

PROUD

OUT LOUD!

Volume 3: March 2014

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES

PROUD OUT LOUD is a newsletter produced to communicate research findings from the PROUD Study, as well as relevant information for our community members and partner organizations. This current issue covers data related to questions about Supervised Consumption Services. Survey participants were recruited in the Byward Market area.

WHAT ARE SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES?

These are services that allow people to bring their own drugs to inject and/or inhale in a supervised environment. Supervised consumption services aim to meet the health needs of people who are not being reached by existing services. Studies on these services demonstrate a range of benefits, including reductions in overdose deaths, public drug use, and HIV/HCV infections, as well as an increase in safer practices among drug users.

86% of survey participants who expressed an opinion on supervised injection sites (SIS) think **there should be one** in Ottawa.

Out of 513 participants who had used crack in the past 12 months:

- **54%** said that they would use a **Supervised Inhalation Site (SIHS)**
- **60%** said that they would use a **designated park** or **open space** where they were permitted to smoke crack

Out of the people who would use a SIHS, **54%** think a SIHS should be located separately from a SIS.

68% of female participants who had used crack in the past 12 months said that they would use a **SIHS**, compared to **58%** of men.

Of the 272 participants that used injection drugs in the past 12 months:

85% think there **should be a Supervised Injection Site** in Ottawa

75% are **willing to use a Supervised Injection Site** in Ottawa

The PROUD survey found that people who said that they would use a **Supervised Injection Site (SIS)** were more likely to:

- **inject in public**
- **require assistance to inject**
- **have tested positive for Hep C**

than people who said they would not use a SIS.

55% of people who would use a SIS said that they would use a SIS **daily**.

Respondents were clear that they wanted **additional health services** at a SIS.



The **most important services** people wanted to see at a SIS were:

1. **Nurse**
2. **Doctor**
3. **Social Worker**

PROUD MEMBER BIO

Sean LeBlanc is the principal co-chair of PROUD & founder of DUAL. Sean is a Maritimer, a lover of Punk Rock, dancing badly, literature & the Red Sox. He likes spending time w/ his ladyfriend & watching classic films. His favourite thing is helping drug consumers find happiness & good health!

Among people who said they would use a SIS:

- **74%** reported a mental health diagnosis (such as depression, PTSD)
- **61%** were unstably housed
- **25%** had injected with a needle previously used by someone else, within the last 12 months
- **18%** had engaged in sex work in the past year
- **14%** were HIV positive

Top 3 reasons why people said **why they would use a SIS:**

1. Safer place to use (94%)
2. Overdoses can be managed (92%)
3. Access to health professionals (91%)
Indoor space to use (91%)

The main other reasons people gave for using a SIS were:

- **Connections to Supports & Services**
- **Promoting a Positive Community**
- **Personal Safety**

Special thanks to our:

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