



2024 THUNDER BAY

## SAFER SUPPLY PROGRAM EVALUATION

### CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Age

Substance use: 13.8  
Average age of onset

Opioid use: 17.5  
Average age of onset

**35**  
Safer Supply  
Clients



Clients who remained in the program for more than 6 months experienced decreased risk, increased basic needs, increased health, and increased connection.

2.9% 55  
8.6% 64

Source: Sprakes, A., Rodericks-Schulwach, A., Murray, M., Kuhn, S. & Ambury, S. (2024). *Safer supply program evaluation: A response to drug poisonings in Thunder Bay, Ontario*. School of Social Work, Lakehead University.

## DECREASED RISK

### Decreased Fentanyl Use

Decrease

No longer using

No change or comparative data

Increase

No change

2.9% 5.7% 11.4% 25.7% 54.3%

Reduction in drug poisoning/overdoses since SSP

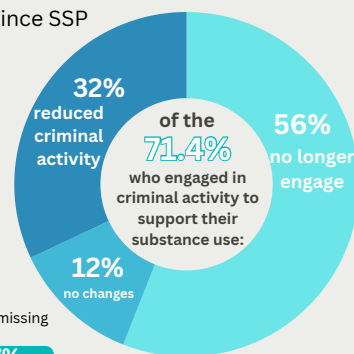
130 Overdoses 3 months prior to SSP

10 Overdoses since SSP

No overdose events before SSP

14.3%

No or missing data 5.7%



92% reduction in drug poisoning events

“We’re people too, and we need this program; it’s saving our lives.” -WP

### INCREASED BASIC NEEDS

#### Access to Food

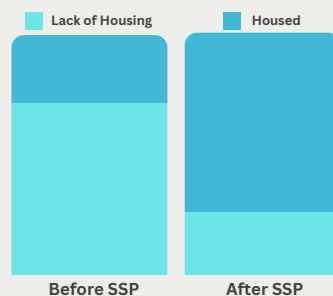
43% Access to food before SSP

37% Improved access while in SSP

11.4% Limited access to food outside SSP

8.6% No or missing data

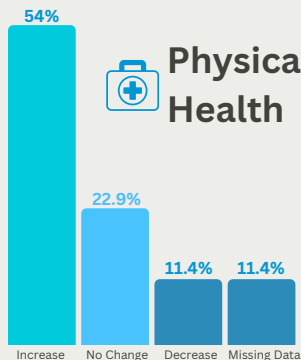
86%  
increase in  
housing for  
SSP clients



### INCREASED HEALTH



#### Physical Health

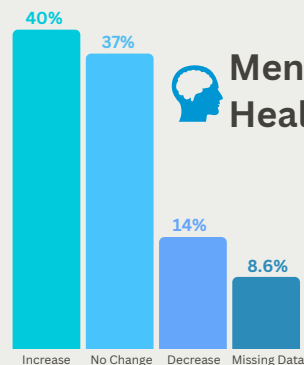


43% of participants said they felt more in control of their life

50% of those who used the hospital pre-SSP reduced their attendance at the ED after SSP

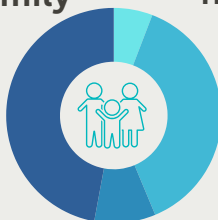


#### Mental Health

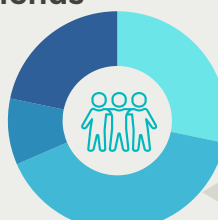


### INCREASED CONNECTION

#### family



#### friends



71.4%

reported feeling connected to the larger community, once involved in SSP

“It’s saved my life. Got me back in touch with my family and friends and in good graces and I’m helping, and doing good things for my family. And not doing any crime. I don’t know, things are going smoother. And then the if the program was, I don’t know. Just hopefully. This program would stay.” -Pete



Health Canada  
Santé Canada



NorWest Community  
Health Centres  
Centres de santé  
communautaire NorWes



Lakehead  
UNIVERSITY