



VANCOUVER'S SUPERVISED INJECTING SITE PROMOTING CONDOM USE

BACKGROUND & METHOD

- Injection drug users are at an increased risk for becoming infected with sexually transmitted infections such as syphilis and HIV. Since condoms are an effective way to reduce the risk of these diseases, programs that promote their use may be effective at preventing future outbreaks among injection drug users.
- From 2003 to 2005, researchers asked more than a thousand injection drug users who used Insite, Vancouver's supervised injecting site, about how often they used condoms with their sex partners.

QUICK FACT

CLIENTS WHO ACCESSED MEDICAL CARE FROM NURSES AT INSITE WERE MORE LIKELY TO USE CONDOMS THAN THOSE WHO DID NOT.

FINDINGS

- The study found that, while consistent condom use was low at the beginning of 2003, by the end of 2005 it had increased by 30% among those with regular partners and by 13% among those who were single or casually dating.
- Clients who accessed medical care from nurses at Insite were also more likely to use condoms as compared to those who did not.

IMPLICATIONS

- The researchers also found that the majority of Insite clients who are HIV-positive used condoms with their sex partners. This finding suggests that HIV-positive injection drug users appear to be taking important steps to reduce their risk of transmitting HIV, as well as other sexually transmitted infections, to others.
- This study is the first in North America to show that supervised injecting facilities such as Insite can support safer sex practices by providing condoms to its clients.
- By providing condoms along with clean injection equipment to users of the facility, Insite may be reducing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in the community.

Marshall BDL, Wood E, Zhang R, Tyndall MW, Montaner JSG, Kerr T. **Condom use among injection drug users accessing a supervised injecting facility.** *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 2009; 85(2): 121-126.

