

COMMUNITY CARE IS FOR EVERYONE

Facts about Supervised Consumption Sites (SCSs)

The provincial government's decision to end funding for Supervised Consumption Sites (SCSs) impacts us all!

WHY HARM REDUCTION MATTERS?

- Harm Reduction is about meeting people where they are at
- It's about safety and care
- It is a spectrum from abstinence to offering supports to people who are actively using
- Prohibition taught us that government-forced abstinence does not work
- Enforcement targets and profiles different groups of marginalized individuals
- Shame and isolation force people to use in unsafe situations
- Building trust with community members offers opportunities for individuals to seek help when needed
- Eliminating services, forces people to use in unsafe, public spaces
- Recognizes that substance use is not an individual failure, but instead is a result of systemic failures
- Eases pressure on emergency rooms and hospitals
- Increases community safety for all
- Pushes back against systemic issues that amplify the growth of substance use

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT YOU?

Toronto lost half of our Supervised Consumption Sites (SCSs) a year ago.

Be ready to respond. Without SCSs, everywhere becomes a consumption site.

- **There has been an 82% increase in EMS calls for opioid-related toxicities in the City of Toronto**

(Toronto Public Health. Toronto Overdose Information System: Monthly Paramedic Data. 2026)

- **In the 9 months prior to the SCS closures, there was a 47% decrease in emergency department visits for opioid-related toxicities across Ontario.**

(Public Health Ontario. Substance Use and Harms Tool: Cases and rates of ED visits due to opioid-related poisonings in Ontario. 2026)

THIS MEANS LONGER WAIT TIMES FOR EMS and EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR ALL OF US

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Contact your MPP and let them know that you support SCSs
- Write a letter to the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Premier
- Post on social media
- Start a conversation with a friend, neighbour or family member
- Spread the word about community care
- Carry Naloxone
- Learn basic first aid

"Between March 2020 and May 2024, trained workers at SCS in Ontario medically-intervened to prevent almost 22,000 overdose deaths" (Social Planning Toronto).

WHAT IS A SCS?

- ✔ A safe place where people are able to use drugs
- ✔ Overdose response by trained professionals
- ✔ Outdoor community clean up teams
- ✔ Safe disposal of equipment
- ✔ Community, care & connection
- ✔ Provides safe space away from the elements
- ✔ Provides snacks & drinks
- ✔ Provides a variety of targeted resources, including treatment programs and health care services based on client needs
- ✔ Builds relationships with the staff and support network
- ✔ Part of the health care system and operates under a medical directive
- ✔ Research supports that there are no increase in crime rates near SCSs
- ✔ Provides safe supplies for substance use

SCSs DO NOT supply drugs

This flyer was created by the Toronto Drop-In Network's Advocacy Committee. We are leadership, frontline workers, and program participants from drop-in programs across the City of Toronto.

We created this flyer because we care about community. People who use drugs are people, deserving of love, joy, compassion, support, and care. They are our friends, family, and colleagues from all walks of life.

YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE

5 STEP OVERDOSE RESPONSE

STEP 1 SHOUT & SHAKE
their name their shoulders

STEP 2 CALL 911
if unresponsive

STEP 3 ADMINISTER NALOXONE
1 spray into a nostril and/or 1 ampule into arm or leg

STEP 4 START CPR

STEP 5 IS IT WORKING?
Next Step If NO improvement in 2-3 minutes repeat steps 3 & 4

STAY WITH THE PERSON
Clean your hands after providing care

Toronto Public Health

Naloxone Kits are available for FREE at most pharmacies & at most drop-in programs.

FREE Naloxone training is also available on the City of Toronto's website, through Red Cross, and other providers.

