SISs provide a clean and supervised space for people who inject drugs, connect them to resources, and save lives by decreasing fatal overdose. Community members and stakeholders provided input on the benefits and drawbacks of SISs, and how the addition of an SIS could best serve Hamilton.

**80% of people who inject drugs would use an SIS**

**Benefits**

- Safety for people who inject drugs and general community
- Health and well-being for people who inject drugs
- Access to health care and social services
- Awareness of current drug issues & harm reduction
- Number of overdoses
- Injection drug litter
- Injection with used needles
- Use of emergency, health and social services

**Drawbacks**

- People who inject drugs not wanting to be seen & fears related to confidentiality
- Social perception of an SIS encouraging illicit drug use
- Concern for neighbourhood safety & "not in my backyard"

**Top 5 Reasons for using an SIS among people who inject drugs in Hamilton**

1. **Prevention of overdoses**
   - Nearly 1 in 2 report accidental overdose in their lifetime - less than half had an ambulance called

2. **Ability to inject indoors**
   - 2 in 3 report injecting in a public place at least 1x in the last 6 months

3. **Ability to see health professionals**
   - Access to primary care, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, referrals to rehab and treatment services when ready

4. **Ability to treat overdoses**
   - 4 in 5 report injecting alone

5. **Access to clean injection equipment**
   - 1 in 8 injected with needles used by someone else

Source: Information gathered from Hamilton’s Supervised Injection Site Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study (2017). For more information visit www.hamilton.ca/SIS