

Safe Injection Facilities: The Next Step in Harm Reduction.



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Harm reduction

Set of **practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences** associated with risky behaviors

Movement for **social justice** built on a belief in, and **respect** for, the rights of people who use drugs

Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the **real and tragic harm and danger** associated with drug use



“The primary principle is to accept the fact that people do engage in high-risk behaviors and commit to helping those people reduce the harm associated with behavior.”

-Dr. Pat Denning

co-author of *Over the Influence: The Harm Reduction Guide To Controlling Your Drug and Alcohol Use and Practicing Harm Reduction Psychotherapy*

Safe Injection Facilities

Safe Injection Sites

Supervised Use Sites

Drug Consumption Rooms

Comprehensive User Engagement Sites

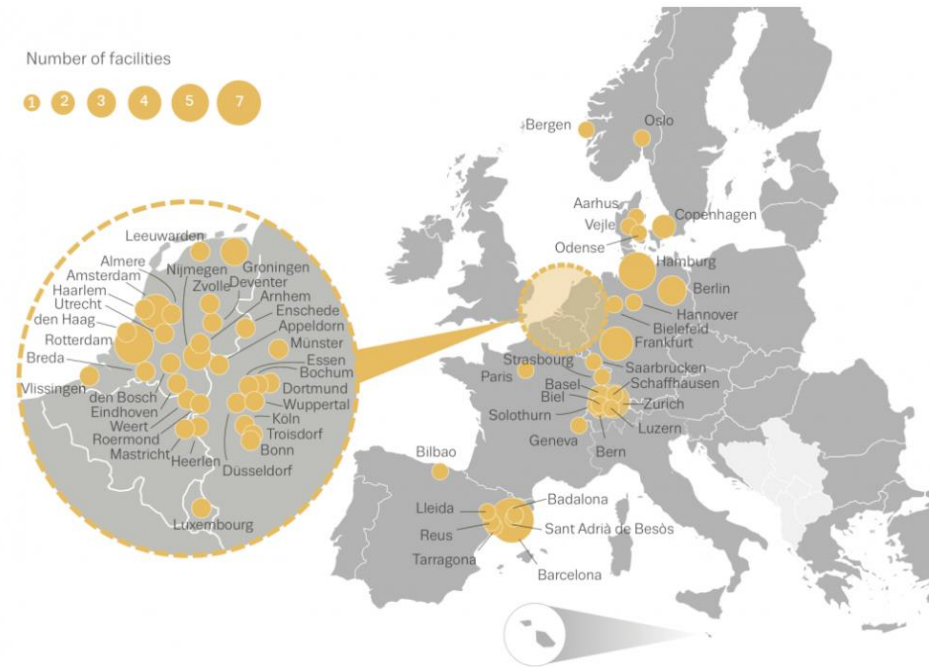
Supervised Injection Rooms

Overdose Prevention Sites

Controlled health care settings where people can safely consume pre-obtained drugs under clinical supervision, receive harm reduction education and supplies and get referrals to health care and other needed services.

History & progress

- **First sanctioned SIF:**
Switzerland (est. 1986)
- **First sanctioned SIF**
in North America:
***Insite* in Vancouver, BC**
(est. 2003)
- **As of 2018:**
100 sites legally operating
in 65 cities / 10 countries
- **Additional unsanctioned sites**
- **Extensively studied**
- **But none in the US**
...yet!



Why SIFs for the US?

- Overdose is a national public health crisis
 - Leading cause of accidental death
- Injection drug use remains a concern
 - 770,000+ people inject drugs in the US
 - Injection-related HIV has declined, but PWID account for 11% of all men and 23% of all women living with HIV
 - Majority of HCV cases in the US are associated with injection drug use
 - Increased opioid use raising concerns about increases in HIV and hepatitis C
- Growing recognition of the need for comprehensive services for people who use drugs

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SIF sites

- Meant to **complement**, not replace, existing prevention, harm reduction and treatment interventions
- Part of a **comprehensive public health approach** to reducing the harms of drug misuse
- Part of a **spectrum** of substance use services
- Fundamentally **non-judgmental** environment
- Are **about much more** than the drugs....

Promote dignity,
survival and increased
social integration



Health benefits



- Enhanced access to & utilization of:
 - Drug treatment
 - Medical services
 - Social services
- Improved safer injecting practices including decreased syringe sharing
- HIV & HCV prevention
- Reduced prevalence & severity of SSTIs
- 0 overdose deaths!

