



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

hearing: February 26, 2025

SB 83 Public Health - Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program
Health & Government Operations Committee

FAVORABLE

Thank you, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee, for the opportunity to present this testimony, and for your consideration of this bill.

Over 200 overdose prevention centers (aka supervised consumption sites) world-wide are associated with reduced overdoses, reduced emergency department visits, and increased addiction treatment. (1)

These centers **do not increase crime or drug use**; The data on **overdose reduction** is consistent and spans decades. (2, 3, 4, 5)

The range of benefits from these centers (6, 7) includes **reductions in syringe sharing**, (8,9) **reduced public injecting** and **drug-related litter**, (10) **increased uptake of substance use treatment**, (11, 12) **reduced acute care utilization** due to on-site overdose management and linkage to primary and preventive care, (13) and **fewer emergency department visits** (14, 15), and of course reduced rates of **infectious disease such as hepatitis and HIV**.

(References cited are only a small proportion of those available)

Without overdose prevention centers, most people with addictions will remain beyond our reach either to help them move toward recovery, or to stay alive.

This is because ambivalence about change is part of addiction, so overdose prevention centers are uniquely able to help many people toward treatment and recovery over time.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM

NEXT:

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