Safe Injection Sites: (SIS) as an Economically Progressive Measure to Address the Opioid Epidemic: A Systematic Review of Literature

INTRO
- The proliferation of illicit drugs has increased concerns for public health and safety. Rates of accidental overdose have reached catastrophic levels. Roughly 75% of reported overdoses involve the use of opioids. Safe Injection Sites (SIS) were instituted to combat these reported concerns (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2021).

METHODS

Databases
- PsycARTICLES, PsychINFO, EBSCOHost, ScienceDirect, ProQuest.

Keywords
- Injection drug use, safe injection sites, opioid epidemic, environmental factors, disease transmission

Inclusion Criteria
- Articles published after 2012
- Articles on safe injection sites and its affect on the opioid epidemic

Exclusion Criteria
- Articles not written in English
- Articles not peer-reviewed

RESULTS
- The findings suggest SIS have improved social and environmental implications exacerbated by the opioid epidemic.
  - Reduced financial strain in the healthcare industry
  - Improvements in public health and safety
  - Increased environmental quality
  - Uptick in substance use treatment services

CONCLUSION
- Positive community outcomes have been associated to SIS and its development.
- Further consideration should be given to the lawful sanctioning of safe injection sites across all 50 states

FUTURE DIRECTION
- Examining more diverse sample sizes
- Increasing public awareness and legislative support for SIS throughout the U.S.

DISCUSSION
- Can Safe Injection Sites suppress inject drug users’ desire to seek drug treatment?
- Are the internationally reported benefits of Safe Injection Site programs enough for lawful consideration in the U.S.?