

7.1 & 7.2



SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES:

Assessing Need and Feasibility in Hamilton

City of Hamilton Board of Health
December 4, 2017

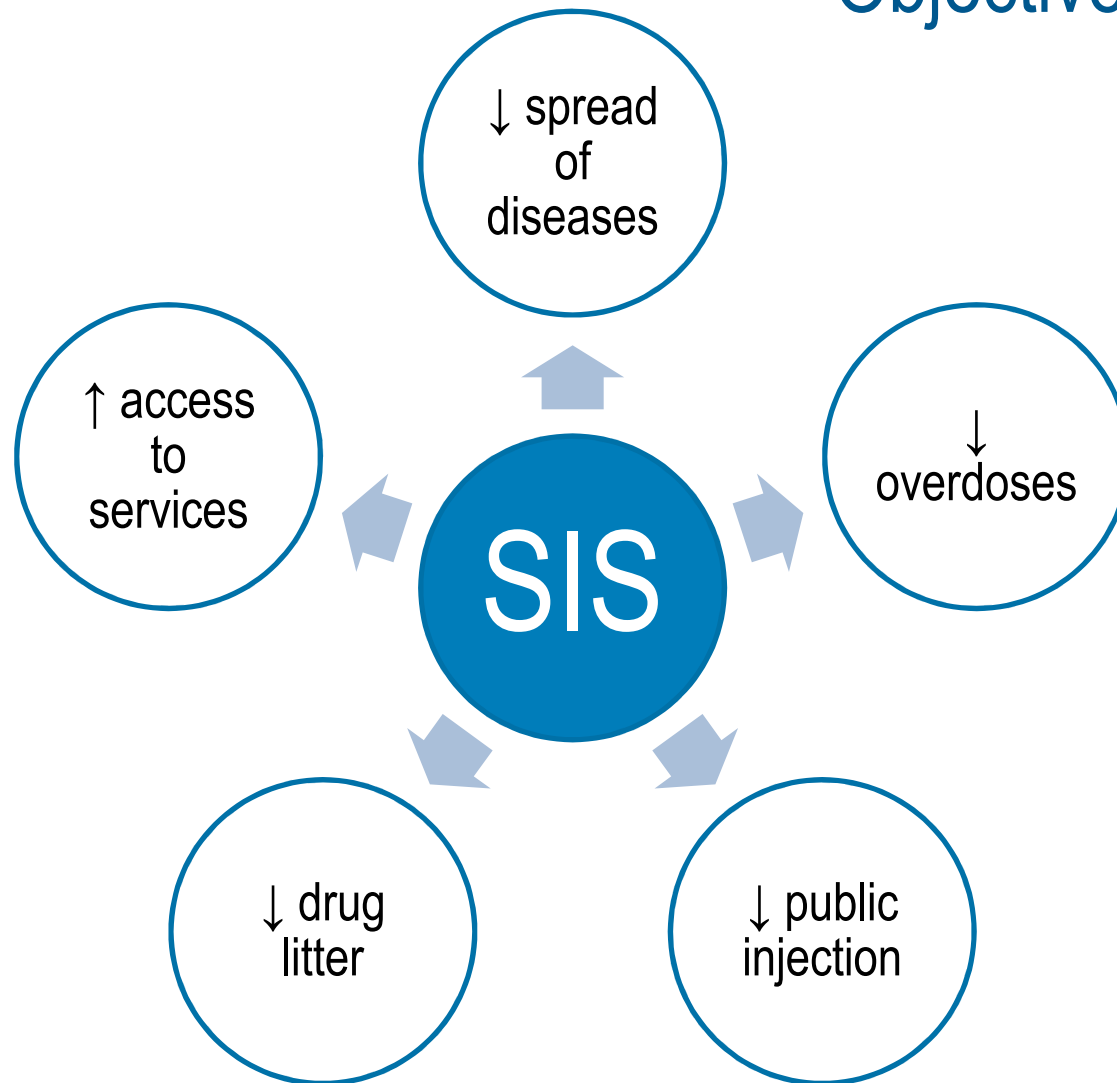
SISs Supervised Injection Sites

- Legally sanctioned locations
- People can bring drugs and inject them

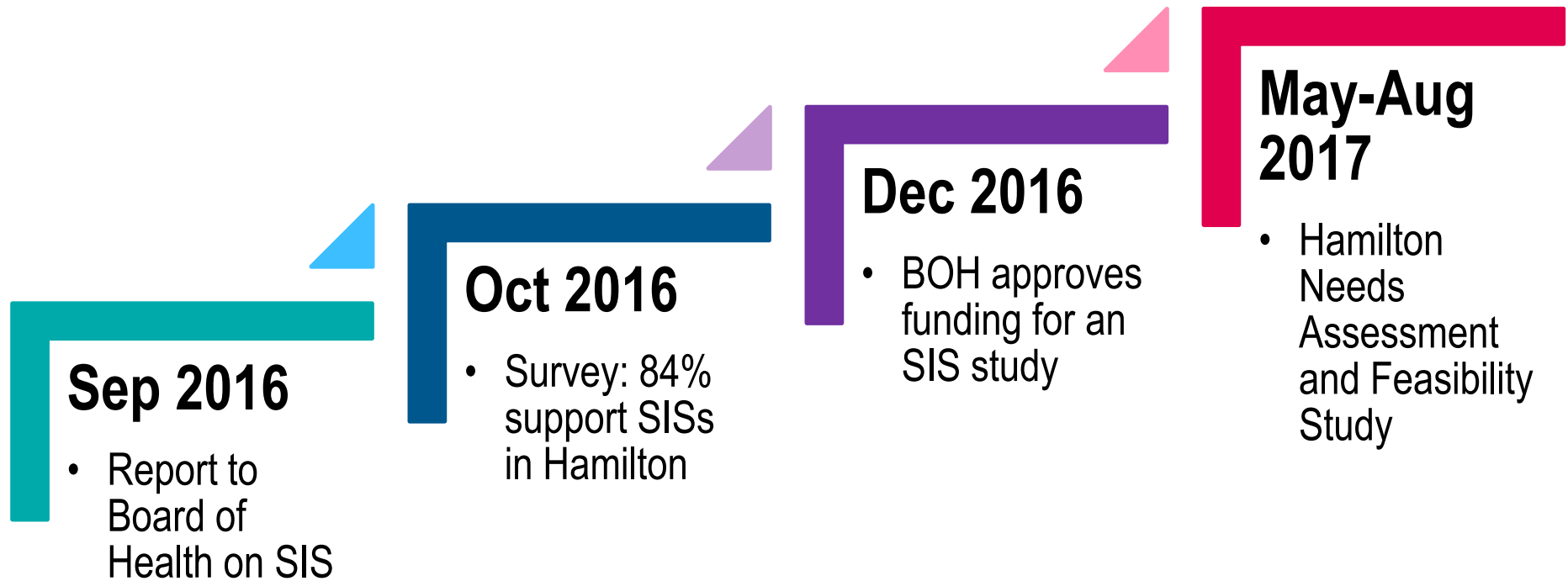
SCSs Supervised Consumption Sites

- Broader term
- People can inject, ingest, and/or inhale drugs

Objectives of an SIS



SIS Journey in Hamilton



Models of SIS



Stand-alone



Integrated



Mobile outreach

SISs in Canada

15 SIS currently offering services*

- Vancouver (3)
- Kamloops
- Kelowna
- Surrey (2)
- Calgary (interim)
- Toronto
- Ottawa (2; 1 interim)
- Montreal (4)



* As of December 1, 2017

SIS Study Objectives

1

To determine the need for one or more supervised injection sites (SISs) in Hamilton

2

To determine the feasibility of SISs for Hamilton, including the recommended number, location(s), and model type

3

To involve the community and stakeholders in consultation

SIS Study Overview

Quantitative (Numbers)

Crime Data

Health Data

Qualitative (Opinions)

Key Informant
Interviews
(27)

Surveys (106)

Focus Groups
(10)

Needs in Hamilton

Health Data Findings



In **2016**, there were **43 reported opioid-related accidental deaths** that occurred in Hamilton.

