

Safe injection site sees more addicts go to detox

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VANCOUVER -- The more a drug user visits Vancouver's experimental supervised-injection site, the more likely that user is to go into detox, suggests a study published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"If you use the site at least weekly, you are two times as likely than others to enter detox," said co-author Dr. Thomas Kerr from the Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Research.

"We weren't surprised that the site had resulted in less public disorder or syringe sharing, but we were kind of astounded actually that the more you use this facility, the more likely you are to enter treatment."

Of 1,031 randomly selected repeat users of **Insite**, which is near the city's notorious Main and Hastings intersection, 185 people -- approximately 18% -- went into a detox program in a 15-month period between December 2003 and March 2005.

Those who used the site weekly or saw one of the site's addictions counsellors even once were twice as likely as other site users to go into detox, according to the study.

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