Evidence shows that SCFs have a substantial effect on reducing mortality from overdose.1

There are currently over 100 SCFs in 66 cities and 11 countries worldwide.2

– A SCF in Sydney, Australia, showed that 15,054 people registered to use the Medically Supervised Injection Center, and 10,538 of those had never accessed any local health service prior.3

– Today there are over 100 SCFs in 66 cities and 11 countries worldwide.2

– There are currently no “sanctioned” SCFs in the United States.4

Harm Reduction and SCFs

Overdose Mortality Reduction

– Evidence shows that SCFs have a substantial effect on reducing mortality from overdose.5

– A study on overdose mortality near the Insite facility in Vancouver, Canada, found a 35% reduction in mortality within 500 meters of the facility within 3 years of its opening.6

– Significant reductions in overdose mortality have been noted in European SCFs:
  – Reductions in mortality are not only sustained but increase over time.
  – Spain’s SCF has been credited with reducing overdose deaths by over 50%.
  – Findings from the 2017 Mayor’s Task Force report1: Approximately 50,000 people in Philadelphia missed prescription pain medications in the past year.
  – Philadelphia has an estimated 70,000 current heroin users.

Injection Cessation

– European research on SCF clients (i.e., people who inject drugs [PWID]) has shown increased understanding regarding health and safe injection practices, as well as a reduction in syringe sharing.7,8

– Evidence from Vancouver’s Insite SCF has shown clients who regularly visit the facility and have contact with counselors were more likely to seek entry into addiction treatment services.

– Insite participants (2003 - 2005) who were part of the Scientific Evaluation of the Supervised Injection cohort had a 30% increase in detoxification service use referrals attributed to the SCF opening.9

Reductions of HIV (HCV, HCV)

– Infectious diseases remain a significant issue for PWID due to shared needles, old needles and haste in injecting to avoid detection.

– SCFs worldwide report reduced bacterial infection by providing clean injection equipment, cleaning wounds and identifying serious infections early.9,10

– The Insite clinic has provided evidence that SCFs can reduce blood-borne disease transmission by providing clean needles and safer injection education.

– Analysis of a closed, unsanctioned SCF in Vancouver, Canada, showed that the facility prevented around 30 HIV and 85 HCV cases among PWID annually.11

– Conservative estimates on the reduction of HIV and HCV cases for a hypothetical SCF in Montreal, Canada, demonstrated each additional SCF would prevent 11 cases of HIV and 65 cases of HCV annually.12

Automobile Crashes

– Drug-impaired driving is an increasingly serious issue. In 2009, 32.8% of fatally injured drivers tested positive for drugs in the United States, and this rate increased in 2011 to 43%.13

– Automobile crashes caused by drivers who overdose on opioids are becoming so common that rescue crews in some areas are immediately administering naloxone to unconscious drivers.

– However, we found no evidence reported in the available literature to support or negate a hypothesis that there is increased or decreased drugged driving in communities with a SCF.

Neighborhood Disorder

– Within 10 blocks of the Insite facility, Wood et al. (2004) found that the 12-week period after the facility’s opening was independently associated with reductions in the following:

  – injection drug users seen in public, from a daily mean of 4.3 to 2.4
  – publicly discarded syringes found, from a daily mean of 11.5 to 5.4
  – pieces of injection-related litter found, from a daily mean of 601 to 310

What are SCFs?

– A Supervised Consumption Facility (SCF) provides a designated space for drug use under the supervision of medical professionals.

– SCFs draw in populations who inject drugs intravenously, providing a touchpoint to engage with populations generally disconnected from other social and public health access points.

– Insite, Vancouver, British Columbia, showed that 15,054 people registered to use the Medically Supervised Injection Center, and 10,538 of those had never accessed any local health service prior.3

– Today there are over 100 SCFs in 66 cities and 11 countries worldwide.2

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Conclusions

– SCFs provide cost savings, particularly in hospitalisations and other health services.

– SCFs prevent overdose deaths and reduce neighborhood disorder.

– The City of Philadelphia should develop a thoughtful evaluation that examines the implementation of these services.

– Evaluation should pay attention to anticipated measurable outcomes that are directly or indirectly related to the selected interventions.

References


