

Overdose Prevention Centers: Health Impacts

Overdose prevention centers are predominately used to avoid bad health outcomes. This includes avoiding overdose death, but it also includes preventative health measures. Things like getting a wound treated or seeking treatment for other ailments. It looks like getting new supplies so that you don't re-use needles and spread disease.

People with living experience reported wanting to use an OPC to protect their health.

over
93%

of respondents said they would use an OPC to:

- Access compassionate overdose response
- Access overdose prevention education
- To see health professionals like doctors & nurses
- Get referrals for treatment and social services
- Access to new syringe and smoking supplies

The research shows that they can receive those services and that these centers are effective at promoting good health outcomes. A study from Vancouver showed 42% of OPC participants not enrolled in treatment prior to the study enrolled in treatment after 2 years.¹

A study from France that looked at users of an overdose prevention center found in one year: ²



67%

decrease in overdoses amongst those who used the OPC



59%

decrease in reported emergency department visits



79%

decrease in reported abscesses