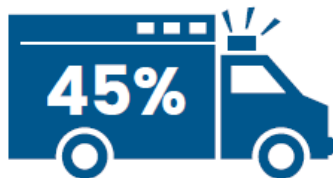


Between **January and August 2017** there were **235 paramedic responses** to suspected **opioid overdoses**.

PWID Survey Findings



Nearly half of respondents experienced an overdose in their lifetime.



Among those respondents who had overdosed in the past, only **45%** had an ambulance called.

Needs in Hamilton



In **2016**, there were **230** newly diagnosed hepatitis C cases in Hamilton.



47% of individuals diagnosed with hepatitis C reported injection drug use behaviour.



In **2016**, **1.2 million needles** were distributed by Hamilton's Needle Syringe Program, double the amount distributed in **2012**.

Needs in Hamilton

Most frequently reported injected drugs



A third of surveyed participants reported injecting drugs daily.



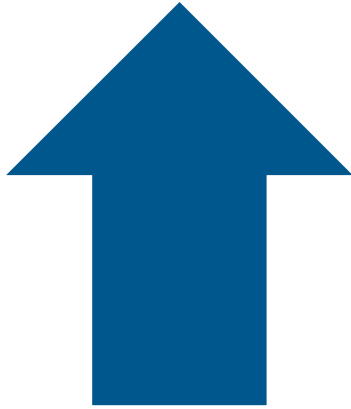
Two thirds of respondents reported injecting drugs in a public or semi-public place in the past six months.



In the past six months,

84% of respondents reported injecting alone.

Perceived benefits of SIS



- Safety
- Health and wellbeing
- Access to services
- Awareness



- Overdoses
- Injection drug litter
- Injection with used needles
- Stigma
- Use of health and social services

Perceived concerns of SIS



Neighbourhood safety



Social perception of an SIS



Location concerns



Concerns among users of not wanting to be seen, anonymity, and a fear of a lack of confidentiality

Acceptability of SIS



of PWID survey participants would use an SIS in Hamilton.

9% said they would maybe use an SIS, and **11%** would not use an SIS.



Common reasons for using an SIS were: access to clean injection equipment, prevention of overdoses, and ability to inject indoors.



Most participants believed that overdoses, injection drug litter, and injection with used needles would be reduced if an SIS were implemented in Hamilton.

