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The Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM) supports supervised consumption services (SCS) and recognizes their important role in addiction care. CSAM is a national society of medical professionals and scientists committed to helping Canadians understand addiction and recover with dignity from substance use disorders. We support evidence-based practice in all four pillars of addiction care including harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and enforcement. We support the implementation and continued operation of SCS across Canada as an evidence-based harm reduction strategy that saves lives, reduces the health and social consequences of substance use, and improves access to care for people who use drugs.

Canada continues to face an opioid poisoning emergency. Between 2016 and 2024, over 47,000 people died of opioid overdose. Amidst this ongoing public health crisis, SCS, including overdose prevention sites (OPS), have emerged as a vital component of the national response. SCS are regulated health facilities where people are monitored by trained staff while using pre-obtained substances. Staff are available to provide education, support, resources, and emergency medical care for drug poisoning events.

Sites vary across the country in terms of services offered. For example, most are not equipped for inhalation, despite shifts in drug use. Community engagement and treatment connections also vary but are important ways sites should provide further support. Even with these limitations, the benefits of SCS are supported by robust peer-reviewed research.

**CSAM's mission is to advance the understanding and treatment of substance use disorders, and to provide hope and dignity for all touched by addiction. Supervised Consumption Services are a life-saving, evidence-based component of Canada's response to the toxic drug crisis as part of the pillar of harm reduction, and alongside prevention, treatment, and enforcement. CSAM urges all levels of government, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders to support the expansion and destigmatization of these critical services.**

#### **Key benefits of SCS include:**

- **Reduction in overdose deaths:** Multiple studies have shown that SCS significantly reduce overdose mortality in surrounding communities (Marshall et al., 2011; Kennedy et al., 2017, Rammohan et al., 2024).
- **Decreased transmission of infectious diseases:** SCS reduce the spread of blood-borne infections such as HIV and hepatitis C by providing sterile equipment and safer injection education (Potier et al., 2014, Killion et al., 2024).
- **Community benefits:** SCS do not promote or increase drug use. Research shows that public drug use and crime levels remain the same or decrease in areas surrounding these services. (Wood et al., 2005, Dow-Fleisner et al., 2022, Werb et al., 2025).
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Economic analyses demonstrate that SCS provide significant cost savings by preventing overdose deaths and reducing the burden on emergency services and hospitals (Bayoumi & Zaric, 2008, Andresen & Boyd, 2010, Khair et al., 2022).
- **Improved access to care and treatment:** SCS serve as a critical point of contact for marginalized individuals, facilitating entry into detoxification, treatment, and primary health care (Wood et al., 2006, Kerr et al., 2005, Kerman et al., 2020, Levengood et al., 2021).

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