

**CONSUMPTION AND TREATMENT
SERVICES SITE-SPECIFIC
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT
(2022)**



WINDSOR-ESSEX
COMMUNITY
**OPIOID &
SUBSTANCE**
STRATEGY

Executive Summary

The Local Opioid & Drug Overdose Crisis

Over the last five years, opioid and drug-related morbidity and mortality trends have continued to rise at alarming rates across Windsor-Essex County (WEC):

- ✚ **416 opioid-related emergency department visits** were reported in WEC for 2021, which is 58 more than those reported for in 2020 (358) and nearly quadrupled from those reported for in 2016 (108).^{1 2}
- ✚ **68 opioid-related deaths** were reported locally in 2020, which represents the highest number of annual opioid deaths in WEC since reporting began in 2005.² These upward trends are expected to continue into the year of 2021, with **33 opioid-related mortalities** recorded in the first seven months of the annual period alone (January to July).¹

In response to the worsening opioid and drug overdose crisis in WEC, the *Windsor-Essex Community Opioid & Substance Strategy* (WECOSS) has moved forward with a project to implement a **Consumption & Treatment Services (CTS)** facility in the City of Windsor.

What is a CTS Facility?

- ✚ A **harm reduction strategy** aimed at reducing the risks associated with substance use and preventing opioid-related injuries and deaths in the community
- ✚ A **legally operated, indoor facility** where people come to use their own pre-obtained substances under safe conditions, with the supervision of medically trained workers, and with on-site access and/or referrals to basic medical care, social services, and mental health/substance use treatment

[Research in Canada](#) shows that supervised consumption services (SCS) (referred to as consumption and treatment services under the *Ontario Ministry of Health* model) can have many health and social benefits for both people who use substances and the larger community and can help to **save lives**.³

Did We Consult the Community?

Yes. In 2018 and 2019, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) conducted a series of community consultations to gather feedback from members of the community about the overall feasibility and need for a Supervised Injection Services (SIS) facility (now referred to as CTS facilities under the *Ontario Ministry of Health* model) in WEC. Key findings outlined in the [SIS Community Consultations Report](#) demonstrated local support for an SIS in the City of Windsor:⁴

- ✚ **61%** of community members who responded to the online survey said that an SIS would be helpful to WEC (2520 responses in total).
- ✚ A **majority** of survey respondents who identified as a person who injected drugs said that they would consider using a local SIS if it were available (**71%** said “**yes**”; **7%** said “**maybe**”) (99 responses in total).
- ✚ **Many** of the respondents thought that the area of the downtown core in Windsor would be a well-served location for a local SIS.

¹ Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. Personal communication with the Epidemiology and Evaluation Department. January 21st, 2022.

² Public Health Ontario (PHO). Interactive Opioid Tool – Opioid Related Morbidity and Mortality in the Geographic Area of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-opioid-tool>. Accessed April 14th, 2022.

³ Health Canada. (2022). Supervised consumption sites and services: Explained. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/supervised-consumption-sites/explained.html>.

⁴ Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. (2019). *Supervised Injection Services Community Consultations Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.wechu.org/sis-community-consultation-reports>.

CTS Site Selection & Application Process

Subsequent to the release of the *SIS Community Consultations Report*, the WECHU, with the support of the *CTS Stakeholder Advisory Committee*, determined two candidate locations for a potential CTS in the City of Windsor’s downtown core – [101 Wyandotte Street East](#) & [628 Goyeau Street](#).

How Were the Candidate Locations Selected?

- ✚ An extensive consultation and communication process with local property owners
- ✚ With adherence to the mandatory site requirements outlined in the *Health Canada* and *Ontario Ministry of Health* application documents for the creation and approval of a local CTS/SCS, as well as to complementary eligibility criteria established by the *CTS Stakeholder Advisory Committee*
- ✚ Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Audits conducted by the Windsor Police Service in 2021 found that both of the candidate sites would lend themselves sufficiently to establishing manageable “Safe Consumption Zones”⁵

