

A TEMPORARY OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS AT CONFERENCES

BACKGROUND

At conferences about drug use and drug policy, people who use drugs (PWUD) are the experts and should be at the centre of these important learning opportunities. However, little guidance exists on how to best ensure the comfort and safety of PWUD at conferences - especially to help minimize risk of overdose death.

We wrote a commentary to a) characterize a novel conference-based overdose prevention site (OPS) and b) outline the feasibility of offering OPS at other similar conferences.



IMPLICATIONS

Our commentary will help provide practical guidance for organizers of other similar conferences and events. However, more research is needed to ensure the full, equitable, and safe participation of PWUD at substance-use related conferences.

THE OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITE [OPS]

WHEN

October 2018

WHERE

Stimulus: Drugs, Policy, and Practice in Canada, a national drug policy and harm reduction conference. In 2018, Stimulus was held in Edmonton, Canada.

HOW

The OPS provided a monitored space within the conference facility for attendees to inject, snort, or swallow drugs and access sterile drug consumption supplies.

There were 29 visits to the OPS made by 17 conference attendees from across Canada. There were no overdose events.



Brooks, H. L., Husband, C., Taylor, M., Sherren, A., & Hyshka, E. (2020). Supporting the full participation of people who use drugs in policy fora: Provision of a temporary, conference-based overdose prevention site. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 84, 102878.