



# SAVE A LIFE

## Support Overdose Prevention Sites



**Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS)** are safe, private facilities that provide people who use drugs a place for consumption and life-saving interventions, like naloxone and access to treatment services.

### OPS save lives.

Every day in 2019, nearly seven Marylanders died from an overdose – and COVID-19 has led to even more fatal overdoses. According to the most recent data available, **there was a 15% increase in overdose deaths during the first nine months of 2020.**

OPS are a proven solution to the overdose crisis that has taken countless lives and destroyed communities. More than 150 OPS exist in 12 countries around the world – many of which have been operating for decades. **Overdose fatality dropped 35% in the area around a single OPS within the first year of operation.**<sup>1</sup>

OPS meet people where they are, providing community support in their journey toward access to care. **Over three years, OPS helped 67% of participants begin treatment.**<sup>2</sup>

### Opioid-Related Fatalities for the first 9 months of 2019 and 2020



**Overdose fatality dropped 35% in the area around a single OPS within one year of opening.**

**Over three years, OPS helped 67% of participants begin treatment.**

<sup>1</sup> Marshall et al, 2011. The Lancet.

<sup>2</sup> DeBeck, et al, 2011. Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

## OPS create safer communities.

When someone visits an OPS, they check in with a staff member about their physical and mental health and discuss their intended substance use. The consumption area offers visitors new syringes, a clean preparation area, and fentanyl test strips. These resources help reduce the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C and fatal overdoses. Fentanyl is a strong and fast acting opioid that can bring overdose on quickly. In fact, **fentanyl was present in 93% of Maryland opioid-related deaths in 2020.**<sup>3</sup> It is important to know when fentanyl is present and to use with supervision.

## Fentanyl was present in 93% of Maryland opioid-related deaths in 2020.

OPS provide safe and private spaces for people to use drugs. By providing a safe consumption environment, we can reduce community interactions with police, build bridges to wellness, and provide a safe space to people without support networks and housing.

3 Schuh, et al, 2020. "2020 Third Calendar Quarter Report." Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center.

**Someone you love  
might need an  
OPS to stay alive**

**Support SB279/HB396**

Help end the opioid epidemic and connect individuals with substance use disorders to quality and compassionate care.

