Supervised Injection Services (SIS)
A HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

What are the needs in Waterloo Region?

**OVERDOSES**

- 2016: 38 opioid related deaths in Waterloo Region
- 2017: 71 suspected overdose related deaths in Waterloo Region
- 303% increase in the number of opioid related overdose calls to Paramedic Services between 2015 and 2017

**AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS**

- 3,919 Estimated number of people who inject drugs in Waterloo Region
- 39% report accidental overdose in their lifetime
- Fentanyl is presumed responsible for the overdose in 67% OF CASES
- 60% called an ambulance
- Overdose occurred in Kitchener OR CAMBRIDGE

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

- 135 new cases of Hepatitis C in 2017
- 11 new cases of HIV/AIDS in 2017

The data presented in this infographic was extracted from the Waterloo Region Supervised Injection Services Feasibility Study, February 2018
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**Location, model, and operations**

**Number**
A minimum of **two fixed sites** in Waterloo Region was favoured.

**Location**
Sites in **Central Kitchener** and in **South Cambridge** were seen as most important.

**Model**
INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICE providing other health and social supports including:
- first aid
- education on safer injection
- providing and disposing of sterile injection supplies
- distributing naloxone
- referrals to other health and social services
- access to treatment when ready

**Hours**
**OPEN 24/7** or **OPEN 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Most commonly injected drugs** in the last six months were:
- Crystal meth 45%
- Multiple drug combinations 15%
- Hydros 9%

48% of survey respondents inject drugs daily.

40% of people who took a drug they believe was laced, were trying to take crystal meth.

146 people who inject drugs were surveyed.

Average age was 37.

27% 73%
What are the concerns and how might those be addressed?

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

- Safety of their children or dependents, service users, and community as a whole.
- Impact on neighbourhoods (e.g. property values, crime, and needle litter).
- Supervised injection services could lead to more illicit drug use.
- Lack of treatment options available.

**STRATEGIES FROM THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS CONCERNS**

- **Improving communication** about the process to consider supervised injection services.
- **Educating the community** on addiction, mental health, and harm reduction to build understanding and reduce stigma.
- **Creating an advisory group** to oversee and respond to issues that may arise during implementation of supervised injection services.

For more information or a full report call 519-575-4400 or visit www.regionofwaterloo.ca/ph.

To request an alternate format of this document, call 519-575-4400 or TTY: 519-575-4608.