Recommended Model



One or more integrated sites

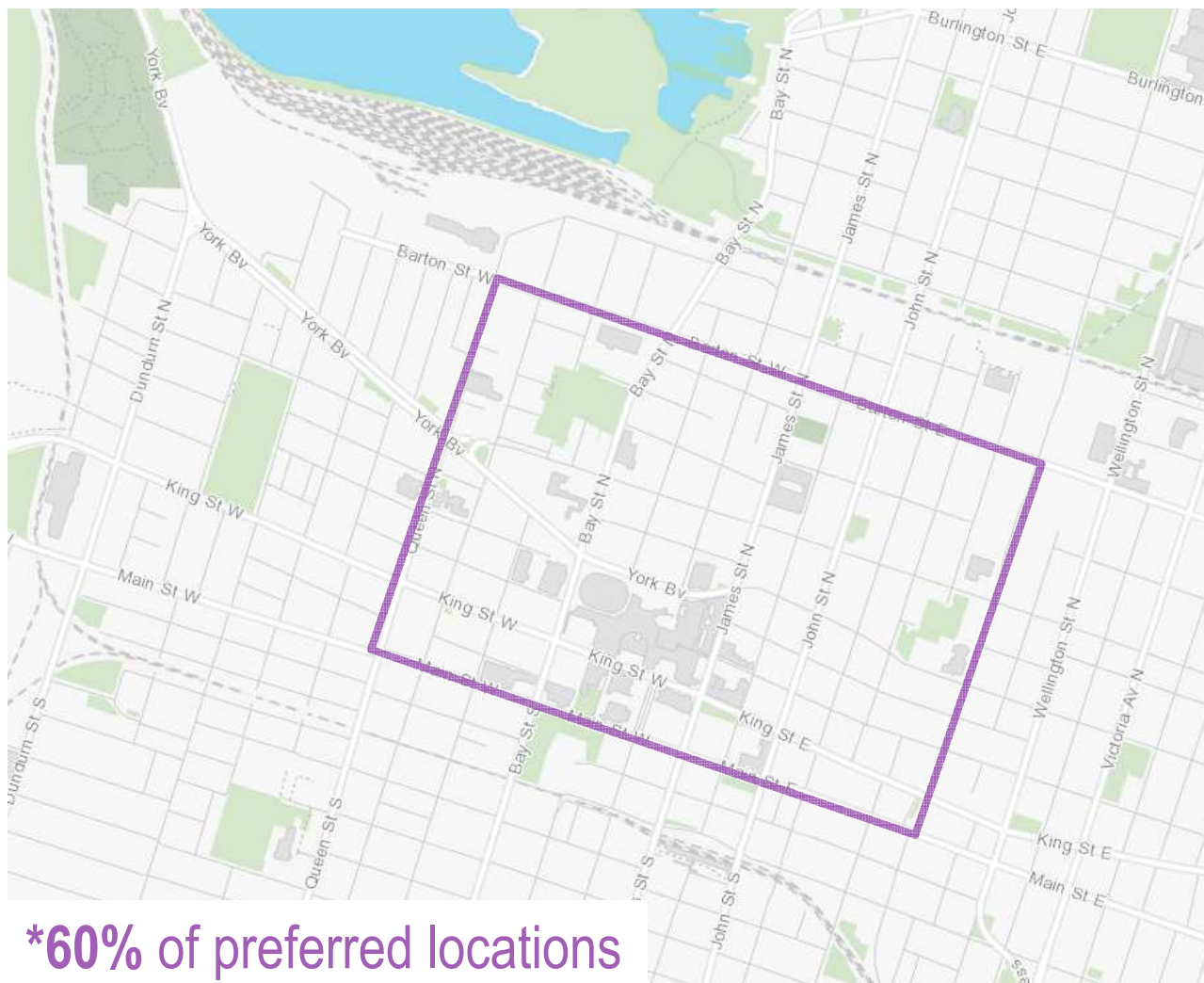
- Integrated within an existing service agency
- With wrap-around services



Preferred hours (7 days / week)

- 8 am – noon
- 8 pm – midnight

Recommended Location



*60% of preferred locations

SIS Study Recommendations

1

- **Hamilton would benefit from one or more supervised injection sites.**

2

- **Hamilton should implement one integrated supervised injection site located in the area flanked by Queen Street (west), Barton Street (north), Ferguson Avenue (east) and Main Street (south).**

3

- **Additional integrated sites should be considered based on implementation of the first site, monitoring for need, and the interest and willingness of service providers and users to have additional locations.**

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SIS Study Recommendations

4

- **Geographic areas outside of Hamilton's downtown core could be serviced with a mobile supervised injection site.**

5

- **Implementation and evaluation plans should be developed by the lead service agency for the SIS in consultation with other service providers, potential clients, and the community.**



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES IN HAMILTON

City of Hamilton Board of Health
December 4, 2017

Legal Context for SISs in Canada

Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)

- **Section 56.1** – Exemption to run an SIS
 - Public health benefits
 - Social & community impacts
 - Community support



Health
Canada

Sant 
Canada

Recommendations for BOH

a

The Board of Health express support for community organizations submitting an exemption application to operate an SIS, if:

- Aligns with study recommendations
- Includes practices, policies and procedures to ensure community safety and order
- Includes plans for ongoing community engagement and evaluation

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Recommendations for BOH

b

The Board of Health endorse all recommendations of the Hamilton Supervised Injection Site Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study report

- One or more integrated SIS located in the downtown area
- Consider additional sites based on need
- Implementation and evaluation to be developed by the lead service agency

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C Endorse Public Health Services to support an SIS(s)

- Support for harm reduction services
- Staff support

Future Financial & Staffing Implications

- BOH is not currently being asked for costs to run an SIS

Legal & Policy Implications

- **Legal counsel** should be obtained by any organization looking to operate an SIS
- **Nursing scope:** The College of Nurses of Ontario confirms that activities related to supervised injection are part of the nursing scope of practice
- **Zoning:** Any organization applying to operate an SIS would need to ensure that it is located in an area that is appropriately zoned and in compliance with applicable by-laws



THANK YOU



QUESTIONS?