

Comprehensive User Engagement Sites

What are Comprehensive User Engagement Sites, or CUES?

-  **CUES** are places designed to prevent people from dying of drug overdose. At a CUES, people with substance use disorders will be able to safely use drugs, like heroin, under supervision while they are encouraged to enter treatment.
-  There are no CUES currently in the United States, but **more than 100 worldwide**.

Why is Philadelphia talking about CUES?

-  Philadelphia is in the grip of an opioid crisis. In 2016, 907 people died in Philadelphia from overdose. We expect **around 1,200 overdose deaths** in 2017.
-  In 1984, 935 people died from AIDS, which was the worst year of the crisis. Philadelphia saw **more overdose deaths** than that between January and September 2017.
-  CUES are designed to **keep people alive** long enough for them to enter treatment.
-  Research has shown that a CUES in Philadelphia could **save up to 76 lives per year**.

What do you need to know about CUES?

-  CUES do not encourage or condone drug use. They are about making sure people can **stay alive long enough to get into treatment**.
-  CUES do not negatively affect the neighborhoods they are in. Studies show they lead to **fewer littered syringes and less open-air drug use**.
-  **CUES do not worsen crime or drug use.** Police in Vancouver support their site because it saves lives and doesn't create more crime.
-  **CUES are not the only thing the City is doing.** We are working with doctors to lessen prescribing, getting more people into treatment, and distributing naloxone to save lives.
-  CUES are not about just injecting drugs. **Users are offered access to treatment** and can be revived by trained staff if they overdose.

What happens next?

-  The City is working to identify groups to pay for and to operate a CUES. **The City does not plan to pay for or operate one.**
-  The City will convene **meet with organizations and community members** to discuss how a CUES should function to help the most people.