

What are the values and preferences - and why do they matter in safer opioid supply programs?

Our new systematic review is the first to examine the values and preferences of people accessing safer opioid supply programs during a persistent toxic drug crisis driven by unregulated fentanyl. Values, preferences and life circumstances shape the health care people want to receive. They are a core part of evidence based medicine yet, have not been widely explored in substance use care. We identified core values of people accessing safer opioid supply programs across Canada.

Four Key Themes Identified



- 1 Personal goals and results participants find important
- 2 The type of opioid substitute being offered
- 3 Relationship with healthcare providers
- 4 Complexity of substance use and participants life circumstances

Highlights from Participants

People want more than just survival

- Seeking a better quality of life through sufficient withdrawal management. To achieve this, people need the right opioid substitution options to reduce reliance on unregulated fentanyl. Flexible doses and options to provide sufficient treatment.

It is central to safer supply that it is a person-centered and judgement free care environment

- Participants described programs as person-centered & judgement free environments. This makes access and engagement easier. They valued wrap-around care from staff including support with health and social services and being actively involved in their care.

The care provided needs to reflect the complexity of their substance use & general life situations

- Participants substance use and life situations are complex. Employing flexible, supportive, and non-punitive systems was preferred (e.g., no-penalties approach to missed doses).

Takeaways

Services must be designed and delivered in ways that reflect the values and preferences of the people they serve. This includes recognizing individual goals, offering appropriate opioid medication options, building trust-based relationships, & the need to approach opioid use disorder care as a complex adaptive system.

Read the Full Publication:

[Safer opioid supply clients' values and preferences: a systematic review and thematic synthesis of qualitative research](#)



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