

# PRIHS: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System

## FUNDING AWARD



Virtual Supervised Consumption: Using an evidence-based approach to impact more of Alberta's Communities.

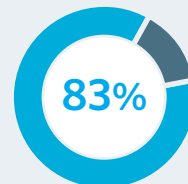
### PROJECT FAST FACTS

**LEAD:** Dr. Kay Rittenbach  
**INSTITUTION:** Alberta Health Services  
**PRIHS AWARD:** \$900K

**2,400+**  
Opioid related overdoses treated in Emergency Departments last year.



**500 metre radius**  
Supervised consumption services area of greatest impact.



Overdose deaths that occur in suburban and rural populations.

**GOAL:**  
To improve patients' and families' experiences and health outcomes by removing barriers such as stigma, geographic distance and community resistance to supervised consumption services.

**Over 2,400 opioid related overdoses were treated in emergency departments last year and the government reports an average of 2 deaths a day from opioid overdose in 2018, demonstrating the severity of the overdose crisis.**

One proven intervention, now instituted in some places in Alberta, is Supervised Consumption Services (SCS). These wrap around services provide support to people who use substances and prevent overdose deaths. However, they are limited by geography, as their greatest effect is within a 500 metre radius of the site. In Alberta, 83 per cent of the overdose deaths occur in suburban and rural populations, which generally are not served by the current physical SCS. Virtual Supervised Consumption is a scalable intervention that can provide evidence-based harm reduction service to Albertans who do not access the current SCS.

Our proposed Virtual Supervised Consumption Service will improve Albertan's experiences and health outcomes by removing barriers such as stigma, geographic distance and community resistance to Supervised Consumption Services. When a client calls the Virtual Supervised Consumption Service, a peer operator will monitor the client after substance use, dispatch emergency medical services if the client becomes unresponsive, and provide information on resources for safer use or treatment.



## ABOUT PRIHS



### WHAT IS PRIHS?

The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) is a partnership between Alberta Innovates and Alberta Health Services focused on supporting health research and innovation projects that will adopt and implement evidence to maintain or improve quality of patient care and services while substantially reducing costs in the healthcare system.

This partnered funding opportunity targets the implementation of high quality, evidence informed solutions to "Enhancing Care in the Community" to address performance gaps ("Focus Areas") in the healthcare system that prevent optimal patient care, resource use, delivery and access to affordable and sustainable health services.



### VALUE & TERM

Combined pool of funds available: \$7 million. Individual award's period of support: up to three years.



### FOCUS AREAS

- Solutions that help Albertans optimally manage their health conditions, maintain their independence and live well in their communities.
- Solutions that help Albertans avoid unnecessary Acute Care visits and admissions.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT

[albertainnovates.ca](http://albertainnovates.ca)