



# Consumption and Treatment Services

Community Engagement Survey Report

December 2019

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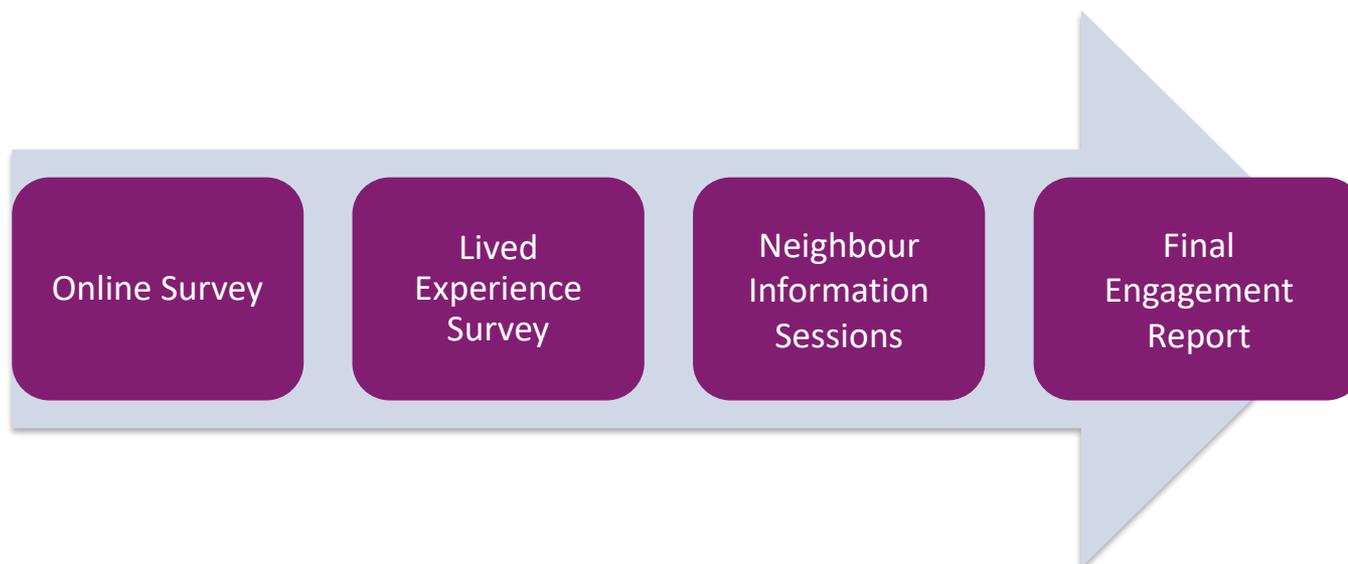
# Background

- Consumption and Treatment Services are health services that provide a safe, clean space for people to consume pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of health professionals. Staff are present at all times to respond to medical emergencies. Individuals are also provided with sterile injection supplies, education on safer consumption practices, basic medical services, and referrals to drug treatment, housing, and other social services.
- Collaborative efforts to apply for, fund, and operate a supervised consumption service in Peterborough have been underway since as early as December 2017.
  - In this time, identifying a suitable downtown location and securing the associated requirements to host this service have represented substantial and ongoing challenges.
- Both the Federal and Provincial governments require public engagement to apply to operate and fund a CTS site.
  - The purpose of public engagement is to understand community perceptions of CTS, levels of support or opposition, and to gather feedback about questions or concerns.

