



Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre

What are Consumption and Treatment Services?

They are a lifeguard stations for drug use.

They are a safe, hygienic environment for people to consume pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of trained and qualified staff in the case of an overdose.

They provide sterile injection supplies, education, overdose prevention and intervention, nursing staff, among other services & referrals. The Consumption and Treatment Service connects our clients to social navigators, housing supports, employment supports, as well as, addictions counselling & mental health counselling.

The Consumption and Treatment Service provides low barrier, lifesaving service to address the opioid crisis which has affected the Hamilton area quite rapidly.

What are the benefits of a CTS?

- Reducing the number of drug overdoses
- Reducing the risk factors leading to infectious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis, educating clients to safe practices, and provide sharps bins containers
- Reducing the strain on Emergency Departments, thus reducing the cost of health care services
- Enabling access to & increasing the use of detox & drug treatment services
- Connecting people with other health & social services
- Providing safe sites to inject
- Providing education about opioid tolerance & risk of overdosing
- Reducing the number of publicly discarded needles
- 253 needles were collected by staff in the surrounding area of the Centre in March 2021

Crime Rates

Based on peer-reviewed empirical research, there has been no evidence linking the presence of Consumption & Treatments Services and increased criminal activity in the surrounding areas.

-Source: Livingston, J.D. Supervised consumption sites and crime: scrutinizing the methodological weaknesses and aberrant results of a government report in Alberta, Canada. *Harm Reduction J* **18**, 4 (2021).

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Consumption and Treatment Service 2020

Total # of Client Visits in 2020: 26,949

The CTS is part of an overall harm reduction strategy— connecting people to the services they need, when and where they need them.



of Individual Clients by Gender



1,872



4,410

In 2020, **184** people under the age of 25 visited the CTS, and **4,702** individuals between the ages of **25** and **64** visited the CTS. **18** people over the age of **65** used the service.

Know the Signs of an Opioid Overdose

- Blue lips or nails
- Dizziness and confusion
- Can't be woken up
- Choking, gurgling or snoring sounds
- Slow, weak or no breathing
- Drowsiness or difficulty staying awake

Suspect an Overdose?

Call 911 or your local emergency number
Administer naloxone if you have it
Stay with the person until help arrives

How are we doing?

Total # of Overdose events in 2020: 125

of overdoses requiring naloxone: **74**

of calls to EMS: **21**

Total Harm Reduction Service Visits

15,854

Total # of deaths occurring at the CTS: 0

Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) provides supervised injection services.

We offer a safe environment, counseling, referral, connection to services & supports as well as harm reduction education & supplies,

and immediate support in the event of an overdose.

Prevent Overdose. Save Lives.