



The Injecting Rooms Scam

in the words of their government
evaluators

8. Just who were these evaluators?

Vancouver

Episode 3 – Injecting Rooms scam series

- In 2011 the evaluators claimed a 35% reduction in overdose deaths close to Insite
- ruled out any **displacement effect** from movement of dealers, users and discarded needles away from the area around Insite due to radically changed policing
- a **displacement effect** they measured in a 2004 journal study vehemently condemning the police
- yet in 2011 they denied any knowledge of the policing changes

Displacement

What was the effect of the changed policing?

A funded study examined the impact. From its Abstract.

“In April 2003 the Vancouver Police Department embarked on a large-scale enforcement operation aimed at illicit drug users (IDUs) in the city's Downtown Eastside (DTES). The stated goals of the “crackdown” involved “disrupting the open drug market and interrupting the cycle of crime and drug use that marks the streets of the Downtown Eastside.”

“Several measures indicated displacement of injection drug use from the area of the crackdown into adjacent areas of the city . . .”

Who authored this study?

Evan Wood, Thomas Kerr, Julio S.G. Montaner (amongst others)

The screenshot shows the CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal) website. The article title is "Displacement of Canada's largest public illicit drug market in response to a police crackdown". The authors listed are Evan Wood, Patricia M. Spittal, Willi Emswiler, Thomas Kerr, Kathy Li, Robert S. Hogg, Mark W. Tyndal, Julio S.G. Montaner, and Martin T. Schreiner. The article is dated May 11, 2004. The abstract text is visible, starting with "Background: Law enforcement is often used in an effort to reduce the social, community and health-related harms of illicit drug use by injection drug users (IDUs). There are, however, few data on the benefits of such enforcement or on the potential harms. A large-scale police 'crackdown' to control illicit drug use in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside provided us with an opportunity to evaluate the effect." The page also includes navigation links like Home, Content, Authors & Reviewers, and various article tools such as Respond to this article, Print, Download PDF, and Article Alerts.

<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/170/10/1551.full>

Displacement

- 35% reduction in deaths near Insite

Articles

Reduction in overdose mortality after the opening of North America's first medically supervised safer injecting facility: a retrospective population-based study

Brandon D L Marshall, M-J Milloy, Evan Wood, Julio S G Montaner, Thomas Kerr

Summary
Background Overdose from illicit drugs is a leading cause of premature mortality in North America. Internationally, more than 65 supervised injecting facilities (SIFs), where drug users can inject pre-obtained illicit drugs, have been opened as part of various strategies to reduce the harms associated with drug use. We sought to determine whether the opening of an SIF in Vancouver, BC, Canada, was associated with a reduction in overdose mortality.

Methods We examined population-based overdose mortality rates for the period before (Jan 1, 2001, to Sept 20, 2003) and after (Sept 21, 2003, to Dec 31, 2005) the opening of the Vancouver SIF. The location of death was determined from provincial coroner records. We compared overdose fatality rates within an a priori specified 500 m radius of the SIF and for the rest of the city.

Findings Of 290 decedents, 229 (79.0%) were male, and the median age at death was 40 years (IQR 32–48 years). A third (89, 30.7%) of deaths occurred in city blocks within 500 m of the SIF. The fatal overdose rate in this area decreased by 35.0% after the opening of the SIF, from 253.8 to 165.1 deaths per 100 000 person-years ($p=0.048$). By contrast, during the same period, the fatal overdose rate in the rest of the city decreased by only 9.3%, from 7.6 to 6.9 deaths per 100 000 person-years ($p=0.490$). There was a significant interaction of rate differences across strata ($p=0.049$).

Interpretation SIFs should be considered where injection drug use is prevalent, particularly in areas with high densities of overdose.

Published Online
April 18, 2011
DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736(10)62353-7
See Online/Comment
DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736(11)60132-3

British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (B D L Marshall PhD, M-J Milloy MSc, E Wood PhD, Prof J S G Montaner MD, T Kerr PhD), Faculty of Medicine (E Wood, J S G Montaner, T Kerr), School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia (M-J Milloy), Vancouver, BC, Canada; and Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA (B D L Marshall)

Who
authored
this study?