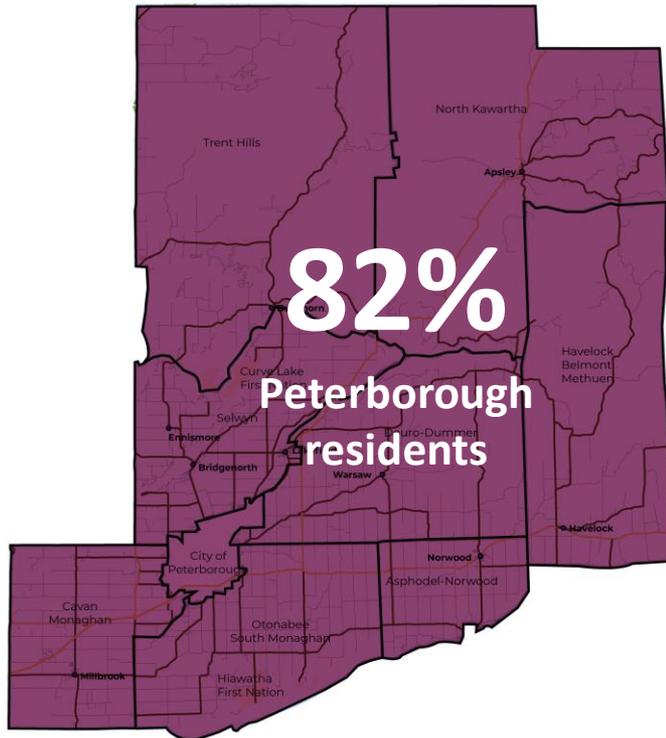


# Engagement Process

- Public engagement activities began on November 1, 2019 with the launch of an online survey open to all Peterborough City and County residents. The survey remained open until November 30 and received 1621 responses.
- A separate survey with People with Lived Experience of substance use (PWLE) process began in late-November and engaged 122 individuals.
- Once a potential location has been identified, vetted and confirmed, additional engagement opportunities will be initiated with stakeholders in the immediate area of the proposed CTS site.
- The results of all community engagement activities will be summarized in a final report.



# Responses



- The online survey received 1621 responses.
- Participants were asked to provide the first 3 digits of their postal code to help track the geographic distribution of responses.
  - 82% of participants live in the City or County of Peterborough.
  - The largest proportion of responses were from residents with postal cards starting with **K9H** and **K9J**, which together make up the the North and South ends of the City of Peterborough, including the downtown core.

**Table 1: Distribution of responses by postal code prefix**

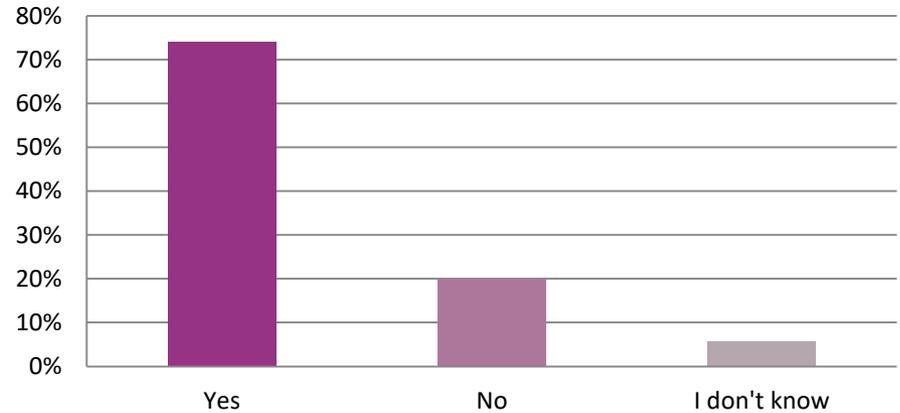
K0L	K9H	K9J	K9K	K9L	L0A	Outside Peterborough/ Unknown
137	523	509	99	56	18	279



