

## Overdose, Harm Reduction, and Sex Workers

### Study Background & Context

- Sex workers have a high prevalence of drug use across the world and women sex workers have an especially high prevalence of drug use.
- Not only do women have a higher prevalence of drug use, but with that comes a higher risk of HIV or other STIs and blood-borne infections, poor mental health, and mortality.

### Study Focus

Various factors shape health and safety for women who use drugs and their jobs in sex work can impact these factors.

### Main Finding

When women sex workers who use drugs experience **barriers to harm reduction**, they are more likely to have a non-fatal overdose.

### Study Recommendations

Sex-worker friendly harm reduction services are needed, and these services must be comprehensive.

**Source:** Goldenberg, S., Watt, S., Braschel, M., Hayashi, K., Moreheart, S., & Shannon, K. (2020). Police-related barriers to harm reduction linked to non-fatal overdose among sex workers who use drugs: Results of a community-based cohort in Metro Vancouver, Canada. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 76.