Public Health & Safety:

- A reduction in the number of people who inject drugs in public, number of syringes dropped, and in the amount of injection-related litter.\(^1\)

- No increase in crime, violence, drug trafficking, relapse rates, or number of people who inject drugs, around the SCS.\(^2\)

Saving Lives and Money:

- A simulation of the population of Vancouver suggests that their program has contributed to the prevention of 1191 HIV infections and 54 hepatitis C virus infections, and saved over 1300 years of life and $14 million.\(^3\)

- Report estimates services could save SF $3 million\(^4\).

Engaging in Treatment:

- Among the clients who used the Vancouver SIS, 18% secondarily engaged in a detoxification program, 57% started an addiction treatment, and 23% stopped injecting drugs.\(^5\)

- One study found that in a single year the Canadian safe consumption facility made more than 2,000 referrals to community-based services: 37% were for addictions counseling, 12% for detoxification, 16% for community health centers, 4% for methadone maintenance therapy, and 3% for long-term recovery houses.\(^6\)

- Another evaluation of the Canadian safe consumption facility demonstrated that the facility “was associated with a greater than 30% increase in the rate of detoxification service use among facility users. The study even concluded that safe consumption services “helped to reduce rates of injection drug use among users of the facility.”\(^7\)

- In Australia, 1,385 referrals to assistance were provided to 577 clients during an 18-month period; the most frequent referrals were for drug treatment (43%), in particular buprenorphine maintenance treatment (13%), detoxification programs (10%), and methadone maintenance treatment (9%).\(^8\)

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\(^7\) E Wood et al., “Rate of detoxification service use and its impact among a cohort of supervised injection facility users,” *Addiction* 102(2007): 918.

\(^8\) MSIC Evaluation Committee, *Final Report of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre* (Sydney, Australia: Authors, 2003).
In the news:

  - “After shooting up in public places, people often leave behind dirty needles, posing a health hazard. In response, some groups have called for supervised injection facilities, like those in Canada and Europe, where people can inject themselves under medical supervision. The goal is to keep them from overdosing and to curb infectious diseases.”

- **Two maps that illustrate California’s growing opioid epidemic** - The Sacramento Bee, January 22, 2016
  - “About 4,500 Californians died following drug poisoning in 2014, up by 1,500, or 50 percent, from 2002. The age adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths rose almost 30 percent during the same period.”

- **Heroin kills thousands of people every year. Here’s a controversial solution that could change that** - The Washington Post, March 08, 2016
  - “Findings, however, have been encouraging,’ found a study published in the Drug and Alcohol Review, published in 2000. ‘In some areas public nuisance has been minimized, the number of overdose deaths and complications from non-fatal overdoses have decreased, risk behavior has decreased and health and social functioning of clients have improved.’”
  - Daly remembers the first weeks at the injection site named Insite. It was 2003. And Vancouver, with cooperation with local authorities, had just given the community’s addicts permission to come to the facility and use drugs. People swarmed the system. More than 800 injections occurred every day. Sometimes, it was more than 1,000. But then something unexpected happened. Rather than encouraging more drug abuse, the environs surrounding the site suddenly emptied of it. ‘As soon as it opened, the public order improved,’ (Patricia) Daly (chief medical health officer at Vancouver Coastal Health) recalled. ‘Fewer discarded needles and a reduction in overdoses … and open drug use.’”

- **See where California’s heroin, opioid problems are worst** - The Sacramento Bee, August 17, 2015
  - “California hospitals treated more than 11,500 patients suffering an opioid or heroin overdose in 2013, new state figures show. That’s roughly one overdose every 45 minutes. It’s also up more than 50 percent from 2006.”
  - “Hospitals in rural superior California see the highest rate of opioid overdoses. Between 2006 and 2013, Shasta County hospitals saw more than 1,100 overdose, or eight overdoses per 10,000 residents, more than triple the statewide average.”