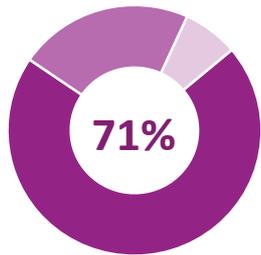
# Overall Support for CTS

## Q5: Do you see benefit in having a Consumption and Treatment Services site in Peterborough?

Answered: 1,541 Skipped: 80



## Support by Stakeholder Group



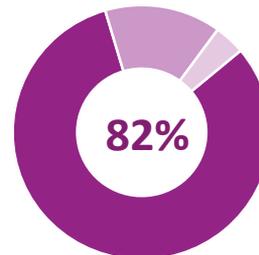
Community Members



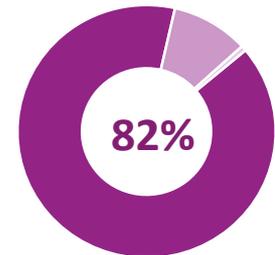
Business Owners



Service Providers



Health Practitioners



Students



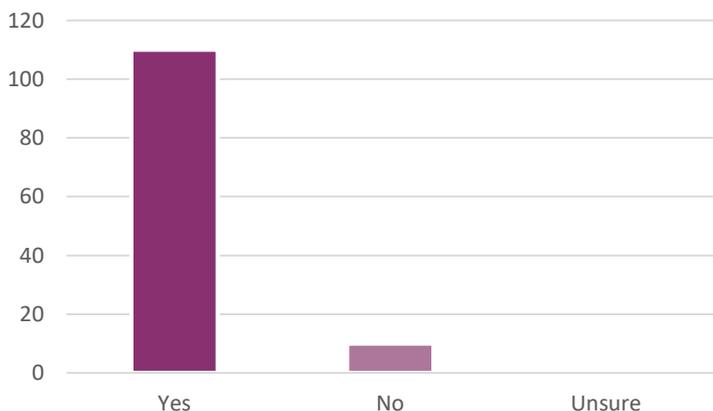
# Lived Experience Survey

- From November 23 to November 30, surveys were conducted in Peterborough with 122 people who have lived experience of substance use (PWLE). The survey was administered in the community by a team of Peer Workers, at PARN in the Harm Reduction cupboard, and at Fourcast.

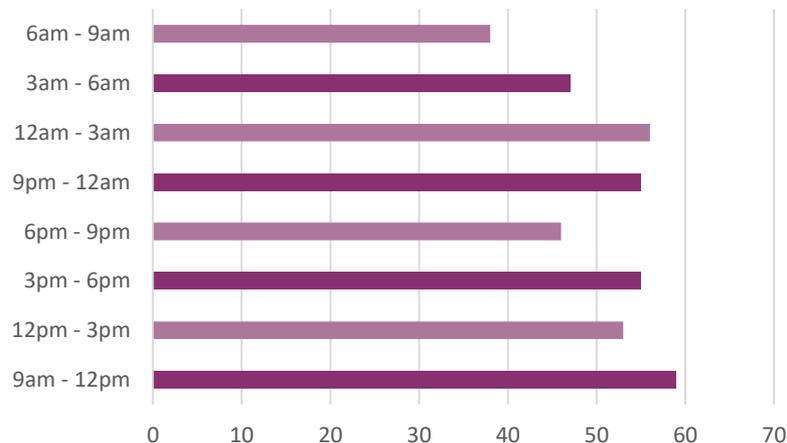
## PLWE Responses

Q1: Would you use a Consumption and Treatment Services site?

