SUMMARY

ALMOST HALF OF SUPERVISED INJECTION FACILITY USERS RECEIVE SAFER INJECTION EDUCATION FROM NURSES AT THE FACILITY

BACKGROUND & METHOD

- Recent research shows that nurses at Vancouver’s supervised injection facility, known as Insite, are providing safer injection education to almost half (48%) of Insite users.
- However, this research also shows that a high proportion of Insite users do not consistently engage in safer injecting behaviours, making them vulnerable to HIV infection and other injection–related health consequences.
- These findings support calls for ongoing expansion of safer injection education initiatives.
- Researchers followed a group of 1,087 Insite users over a one-year period.

QUICK FACT

THE STUDY FOUND PERSISTENT LEVELS OF SAFER INJECTION BEHAVIOURS AMONG PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING USING CLEAN INJECTING SUPPLIES.

FINDINGS

- The study found persistent levels of safer injection behaviours among participants, including using clean injecting supplies, safer drug preparation practices, and safer injecting techniques.
- They also found that women were more than one and a half times more likely than men to receive safer injection education at Insite.
- Other findings associated with a greater likelihood of receiving safer injection education included: experiencing difficulty in accessing clean syringes, needing help to inject, binge drug use, frequent use of Insite, and injecting in public.
- Older Insite users were found to be less likely than younger users to receive safer injection education.

IMPLICATIONS

- This research supports previous studies showing that nurses at Insite are reaching the highest risk users and that many of the participants continue to engage in unsafe injection behaviours.
- These findings provide clear evidence to support the ongoing need for safer injection education to reduce injection drug-related health consequences for people who use Insite.
- This study provides part of a foundation upon which future evaluations of safer injection education and other nursing harm reduction interventions can contribute to a greater understanding of the impact of nursing harm reduction practice for people who use drugs.
- The study authors call for further research to more closely examine the extent to which people who use injection drugs and receive safer injection education engage in safer injecting practices.