

# Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction: Community Survey

## Purpose

The Windsor-Essex Community Opioid and Substance Use Strategy (WECOSS) is a network of local organizations working together to reduce the harms associated with substance use in our community, using a 4-pillar based approach to implement relevant interventions at the community level. The WECOSS' harm reduction pillar is conducting an evaluation to identify opportunities to improve awareness of and access to harm reduction services and programs in Windsor-Essex County.

Harm Reduction is an evidenced based, client-centred approach that aims to reduce the health, social and economic harms associated with substance use. It respects the rights of those who use substances and may increase awareness regarding lower risk use. The approach also works to reduce the spread of communicable diseases, prevent overdose harms and deaths, increase contact with healthcare providers, and reduce consumption of unregulated substances in unsafe settings. Examples include Needle Syringe Programs that distribute new, unused supplies for people who use substances, Opioid agonist therapies, and Supervised Consumption Services , which provide a safe place for individuals to use pre-obtained substances under the supervision of trained staff to reduce the harmful effects of the toxic street drug supply.

This survey aims to gauge service providers' understanding of harm reduction and substance use, people who use substances, and related topics. The findings will help support community partners, strengthen collaboration, guide resource mobilization to reduce substance-related harms, address misconceptions about harm reduction and inform the development of inclusive, trauma informed policies, for people who use substances.

To learn more about WECOSS and their Harm Reduction initiatives, visit [www.wecoss.ca](http://www.wecoss.ca)

## Notice of Collection and Disclaimers

This survey will take about 5-7 minutes to complete. Participation in the survey is voluntary, and all responses will be kept private and confidential. Your individual

responses will only be seen by WECHU staff and students involved directly in the project. Your responses will not have any identifying information attached to them.

By completing this survey, you provide your permission to allow us to use your responses in all final reporting materials and publications to help develop and implement public health strategies aimed at addressing substance use harm locally. Final reporting materials may be shared with local stakeholders, partners, community leaders, and the general community. Summary reports may also be made available through the WECHU/WECOSS websites, as well as other applicable online platforms. Information in connection with your survey responses is stored by the WECHU on secure servers and/or locked cabinets.

Information in connection with your survey responses are governed by the LimeSurvey Terms of Use (<https://www.limesurvey.org/en/terms-conditions>). Survey data may remain on WECHU servers for up to 6 years following the completion of the project. All information on WECHU servers is subject to the laws of jurisdiction in Canada. You may keep this page for your records.

There are 9 questions in this survey.

## Demographic Questions

To help us better understand your perspectives, we kindly ask that you provide some demographic information. Your responses will be kept confidential and used solely for statistical purposes. Thank you for your contribution.

**Organization name (optional):**

Please write your answer here:

## What type of sector or industry do you work in? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Harm Reduction
- Justice and Enforcement
- Education
- Healthcare
- Social assistance
- Housing and shelter
- Public administration

## Are you currently accessing or have previously accessed any substance use treatment, harm reduction, or support services? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

In your life, have you had friends , family members or colleagues whose substance use has negatively impacted their lives? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

Yes

No

## Evaluation Questions

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements. \*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
<b>I feel confident in my understanding of harm reduction and its value as a best practice approach for reducing substance-related harms</b>	<input type="radio"/>				
<b>Having received naloxone training in the past, I feel confident administering naloxone to someone who has overdosed</b>	<input type="radio"/>				
<b>Substance use disorders are not attributed to moral character</b>	<input type="radio"/>				
<b>Medication (e.g., methadone, suboxone) can be an effective option for treating substance use disorder.</b>	<input type="radio"/>				
<b>People who use substances and choose to reduce rather than eliminate their use are</b>	<input type="radio"/>				

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
<b>taking an important step toward improving their well-being</b>					
<b>Harm reduction measures are valuable in supporting individuals' health and well-being, regardless of whether they lead to abstinence.</b>	<input type="radio"/>				

There are a variety of programs that can help reduce overdose in communities. Please read the descriptions of these various programs below and indicate how much you oppose or support each type of program. \*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	<b>Strongly Support</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>
<p><b>Harm reduction programs (e.g., supervised consumption services , naloxone programs) aim to minimize drug-related harm, reduce deaths, and prevent disease transmission while connecting individuals to healthcare and recovery services. Do you support these strategies?</b></p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Needle syringe programs provide education surrounding wound and abscess care, safer injection information and risk reduction strategies, while also providing clients with new, unused supplies that can support safer use</b></p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	<b>Strongly Support</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>
<p><b>of substances (e.g., glass pipes, cookers, needles, plastic tubing, etc.). Are you in support of the existing needle syringe program in your community to help people who use substances?</b></p>					
<p><b>A safe supply program provides prescribed, pharmaceutical-grade alternatives to toxic street drugs for people who use substances. The goal is to reduce the risk of overdose, illness, and death caused by contaminated or unpredictable drug supplies. Would you support the implementation of a safe supply program in Windsor-Essex County?</b></p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Does your community agency or organization have one of the following policies in place ? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- A harm reduction policy
- An anti-stigma policy
- Both a harm reduction policy and anti-stigma policy
- No

## Are there areas where the current policy could be improved? Please describe. \*

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'A harm reduction policy ' or 'An anti-stigma policy' or 'Both a harm reduction policy and anti-stigma policy' at question ' [C3]' (Does your community agency or organization have one of the following policies in place ? )

Please write your answer here:

What are some key policy and practice issues within your organization that may contribute to the stigmatization of people who use substances, preventing them from receiving optimal service delivery? \*

Please write your answer here:

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Your responses will help strengthen community efforts to reduce substance use-related harms in Windsor-Essex County. If you have any additional comments and/or suggestions, please feel free to contact Francis Kalamba at

[fkalamba@wechu.org](mailto:fkalamba@wechu.org)

02.05.2025 – 16:29

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.