Answered: 122 Skipped: 0



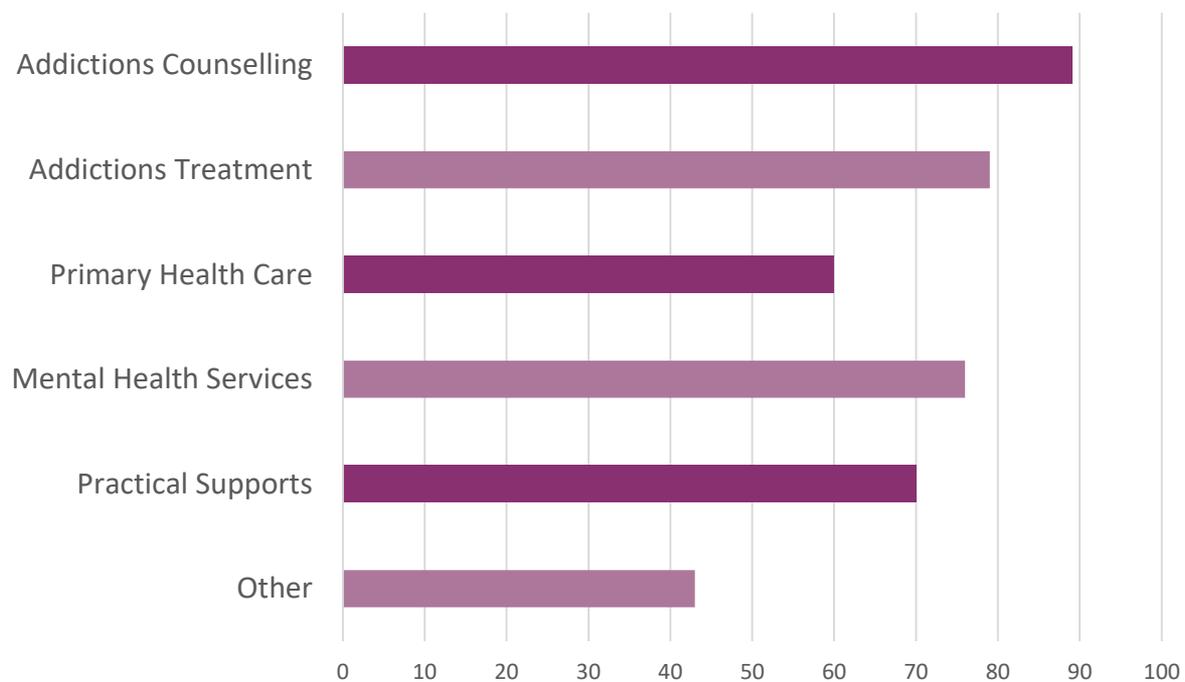
Q2: During which hours would you use a Consumption and Treatment Services site? (Check all that apply)



