



## 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.

Wood RA, Wood E, Lai C, Tyndall, MW, Montaner JSG, Kerr T. **Nurse-delivered safer injection education among a cohort of injection drug users: Evidence from the evaluation of Vancouver's supervised injection facility.** *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2008; 19(3): 183-188.

