

As a Concept

- i. In regions of Canada where the tainted drug supply being a significant factor in overdose deaths, safe drugs can prevent overdose death.
- ii. “Safe Supply” refers to legal and regulated drugs such as heroin and hydromorphone that perform as a substitute for illicit drugs. Unlike traditional substitution treatments, such as methadone, suboxone, and kadian, safe supply still provides the mind-altering properties that drug consumers seek in illicit drugs.
- iii. Safe supply is not just a treatment for an individual at risk of overdose, but for the systemic issues that impact individuals and increase overdose risk (criminalization, contaminated drugs).
- iv. Similar to how the Canadian government controls and distributes alcohol, providing a regulated safe supply of opioid and/or stimulant drugs reduces overdose death.
- v. People that use stimulant drugs like cocaine, crack, and methamphetamine are also at risk of overdose from fentanyl contaminants. Safe supply means providing pharmaceutical grade cocaine and methamphetamine, not just opioids.
- vi. Safe Supply means that service providers re-conceptualize safe use practices (using sterile equipment, naran) to include using a safe substance of known potency.
- vii. For it to be effective it has to be available: barriers reduce accessibility.
- viii. Safe supply is a catalyst to getting people in touch with harm reduction, housing, and healthcare services.

Distribution and Availability in Canada

- ix. Injectable heroin and hydromorphone can now legally be dispensed at supervised consumption sites and overdose prevention sites across Canada.
- x. Injectable heroin is currently only being dispensed at Vancouver’s Crosstown Clinic.
- xi. There are no federal government barriers that preclude importing bulk quantities of pharmaceutical grade heroin under the “Access to Drugs in Exceptional Circumstances Act”.
- xii. If heroin was manufactured in Canada by a pharma company it could be eligible for a Drug Identification Number (DIN), which would reduce costs to health authorities.

In Research

- xiii. Over the first six months of the SALOME study, participants received 88,000 injections of pharmaceutical grade heroin and hydromorphone and experienced only thirteen overdoses, all of which were promptly reversed by Crosstown Clinic’s medical staff.
- xiv. The British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is piloting a Health Canada-funded project that would provide people at risk of overdose access to oral hydromorphone in low barrier settings.

Injectable opioid access points in Canada

VICTORIA	Johnson Street Building	844 Johnson St.
VANCOUVER	Crosstown Clinic	84 West Hastings St.
	Pier Pharmacy	223 Main St.
	Molson Overdose Prevention Site	166 East Hastings St.
SURREY	iOAT Clinic	10697 135a St.
CALGARY	Sheldon M Chumuir Health Centre	1213 4th St. SW
OTTAWA	Good Shepherd’s of Hope	233 Murray St.

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Canada is in the midst of the most severe overdose epidemic in the nation’s history. Ten people in Canada die of overdose each day. Many of these deaths are due to contaminants in the illicit drug supply. There is a national need to replace the contaminated drug supply with safer prescription alternatives like heroin and hydromorphone.