The CTS Site-Specific Community Consultation

As such, the WECOSS launched a site-specific community consultation on June 17th of 2021 to gather feedback from members of the community about the overall feasibility and acceptability of establishing a potential CTS at either of the candidate locations. The input collected through the community consultation would be used to inform the selection of one optimal location to submit through applications to the federal and provincial governments for approval. A four-phased, multi-pronged data collection approach was employed as part of the comprehensive community consultation plan:

- ✚ A community survey with a total of **448 survey responses**
- ✚ **13 key informant interviews** with business and agency stakeholders operating within a defined radius from the sites⁶
- ✚ **7 focus groups** with area stakeholder groups
- ✚ **3 Virtual Town Hall meetings** that allowed community members to ask questions and to voice concerns to a panel of expert speakers. In total, **53 community members** registered to participate.

What Did We Hear from the Community?

Key findings collected through the site-specific community consultations yielded local support for the creation of a potential CTS at either of the candidate locations.

Community Survey Results

- ✚ A **majority of respondents** indicated that they would **provide at least some degree of support, ranging from “very large” to “a little” support**, for a potential CTS at **628 Goyeau Street (68%)** and/or **101 Wyandotte Street East (67%)**.
- ✚ While respondents **most frequently** indicated that they would **provide equal support** for a CTS at either of the candidate locations (**39%**), **19% preferred 628 Goyeau Street**, and **13% preferred 101 Wyandotte Street East**. **Nineteen percent (19%)** indicated that they **did not support or prefer** either location.
- ✚ Of respondents who either lived, worked, owned a business, and/or went to school in the N9A FSA (inclusive of the downtown core) (N=168), **31%** equally supported both locations, **22% preferred 628 Goyeau Street**, and **14% preferred 101 Wyandotte Street East**. **Twenty-three percent (23%)** indicated that they **did not support or prefer** either location.

⁵ Windsor Police Service. (2021). Shortlisted Options – Consumption and Treatment Site. General Public-Safety Focused Review Based on CPTED Principles. Windsor, Ontario.

⁶ Note: At the time of this publication, 12 of the 13 key informants had provided their authorization to include their feedback within the final, public reporting materials in aggregate format. As such, results from one of the thirteen key informant interviews are not included within this report.

Key Informant Interview & Focus Group Results

- ✦ A **majority of key informants and focus groups** demonstrated **openness or support** towards establishing a potential CTS at one or both of the candidate sites, with very few expressing strong opposition towards either location.
- ✦ While **3** of the key informants **equally supported** both locations, **4 preferred 628 Goyeau Street**, and **3 preferred 101 Wyandotte Street East**. **Two** of the key informants expressed **strong opposition** towards either location (did not support or cite a preference for either location).
- ✦ **Five of the seven focus groups** reached a **consensus (i.e., majority will)** or a general agreement that **628 Goyeau Street** is or may be the **preferred, optimal, and/or more beneficial location** for a potential CTS in the City of Windsor's downtown core.
- ✦ The remaining **two focus groups did not reach a consensus** on a **preferred or optimal location**. At one or more points during these consultations, both of these focus groups cited that **either of the candidate locations could be sufficient** for a potential CTS, depending on the **interior and exterior design** of the spaces and/or the **ability of these spaces to accommodate the program's needs**.

Site Selection

- ✦ After extensive consultation with the *CTS Stakeholder Advisory Committee* and the property owners at both of the candidate locations, **101 Wyandotte Street East** was selected as the candidate location for a potential CTS in the City of Windsor.

Next Steps

- ✦ The WECHU, in collaboration with the *CTS Stakeholder Advisory Committee*, will seek the municipality's endorsement for the WECHU to apply for and to establish a CTS site at 101 Wyandotte Street East.
- ✦ Pending approval from the City of Windsor Council, the WECHU, in partnership with the Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre (WECHC), will submit the *Health Canada* and *Ontario Ministry of Health* applications for approval of a CTS at 101 Wyandotte Street East.
- ✦ Should the WECHU receive approval from the federal and provincial governments to establish the proposed CTS, the WECHC will assume the primary responsibilities of operating the services delivered at the site once operationalized. Pozitive Pathways Community Services (PPCS) will be responsible for embedding the PPCS Needle Syringe Program into the direct operations of the site.