

Good day Board of health city council Hamilton, today I'm speaking on behalf of anti-od.org, the non profit organization I founded. Namely about what I spoke previously last March 2019. This delegation meeting I'm speaking In regards to the AIDS network of Hamilton which distributes clean needles, collects dirty ones and hands out condoms to reduce a great deal of disease. I'm also speaking in regards to the urban core safe injection site which monitors roughly 900 visits each month, where their monitoring has reduced overdoses greatly and helped addicts seek out recovery when they're ready.

What I'm proposing is that each the AIDS network and urban core safe injection site receive funding for fentanyl test strips. Test strips would give users of every nature the opportunity to safely test their narcotics for fentanyl, and fentanyl analogues. Test strips cost only a dollar or so and can be bought in bulk. Test strips can detect any powder or liquid narcotic.

A naloxone needle costs around \$5-25 dollars and the nasal spray \$125 dollars for two doses.

So far in 2019 12,843 narcan kits I Hamilton alone, have been distributed, reviving 1,612 lives.

Comparatively in 2018 6,412 naloxone kits were distributed and 568 lives were revided.

The number of overdoses is steadily doubling each year and few preventative measures are being taken seriously to prevent further overdoses from fentanyl.

Paramedics responded to 516 calls for opioid related overdoses.

In 2018 123 Hamilton residents died of opidoids

In 2018 Hamilton's opioid related deaths are 109% higher than the provinces average.

People are going to use narcotics no matter the legality; and people are dying every day from drug overdoses that aren't being properly addressed.

You, the board of health have the opportunity to make a difference, make a change in the urban core and Hamilton as a whole. The nation will take notice of our triumphs and perhaps one day follow suit, all I ask is that you consider the weight of ignoring the issue and how many more lives will be lost if fentanyl test strips are not provided to users of every creed and culture. To help addicts we can reduce stigma for the urban core and the AIDS network, help people receive trauma therapy and help them receive care to clinics and half way houses people can get better in.

Since the AIDS network is not a safe injection site, the government will not pay for their test kits, you the city have the opportunity to provide funding in order to reach out to thousands of individuals.

I leave you with a quote;

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." Martin Luther King Jr.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to ask any questions.