

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
In-person at the Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect Street
And Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/96245939050> Webinar ID: 962 4593 9050
Or by phone: +1 929 205 6099 ID = 962 4593 9050

Facilitator: Carol Livingston Recorder: Gretchen Platt or Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

6:15 Welcome and Food

6:30 Formal Start - project agenda and read Participation Guidelines
Introductions & Announcements (Ward 1 Polling station help needed)
Index cards out: potential topics or speakers for future NPA meetings

6:45 Speakout

7:05 School Commission update - Matt Price & Gary Golden

7:15 City Council update - Allie Schacter & Carter Neubieser

7:40 Steering Committee - organization for upcoming year 2026-27
- Volunteers for: setting up space (3 meetings); picking up food (3 meetings);
Updating our Instagram and Facebook accounts; updating mail chimp
Thank you to volunteers for your help on our 2025-26 projects:
Dave Cawley for Sept. BBQ & ice rink liner; Julie Springer for
Flyers & distribution; Sarah Morris for sticker design
- Budget: \$3,000 year funding
- Rental of Friends Meeting House = \$750 - paid in full
- Food (estimate \$135 - 150/meeting) = \$1500
- Balance = \$750
- Calendar
- Future topics for NPA presentations - Jonathan

8:00 Bella Fearn (Vermonters for Community Justice Reform) Overdose Prevention Ctr

8:30 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,
Rob Gutman rgutman@gmail.com
Gretchen Platt gshuman7005@yahoo.com

Participation Guidelines:

The Ward 1 NPA is sustained by community involvement and encourages engagement at our monthly meetings per the following guidelines:

1. We are collectively responsible for following the NPA Meeting Agenda as closely as possible regarding both presentation/discussion topics and time.
2. Participants at the NPA will act in a positive, courteous manner that respects all of those present (both participants and presenters/guests) and their differing opinions, experiences and perspectives.
3. Any attendee requesting to speak who has not yet spoken at a meeting will be called on before others who have already had a chance to speak. Priority is given to Ward 1 residents.
4. Whenever speaking, please be sure to project your voice and use the provided microphone if provided.
5. If the facilitator feels the need to redirect activity in the room based on these guidelines, the facilitator will do so per point number 1 above.

Ward 1 NPA Calendar: 9/2026 - 6/2027

SEPTEMBER

- Organization for year
- Present Ward 1 Budget for October vote

OCTOBER

- Vote on proposed Ward 1 Budget
- If November statewide elections - candidate forum

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- State legislators update - plans for upcoming session
- CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) - representative chosen

JANUARY

- Ward 1 Budget check-in
- Burlington School District budget presentation

FEBRUARY

- Candidate forum and Ballot item information for city-wide elections on Town Mtg Day

MARCH

- Steering Committee election

APRIL

- DPW planning for summer work? Sidewalk priorities/traffic calming

MAY

- Legislators summary of session
- Lake Monster schedule update

JUNE

- Plans for the summer

JULY/AUGUST - no Ward 1 NPA meetings

List of potential additions for yearly checkins - to be determined with people's schedules

UVM

UVMCMC

BPD

DPW

OPC Service Provider Community Engagement

Saving lives, connecting people to care, improving community health and safety

VCJR *Vermonters for
Criminal Justice Reform*



Who We Are

Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform
VCJR is a walk-in re-entry and recovery
center serving people with substance use
and co-occurring mental health
disorders.

VCJR will soon operate an Overdose
Prevention Center in Burlington, Vermont.



