2018/hb\\_20180111.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2018/hb_20180111.aspx)