Additional benefits

- Reduced public injecting & public disorder
- Less drug-related litter
- No increases in:
 - Drug use
 - Initiation into injection drug use
 - Drug-related crime!
- Enhanced connections with—and insights garnered from—PWUD
- Once established, SCS sites enjoy community support

332 PEOPLE DIED FROM OVERDOSES IN KING COUNTY IN 2016. SAFE CONSUMPTION SPACES PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS. ARE EVIDENCE-BASED, SUPPORTED BY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, INCREASE ACCESS TO TREATMENTS AND OTHER SERVICES, REDUCE INJURY, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, REDUCE PUBLIC DRUG USE, DECREASE BACTERIAL INFECTIONS, AND TRANSMISSION OF VIRUS BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES LIKE HIV AND HEPATITIS. COST-LESS, SAVING LIVES. ARE SMART POLICY EFFECTIVELY USED FOR DECADES IN DOZENS OF CITIES ACROSS CANADA AND EUROPE, REDUCE STIGMA AND OFFER COMPASSION AND DIGNITY TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH SUBSTANCE

**SAFE
CONSUMPTION
SPACES
SAVE
LIVES**

Health benefits



SAFE CONSUMPTION SITES are proven to save lives, cost our county less, reduce drug use on our streets, and offer a more compassionate solution for our friends and family struggling with substance use disorder.

SAFER IS BETTER

“All studies converged to find that SIFs were efficacious in attracting the most marginalized people who inject drugs, promoting safer injection conditions, enhancing access to primary health care, and reducing the overdose frequency. SIFs were not found to increase drug injecting, drug trafficking or crime in the surrounding environments. SIFs were found to be associated with reduced levels of public drug injections and dropped syringes.”

--C. Potier et al., "Supervised injection services: What has been demonstrated? A systematic literature review," Drug Alcohol Depend 145C(2014): 48-68; S. Semaan et al., "Potential role of safer injection facilities in reducing HIV and hepatitis C infections and overdose mortality in the United States," Drug Alcohol Depend 118, no. 2-3 (2011): 100-10.

Health benefits



“Vancouver, Canada’s supervised injection facility, Insite, has been the most extensively studied SIF in the world, with over 60 peer-reviewed articles published examining its effects on a range of variables, from retention to treatment referrals to cost effectiveness.”

--T Kerr et al., "Findings from the Evaluation of Vancouver’s Pilot Medically Supervised Safer Injection Facility—Insite," (Vancouver, BC: Urban Health Research Initiative, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, 2009)

http://uhri.cfenet.ubc.ca/images/Documents/insite_report-eng.pdf.

Health benefits



**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

SAFE CONSUMPTION SITES are proven to save lives, cost our county less, reduce drug use on our streets, and offer a more compassionate solution for our friends and family struggling with substance use disorder.

SAFER IS BETTER

- 57 percent entry into drug treatment over two years.
--DeBeck, et al., 2011 “Injection drug use cessation and use of North America’s first medically supervised safer injecting facility.” *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 113, 172-176.
- 50 percent decrease in public drug use.
--Wood, et al., 2004 “Changes in public order after the opening of a medically supervised safer injecting facility for illicit injection drug users.” *CMAJ* 171, 731-734.
- 35 percent reduction in drug overdose in area surrounding SIF.
--Marshall, et al., 2011 “Reduction in overdose mortality after the opening of North America’s first medically supervised safer injecting facility: a retrospective population-based study.” *Lancet* 377, 1429-1437.

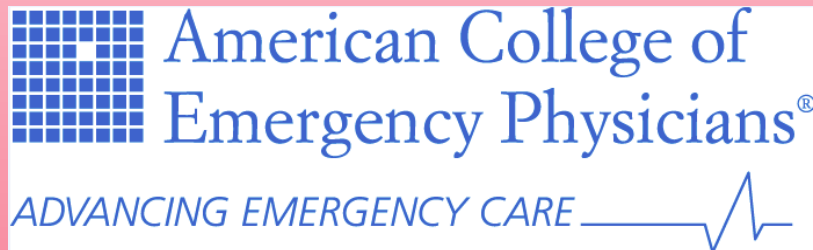
Cost effectiveness

- Facility costs are basically low
- Savings associated with preventing health costs:
 - Fewer ambulance calls
 - Fewer ER visits & hospitalizations
 - Averted HIV, HCV, SSTIs
 - Averted non-fatal overdoses & overdose deaths
- Savings associated with better MAT uptake
- LE savings through reduced public order concerns



Cost Benefit Analysis Location	Annual Projected Savings	Cost-Benefit Ratio (Savings Generated Per \$1 Spent)
Baltimore	\$6.79 M	\$4.35
San Francisco	\$3.5 M	\$2.33
Denver	\$6.9 M	\$4.89

Who Supports SCS?