Evan Wood,
Thomas
Kerr, Julio
S.G.
Montaner
(amongst
others)

THE LANCET

“Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention reduced major vascular complications compared with femoral access, with similar PCI success rates.”

Section	Articles	Articles	Health Policy	Articles
Editorial	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention
Articles	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention	Radial access for coronary angiography and intervention
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Vancouver

Vancouver evaluators:

- **Two options**
 - really bad memory - inept
 - perpetrating a fraud

Vancouver

How did Vancouver get such evaluators?

Vancouver

It all becomes clear:



The image shows a screenshot of a PubMed search result. At the top left is the PubMed logo. To its right is a search bar with a vertical cursor. Below the search bar is the word "Advanced". On the right side of the search bar area, there are two buttons: "Save" and "Email". Below this is a link: "> CMAJ. 2001 Aug 21;165(4):405-10." The main title of the article is "Unsafe injection practices in a cohort of injection drug users in Vancouver: could safer injecting rooms help?". Below the title is the author list: "E Wood, M W Tyndall, P M Spittal, K Li, T Kerr, R S Hogg, J S Montaner, M V O'Shaughnessy, M T Schechter". The names "E Wood", "K Li", and "J S Montaner" are circled in red. Below the author list is the text "Affiliations + expand". At the bottom of the snippet are the identifiers "PMID: 11531048" and "PMCID: PMC81364".

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> CMAJ. 2001 Aug 21;165(4):405-10.

Unsafe injection practices in a cohort of injection drug users in Vancouver: could safer injecting rooms help?

E Wood, M W Tyndall, P M Spittal, K Li, T Kerr, R S Hogg, J S Montaner, M V O'Shaughnessy, M T Schechter

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 11531048 PMCID: PMC81364

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11531048/>

Vancouver

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[CMAJ](#). 2002 Feb 19; 166(4): 422. PMCID: PMC99345

Safer injection facilities for injection drug users: the debate continues

[Evan Wood](#), [Mark W. Tyndall](#), [Thomas Kerr](#), [Patricia M. Spittal](#), [Michael V. O'Shaughnessy](#), and [Martin T. Schechter](#)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC99345/>

Melbourne

Evaluators – p 4

- Margaret Hamilton - Chair
- Alex Cockram
- John Ryan
- Ken Lay
- Ruth Vine



Melbourne

Harm Reduction International

Overdose, overdose response and drug consumption rooms (DCRs)

Australia is now home to two DCRs, known in the country as medically supervised injection facilities. The DCR in Sydney, in operation since 2001, was joined in July 2018 by a second DCR in Melbourne (currently under a two-year trial).^[6,15] The Sydney DCR has registered 1.1 million injections since its inception, sees approximately 600 individuals per month (155 per day) and is open 80 hours per week.^[15] The centre in Melbourne is expected to be used by up to 300 people per day.^[72] Civil society organisations have raised concerns that the Australian DCRs offer no specific times or services for women.^[20,21]



Melbourne

Harm Reduction Australia


<http://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au/people/advocates/> Go **OCT** **APR**
56 captures **07**
3 Mar 2016 - 20 Sep 2023 **2017** **2018**

[Join Harm Reduction Australia here.](#)

Professor Margaret Hamilton AO

Professor Margaret [Hamilton](#) AO – her over forty five years' experience in the alcohol and drug field includes clinical work, education, training, research, publication and policy development.

She was founding Director of Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre (Vic.) 10 yrs; Chair of the Multiple and Complex Needs Panel (Vic) 5 yrs; an Executive member of Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) 16 yrs. [...]