# Lived Experience Survey

## Reduced Stigma

### Q3: What other services should be located with a CTS?



### \*Other Responses

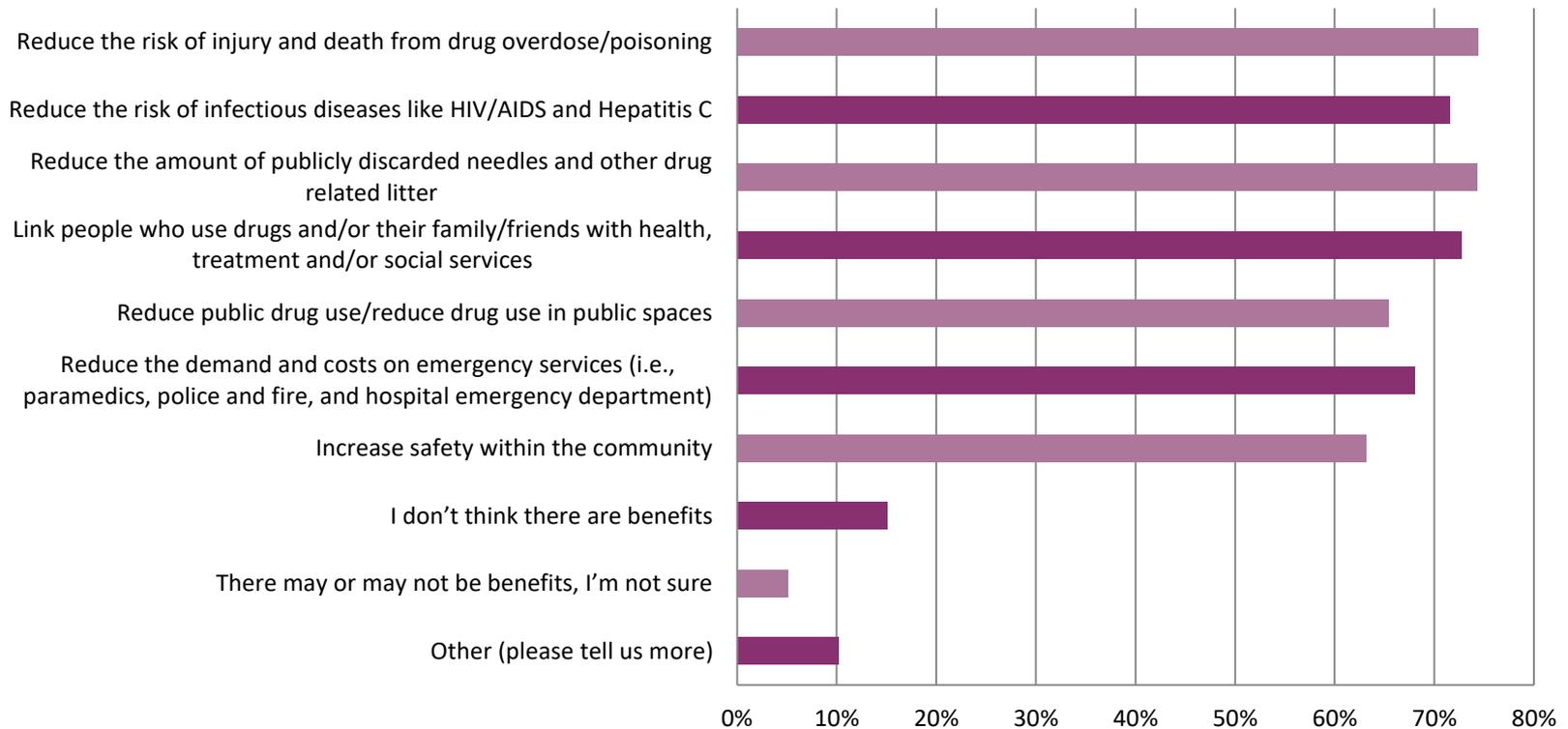
Food Bank (10), Harm Reduction Services (4), Housing Services (3), Drop In (3), Peer Workers (3), Lockers (2), Accessible Washrooms (2), Detox Centre (1), Employment, Skills (1), Safe Supply (1), Water Cooler (1), Phone (1), Drug Testing Strips (1), Place to Sleep (1), Condoms and Lube (1), Clothing (1), Support Workers (1), Cannabis sales (1), Methadone (1)



# Benefits

## Q6: What benefits do you think a Consumption and Treatment Services site in Peterborough would provide?

Answered: 1,537 Skipped: 84



# Benefits

## Reduced Stigma

A CTS is seen as important step towards reducing stigma and increasing compassion for people who use drugs.

Similarly, a CTS is seen as an opportunity to increase dignity for people who use drugs and convey that their lives and wellbeing are valued.

“Reduce the stigma associated with drug use treating it as a medical issue just like any other disease, and remove barriers (shame, fear, etc) to the affected getting the help they need - benefitting society as a whole.”

—Survey participant

“People who use substances deserve safe and ethical treatment and this is one way to support that.”

—Survey participant

“Treat those with addictions with dignity and respect, while providing compassionate, individualized, holistic, effective, evidence-based services to support and address the needs of each person. ”

—Survey participant



# Benefits

## Increased Safety

A CTS is seen as providing increased safety for people who use drugs and the community as a whole.

A plurality of participants also stated that a CTS site is overdue and urgently needed to address the impact of increasing opioid-related harms in Peterborough.

“It's a difficult situation, but having a safe & monitored environment would increase the safety for both the community at large and the drug users within the community.”

—Survey participant

“I think this is an extremely important issue that needs to be addressed immediately. Safe injection/consumption sites have been proven to work and help reduce the risk of harm on those who use drugs as well as the communities they are living in. The longer Peterborough waits on this issue the more lives we lose at an alarming rate. This is important and the city should act fast! Let's show the rest of Ontario and Canada that Peterborough is a leader in Public Health and that the city truly cares about the well-being of it's citizens. Let's be a good example to other municipalities and step up!”

