



FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND STUDY SHOWS SUPERVISED INJECTION FACILITIES CAN HELP PEOPLE QUIT DRUGS

BACKGROUND & METHOD

- Since opening in September 2003, Vancouver's supervised injection facility (Insite) has provided a safe health-focused centre where people may inject pre-obtained illegal drugs under the supervision of nurses.
- Despite the many benefits of Insite, there has been some concern that the program may enable drug use.
- This study was conducted to find out whether Insite helps people stop injecting drugs.
- Over a period of two and a half years, we interviewed 902 Insite clients. We asked them about their drug use and their use of Insite. We also measured whether these individuals met with addictions counsellors at Insite, and whether they went into addiction treatment (including detox).

QUICK FACT

*THERE EXISTS A LINK BETWEEN
INSITE USE, ADDICTION
TREATMENT, AND STOPPING
INJECTION DRUG USE.*

FINDINGS

- During our study, 95 of the study participants reported quitting injection drug use for at least six months.
- Insite clients who had contact with addictions counsellors at Insite were more likely to go into addiction treatment—and those who went into addiction treatment were more likely to stop injecting drugs.
- Among participants who reported quitting injecting, 78% were recently enrolled in some form of addiction treatment.
- The study also found that Aboriginal participants were less likely to enter addiction treatment.

IMPLICATIONS

- Supervised injection facilities such as Vancouver's Insite connect clients with addiction treatment.
- By connecting clients with addiction treatment, Insite helped increase the chance of stopping injection drug use.
- Engaging with Aboriginal people who use drugs to determine why this group is not fully benefiting from addiction treatments should be a public health priority.

DeBeck K, Kerr T, Bird L, Zhang R, Marsh D, Tyndall M, Montaner J, Wood E. **Injection drug use cessation and use of North America's first medically supervised safer injecting facility.** *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 2011; 113(2-3): 172-176.