Who Supports SCS?

Editorial: City-sponsored drug-injection sites can save lives

San Francisco Chronicle

Chronicle Editorial Board | February 6, 2018 | Updated: February 6, 2018 4:46pm

4/30/2018

The first step to treatment is staying alive - The Boston Globe

The Boston Globe

EDITORIAL

The first step to treatment is staying alive

The right move to save lives now Editorial

Updated: JANUARY 24, 2018 — 7:21 AM EST

The Inquirer
DAILY NEWS philly.com

Editorials

The Seattle Times

Bring heroin injection sites indoors, off the streets

Originally published September 22, 2016 at 1:01 pm | Updated September 23, 2016 at 4:50 pm

Opinion

The New York Times

EDITORIAL

Let Cities Open Safe Injection Sites

By The Editorial Board

Feb. 24, 2018

Too many barriers for opioid addiction treatment in Colorado

By THE DENVER POST EDITORIAL BOARD |
February 10, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Challenges & Policy Logistics

- **Legal challenges**
- **Liability concerns**
- **Funding**



Ongoing SCS Advocacy

State / Legislative Efforts	City / Municipal Efforts
California	San Francisco
Colorado	Denver
Maryland	Baltimore
Massachusetts	Boston
New Mexico	
New York	NYC , Ithaca, Albany
Vermont	
	Philadelphia, PA
	Seattle & King County, WA
	Portland, OR



For a Safe & Healthy
California



An Alternative to Public Injecting



Helpful resources

NASW: A Social Work Perspective on Drug Policy Reform- Public Health Approach (Social Justice Brief, 2013)
<https://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/Drug%20Policy%20Reform%20Brief%20Social%20Justice%20Dept.pdf>

Drug Policy Alliance: Supervised Consumption Services (Fact Sheet, March 2017)
http://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/DPA_Fact%20sheet_Supervised%20Consumption%20Services_2017.pdf

Project Inform: SCS in the United States: Uniting For a Nat'l Movement (Sept 2016)
<https://www.projectinform.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/SCS-Think-Tank-Report.pdf>

NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors): Call to Action: SIFs (January 2018)
https://www.nastad.org/sites/default/files/supervised-injection-facilities-call-to-action-1-with-approval-date2_0.pdf

amFAR: The Case for Supervised Consumption Services (Issue Brief, June 2017)
http://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/Articles/On_The_Hill/2017/IB-Supervised-Consumption-Services-061217.pdf

Int'l Network of Drug Consumption Rooms: See this website for a map of SCS sites around the globe and additional info: <http://www.drugconsumptionroom-international.org>

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs & Drug Addiction: Perspectives on Drugs – Drug Consumption Rooms: an overview of provision and evidence (June 2017)
http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/2734/POD_Drug%20consumption%20rooms.pdf

Harm Reduction Coalition: Alternatives to Public Injecting (2016)
<http://harmreduction.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Alternatives-to-Public-Injection-report.pdf>

Helpful resources (cont.)

SIF NYC: Learn more about advocacy efforts and join the campaign: <http://sifnyc.org/>

Yes to SCS (Seattle & King County, WA Campaign): Online Toolkit: <https://www.yestoscs.org/toolkit/>

DPA: See our website for access to a virtual library of materials including reports and fact sheets on a range of drug policy issues: <http://www.drugpolicy.org/resources-publications>

Films:

Sawbuck Productions (2015): Everywhere But Safe: Public Injecting in NY (documentary film): <https://vimeo.com/140074355> & <https://www.facebook.com/EverywhereButSafe>

Sawbuck Productions & San Francisco Drug Users Union (2014): Making a Place Called Safe: A Public Health Case for a SIF in San Francisco, CA (documentary film): <https://vimeo.com/77472844>

Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (2012): Insite – Not Just Injecting, Connecting (documentary film): <https://drogriporter.hu/en/insite-not-just-injecting-but-connecting/>

Supervised Injection Sites – Toronto (2016): Documentary film: <https://youtu.be/fnVv7Gn93Do>

New York Times (2011): Health- A Safe Place (Featuring Insite): <https://youtu.be/v6NJPipeIKM>