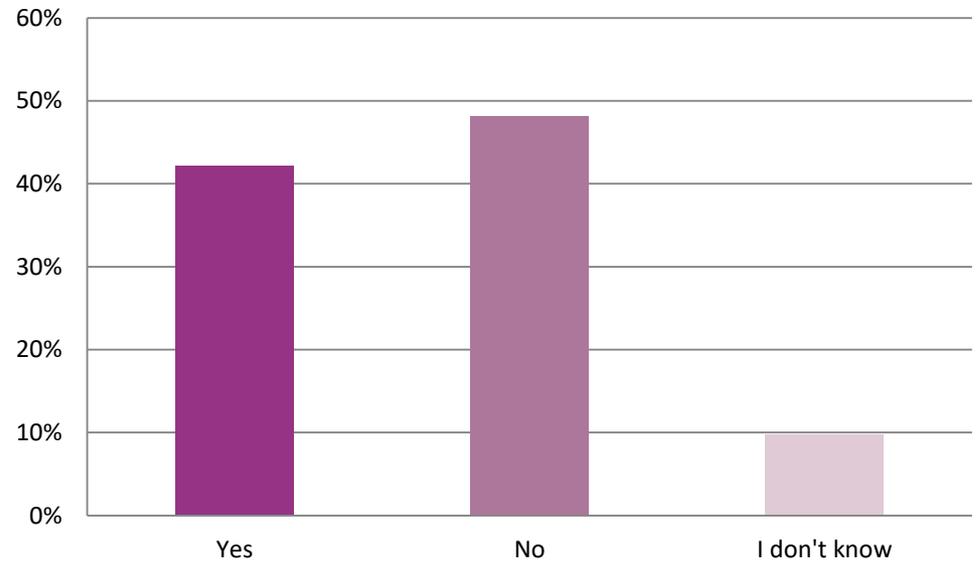
—Survey participant



# Concerns

## Q7: Do you have any concerns regarding a Consumption and Treatment Services site in Peterborough?

Answered: 1,512 Skipped: 109



- 42 percent of survey participants identified that they have concerns regarding a CTS site, compared to 48 percent of respondents who indicated that they have no concerns.
- Participants that answered 'yes' to this question were provided an opportunity to specify their concerns in an open-ended response.



# Concerns

## Downtown Location

Despite broad support for a downtown location, some participants expressed concern regarding the impact of a CTS on local businesses and tourism.

Several respondents opposed to a site also expressed concern that a CTS would negatively affect the safety of the downtown.

“Do not put it in the downtown area. This area has been hard-hit already. The area stores can not handle having a Consumption and Treatment centre located in their area. People, especially older people will not go downtown because of the drug addicts located in the downtown - they do not feel safe in the downtown area.”

—Survey participant

“As indicated previously, locating a CTS in the downtown area would likely have a negative impact on local business. I'm sure it would like have an impact on tourism as well, an industry that many in this area depend on for their survival.”

—Survey participant



# Concerns

## Stigma and Misunderstanding of Harm Reduction

Multiple respondents stated their concern that stigma could dissuade people from using the site.

Among those opposed to a CTS, there was a general theme that providing CTS effectively condones illegal activity and promotes further substance use..

Others were concerned that a CTS will attract more people to the city, placing further strain on existing services.

“I’m concerned about accessibility, stigmatization, and whether people would feel comfortable going to and accessing services at the site. I’m also concerned about how much community welcome and support would exist, especially at first when people would only have prejudices and theoretical notions to base their judgements on.”

—Survey participant

“I feel that this is not the right way to address the drug problem. This is more like enabling than helping those who need the help.”

—Survey participant

“This will add to the already huge problem as we can not handle the amount of people already who will come to Peterborough from outside our community to take the services. This will promote Peterborough even more.”