Melbourne

Penington Institute – p 10

Policy influence

Penington Institute is engaged with committees and advisory groups at local, state, national and international levels including:

- Department of Health and Human Service, Hepatitis C Elimination Working Group (Victorian Government)
- Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence Patient Access Taskforce (Pharmaceutical Society of Australia)
- The Premier's Ice Action Taskforce (Victorian Government)
- Review Panel for the North Richmond Medically Supervised Injecting Room
- The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (Australian Government)
- Harm Reduction International (United Kingdom) (chaired by Penington Institute CEO John Ryan).

Melbourne

The Sydney Morning Herald

National Victoria

This was published 6 years ago

'We probably weren't brave enough on injecting rooms,' says Victoria's former police chief Ken Lay

"Forget about trying to arrest your way out of this."

by Goya Dmytryshchak

Updated July 22, 2017 – 5:56pm, first published at 5:07pm

Victoria's former police chief has spoken out in support of supervised injecting rooms for Melbourne, saying drug use is not an issue to "arrest your way out of".

Ken Lay, now Ambulance Victoria chairman, told Joy FM's Saturday Magazine program that drug users were sick, not criminals.



<https://amp.smh.com.au/national/victoria/we-probably-werent-brave-enough-on-injecting-rooms-says-victorias-former-police-chief-ken-lay-20170722-gxgn84.html>

Sydney

2003 evaluators

- Richard Mattick
- Helen Lapsley
- John Kaldor
- Don Weatherburn
- Andrew Wilson

FINAL REPORT OF
THE EVALUATION OF
THE SYDNEY MEDICALLY
SUPERVISED INJECTING CENTRE

MSIC Evaluation Committee

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Sydney

2003 evaluators



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the title "UNSW Medicine - Faculty Guide - Staff Directory". The address bar contains the URL: <http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/Facultyd.nsf/c479621e61dd7d44a256a4d0024d4a6/810e490d55e416684a2566d7001c87b?OpenDocument>. The page header features the UNSW MEDICINE logo and navigation links. A central banner image shows two people at a desk. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: Faculty Guide, Study Programs, Schools, Units, Medicine at UNSW, Research, News & Events, and Alumni & Friends. The main content area is titled "Staff Directory" and provides contact information for Dr Ingrid Van Beek.

Staff Directory

Name : Dr Ingrid Van Beek
Phone : 02 9360 2766
Fax : 02 9331 7115
Email : vanbeek@sesahs.nsw.gov.au
Qualifications : MB BS UNSW, MBA, FAFPHM
UNSW Positions : Senior Lecturer (Conjoint)
School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Specialty : Drug abuse; HIV Medicine; Public Health; Sexual Health
Publications: [Click to view publications](#)

Send updates to: dataMGT@med.unsw.edu.au

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UNSW MEDICINE

Sydney

2003 evaluators



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the following details:

- Browser Title:** UNSW Medicine - Faculty Guide - Staff Directory - Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Address Bar:** <http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/Facultyvd.nsf/c179621e61dd7d44a256a430024d1a6/c631ec2fc427c62dca25664f00814601?OpenDocument>
- Page Header:** UNSW MEDICINE THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES • SYDNEY • AUSTRALIA
- Navigation Menu (Left):**
 - Study Programs
 - Schools, Units, ...
 - Medicine at UNSW
 - Research
 - News & Events
 - Alumni & Friends
- Main Content Area:**
 - Faculty Guide Montage (Image)
 - Staff Directory (Selected)
 - Location Map
 - Print History
 - Pages & Figures
- Staff Directory Details:**

Name : Ms Helen Lapsley
Phone : 02 9385 2589
Fax : 02 9385 1036
Email : h.lapsley@unsw.edu.au
Qualifications : BA Auckland, MEd Syd, FCHSE
UNSW Positions : Visiting Professor
School of Psychiatry
- Research Interests:** [Click to view research interests and key publications](#)
Publications: [Click to view publications](#)
- Contact:** Send updates to: _dataM3TR@med.unsw.edu.au
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Sydney

2003 evaluators

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the following details:

- Browser Title Bar:** UNSW Medicine Faculty Guide Staff Directory Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Address Bar:** http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/Facultyd.nsf/webPageStaffID/8971188?OpenDocument
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- Navigation Menu (Left):** Study Programs, Schools, Units, Medicine at UNSW, Research, News & Events, Alumni & Friends.
- Navigation Menu (Right):** Welcome Into the Open, About UNSW Academics, Contacts, Post to UNSW, Staff Directory, Location Map, Site History, Facts & Figures.
- Main Content:** A photograph of two people at a table with a sign that says "Wallace Wurth CD7".
- Staff Directory Section:**

Name : Prof John Kaldor
Phone : 02 9385 0900
Fax : 02 9385 0920
Email : j.kaldor@ncheccr.unsw.edu.au
Qualifications : PhD
UNSW Positions : Professor
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research
- Research Interests:** [Click to view research interests and key publications](#)
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Sydney

2003 evaluators

UNSW Medicine - Faculty Guide - Professor Richard Mattick - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Wallace Wurth
C27

Professor Richard Mattick

Head, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

 Richard P. Mattick is the Professor of Drug and Alcohol Studies and the Director of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. He has authored over 100 scientific articles and books on the assessment, nature and treatment of emotional, cognitive and psychological and neuropsychological problems. His major current research interests are in clinical trials for management of opioid dependence, psychostimulant dependence, treatment of young drug dependent people, and the effects on cognitive functioning of exposure to psychostimulants. He is an Editor on the Cochrane Review Group for Drugs and Alcohol, and Assistant Editor and Executive Editor (respectively) on the international journals *Addiction* and the *Drug and Alcohol Review*.

Richard Mattick
BSc, MPsych, PhD

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UNSW MEDICINE

Internet

Sydney

NDARC

FOREWORD

Foreword

The drug debate has moved on significantly in New South Wales following the Drug Summit. There has been a softening of the previous resistance to try new measures. The commitment of the New South Wales Government to trial a safe injecting room for heroin addicts at Kings Cross over an 18 month period is the most controversial of a raft of recommendations of the Drug Summit now being implemented. Increased funding is being made available by the State Government to supplement efforts at the Federal level under the National Drug Strategic Framework.



negotiations for the relocation of the Centre. We have clearly outgrown the accommodation at our present address and redevelopment proposals for the Prince of Wales site compound the problem. The University of New South Wales has been very supportive of our needs and has been giving consideration to interim accommodation while plans for a new medical faculty building within the University are developed. We have received an assurance that we will eventually be located within that building. It is hoped that a final decision on interim accommodation will be made soon. It

NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL RESEARCH CENTRE

Annual Report

2000



Sydney

Don Weatherburn

<http://www.sydneymusic.com/dsummitoutcome1.htm>

Go

SEP

JUN

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22

2003

2004

2006

9 captures

11 Feb 2003 - 22 Jan 2022

supporting it.

The Hon. P. FORSYTHE: I second the amendment.

Dr WEATHERBURN: This is just a small point, but you will really tie the hands of the evaluator if you commit to a number of safe injecting rooms now that are to be evaluated. I would urge you to consider something like "a small number". At this stage of the game, not knowing what the research design would be - and I hope this job does not fall to me - to say "five" might really put the evaluator in a delicate position.

Ms TOOHEY: That would be one million people per injecting room; five million people in New South Wales, five injecting rooms. That is my understanding of what is being proposed, that is, five injecting rooms to be trialled. Let us say users want to come, you have to access about one million people.

Senator PAYNE: I take Mr Weatherburn's point. I thought that the figure of no more than five was a small number. I am happy to accede to an amendment from the floor of a small number, strictly controlled, if that is more appropriate.

Claim – ‘independent’

Sydney

<https://www.uniting.org/community-impact/uniting-medically-supervised-injecting-centre--msic/history-of-uniting-msic>

Melbourne

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/migrated/files/collections/research-and-reports/r/review-of-the-medically-supervised-injecting-room-june-2020.pdf>

Vancouver

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3492113/>