

## **DRUG-USE ON CAMPUS**

The J Healthcare Initiative (JHI) advocates for inclusive policies regarding psychoactive substances on Canadian campuses that prioritize the well-being, dignity, and safety of all students, including those who use these substances for non-medical purposes. The JHI supports the establishment of designated consumption spaces on campus to provide a safe, private, and stigma-free environment for users, while also respecting the rights and preferences of non-users. By adopting harm reduction strategies and fostering open dialogue around substance use, universities can demonstrate their commitment to creating an inclusive campus community that values the diverse needs and experiences of all students.

## **ON DRUG PROHIBITION/CRIMINALIZATION**

We strongly opposes drug prohibition, recognizing its ineffectiveness in reducing drug-related deaths and its roots in colonialism. The JHI firmly believes that drug use should be addressed entirely within the realm of public health rather than the criminal justice system, and consequently supports the decriminalization, legalization, and regulation of all drugs. Criminalizing drug use increases health and social harms by negatively impacting access to employment, housing, and healthcare, while also contributing to the stigmatization and perpetuation of trauma for people who use drugs. The JHI believes that healthcare should provide care to people, not criminalize those who use drugs. At the core of this policy issue lies the ideology or dogma that abstinence is morally superior to drug use. Legalization promotes safe access to a regulated drug supply and prevents accidental deaths due to contamination. By separating drug use from the judicial system and moral judgment, society can take a step towards a healthier future where everyone who uses drugs is treated with care and dignity. We support legalization and regulation for all drugs.

## **ON HARM REDUCTION FOR YOUTHS**

Young people use substances more than the Canadian adult population, however, we recognize that young people are often age-restricted from supervised consumption sites and systematically oppressed by the current drug policies. The JHI supports youth-specific spaces; including for young womxn and gender expansive folks for supervised consumption in order to most effectively serve the needs of young people who use drugs. We are fighting for a full spectrum of youth-specific harm reduction services which includes but not limited to; Supervised consumption sites (SCS), take-home naloxone, access to wound-care and access to harm reduction supplies

## PRESCRIPTION ACCESS

The first ethical obligation of the healthcare system and its providers is to deliver comprehensive care to all individuals, including those who use drugs. The second obligation is to effectively manage any adverse events that may arise in the course of providing this care. To fulfill these obligations, it is essential that legal prescription access to drugs be made readily available and easily accessible to those who need it. This access should accommodate the full continuum of care, ranging from abstinence-based approaches and withdrawal management to harm reduction strategies. Recognizing that drug users have diverse preferences for their method of consumption, prescription access should include a variety of formulations such as inhalable, oral, and injectable options.

## ON ABSTINENCE

The JHI understands that while some people prefer abstinence, it is not necessarily realistic to expect every drug-user to become abstinent. We accept that people use drugs and we do not force people to go into rehabilitation. Through the wisdom and interactions with our peers, we understand that it is possible to live a meaningful life without being totally abstinent from psychoactive substances. Abstinence is an option, not a requirement to receive healthcare. Drug use can be a spiritual, life-enhancing experience but it can also be formed into a life-debilitating habit. We respect those who choose abstinence, those who are working on it and those who are not interested in it.

## ON YOUNG PARENTS WHO USE DRUGS

The J Healthcare Initiative firmly believes that young parents who use drugs have the right to access comprehensive, non-judgmental, and evidence-based healthcare services. We recognize that drug use does not diminish an individual's ability to be a caring and competent parent, and that the well-being of both the parent and child is of utmost importance. Healthcare providers should engage in collaborative decision-making with young parents who use drugs, respecting their autonomy and expertise in their own lives. Treatment plans should be developed in partnership with the parent, taking into account their goals and preferences.