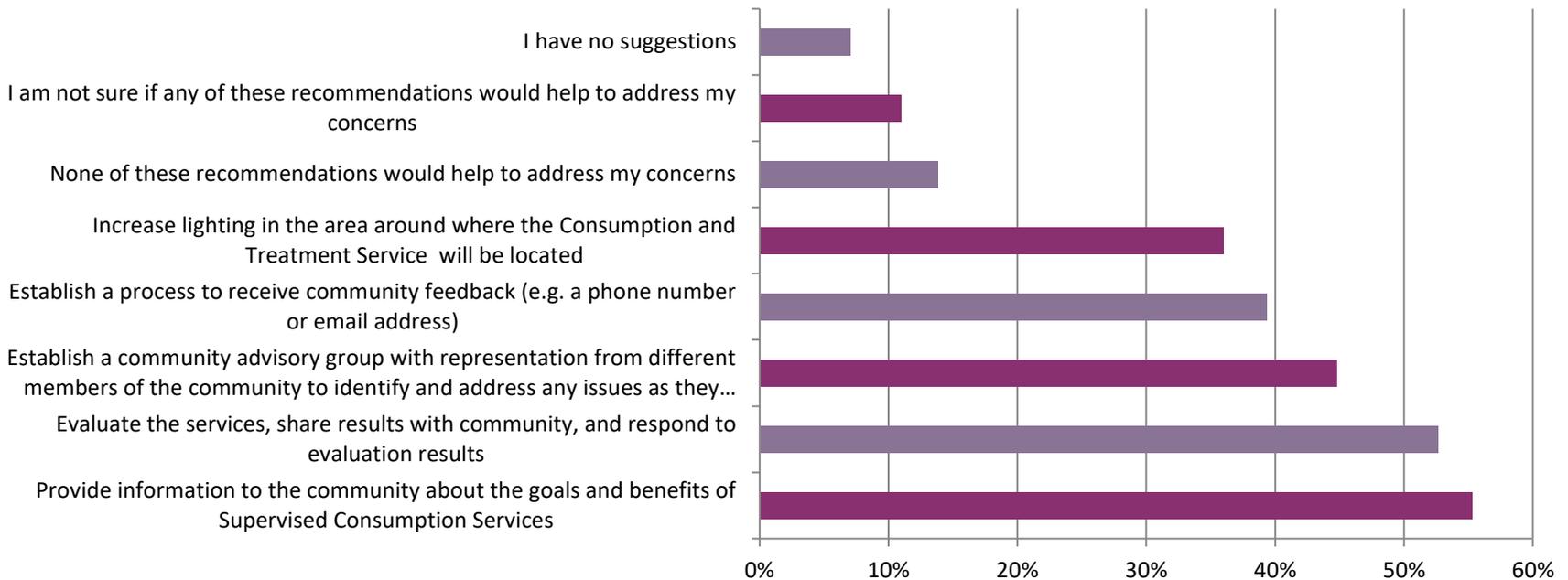
—Survey participant



# Mitigating Strategies

## Q8: Which of the following recommendations would help to address your concerns about a Consumption and Treatment Services site?

Answered: 1,464 Skipped: 157



# Mitigating Strategies

## Other Recommendations

Several participants suggested public education and regular updates as strategies to reduce community concerns surrounding a CTS site.

Responses emphasized the need for open and ongoing communication.

Other responses stressed the importance of learning from the experience of other communities that are already operating sites.

“I don't have concerns personally however I believe that it is important to clearly communicate the goals and benefits of a site, evaluate its effectiveness and engage the community to address issues that arise..”

—Survey participant

“Open communication to reduce the fear of safe injection sites and educate about the greater benefits to the community as a whole. ”

—Survey participant

“Learn from other communities that are already doing this. ”

—Survey participant



# Conclusion

- Public engagement efforts to date have shown there is overall support across the Peterborough community to provide consumption and treatment services.
- Responses to the online survey that reflect opposition or concerns surrounding the perceived negative impact of consumption and treatment services reflect a need for ongoing public engagement after a site is established, including efforts to enhance public understanding of harm reduction principles and practices and community-wide actions to reduce stigma.
- The results of the survey will inform ongoing public engagement efforts, including direct focus groups with neighbours in the immediate vicinity of a proposed site, once a potential location is confirmed.

