

Women and Gender Diverse Populations (WGDP) Working Group

Why was the working group formed?

The Women and Gender Diverse Populations Accessibility Project (WGDP) was developed to identify and address accessibility barriers at SCS/OPS for women and gender-diverse people, including pregnant and parenting people.

Who is involved in the working group?

This project is led by an Advisory Committee of women and gender diverse people who use drugs, harm reduction service providers, and academic researchers.

Why is this work important?

Harm reduction services are often deemed inaccessible by women and gender-diverse people, who may choose to use their drugs outside of OPS/SCS, increasing the risk of HIV, Hepatitis C, gender-based violence, overdose, and death. Studies show that the specific experience of trauma due to transphobia, erasure, and gender-based violence increase the risk of substance use-related harms among women and gender-diverse people.

What has the working group accomplished so far?

The working group has developed and disseminated a survey to garner real-time feedback about harm reduction service accessibility from women and gender-diverse people who use drugs across Canada.

- Survey & Report: A national survey was conducted in order to garner real-time feedback about harm reduction service accessibility from women and gender-diverse people who use drugs across Canada. A report is currently being generated that will outline survey results, recommendations and next steps for the working group.

What's next for the working group?

- Assessment and Reflection Tool: In response to themes identified in the survey report, an assessment and reflection tool will be created for harm reduction service providers to think about identifying barriers to access for women and gender-diverse people at their sites
- Tailored Resource Guide: These resource guides are intended to serve as an accompaniment to the reflection tool, where service providers are able to access resources to improve and resolve the barriers to access for women and gender-diverse people at their sites
- Recommendations for Health Canada: Developing a list of recommendations to direct future funding opportunities and address policies that can facilitate greater access to SCS/OPS, and present the findings, resources, and recommendations to Health Canada

Interested in learning more? Check out the links below!

- [Gendering the Scene: Women, Gender-Diverse People, and Harm Reduction in Canada – Full Report](#)
- [Safer Spaces: Gender & Overdose Prevention Site Access – Feedback from Women about Overdose Prevention Sites](#)
- [Women and Harm Reduction in Ontario: A Capacity Building Toolkit](#)