Who We Engage with

- Over 400 high-risk people on site at our re-entry and recovery center
- 49% of participants are recently released from incarceration
- 59% of participants were unhoused at intake (another 36% reported their housing as temporary or unstable)
- 82% tested positive for both stimulants and opioids at intake
- 82% reported current injection drug use at intake



Services We Currently Offer

- Walk-in case management (not recovery-dependent)
- Treatment options counseling, referral and linkages to care
- Transportation from the correctional facility to inpatient treatment, to medical appointments, etc.
- Medical clinic and medical case management
- Crisis support and referral
- Systems advocacy
- Accompaniment and visits to the emergency room and hospital, post hospital discharge planning and support
- Parenting and DCF support



- Overdose prevention services and harm reduction supplies
- Drug checking services
- Through a partnership with Johnson Health Center we offer clients access to low barrier medical care (no appointment necessary)

Services include:

- On-site lab testing
- Preventive care
- STI testing and treatment
- HIV/Hepatitis C testing and treatment
- Wound care/Infection care (including antibiotics)
- Low barrier MOUD treatment, including long-acting injectable forms
- Mental health medications and treatment, including long-acting injectable forms



Data Points on Clients Served

- 80% reported a history of serious wounds, blood infections or endocarditis
- 29% had current wounds or infections at intake (likely due to Xylazine contamination)
- 52% reported they have experienced serious mental health symptoms related to methamphetamine use
- 82% report a history of overdose
- 48% reported an overdose in the past 6 months and 4 reported an overdose in the previous 24 hours of intake
- Over 90% were not accessing services at an existing recovery center



What is an OPC?

An overdose prevention center is a public health intervention center that will save lives and connect people to care, improve safety and quality of life for the whole community, and are a proven, evidence-based approach.



What will Burlington's OPC Offer?

- On-Site Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- Medical Care (including wound care)
- Health Screenings: HIV, Hepatitis C, STIs & More
- Drug Checking
- Overdose Monitoring & Response
- Sterile Medical Supplies
- Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Educational Resources
- Service & Support Referrals to: treatment, mental health care, housing, legal services, employment, etc.



OPC Mission

VCJR's OPC will exist to save lives by preventing overdose deaths, reducing the harms associated with drug use, and connecting participants to health care, recovery, and social support services in a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment.

As a data-driven public health intervention, we recognize that substance use disorder is a chronic, relapsing health condition that may include periods of active use, reduced use, non-use, and return to use. We are committed to supporting individuals through evidence-based harm reduction practices, compassionate care, overdose prevention, education, and trusted relationships.

Our goal is to empower participants to make informed decisions about their health while improving individual and community well-being through dignity, respect, and collaboration.

Other OPCs in the U.S.

Project Weber/RENEW (Rhode Island)

- 0 Fatal overdoses
- The First 9 months they had 6,619 visits, 653 unique people.
- 4,000 referrals to treatment, peer support, case management, and other services in its first 10 months.
- By April 2026, the OPC had reached approximately 12,040 visits, conducted more than 150 overdose interventions, and still had 0 fatal overdoses.
- From January–June 2025, the OPC had 2,517 visits, 44 overdose interventions, 1 EMS transport, and 0 fatal overdoses.
- The State of Rhode Island went from 436 overdose deaths in 2022 → 219 in 2025, a 50% reduction.



OnPoint (NYC)

- 2,004 overdoses reversed — 0 deaths.
- 244,623 OPC visits and utilizations.
- 7,011 people served.
- \$57.99 million in estimated taxpayer savings. OnPoint estimates the program has saved NYC nearly \$58 million by reducing emergency responses, hospitalizations, and other public-system costs.
- More than 6.8 million units of hazardous waste safely collected. This includes 1.39 million units removed from parks, sidewalks, and other public spaces and 5.42 million units collected onsite at the OPCs.



BTV's Service Assessment Info & Results

People with Living Experience (PWLE) Survey.

Oct – March 2026, a Service Assessment Report was conducted to inform the planning, design, and implementation of an OPC.

Its primary purpose was to center the perspectives of people with lived experience (PWLE) who use drugs. A total of 49 PWLE were surveyed.



Substance Use (methods of consumption in the past 30 days)

- 96% Smoked or inhaled
- 53% Injected (Of those who injected drugs, 30% either always or sometimes needed help injecting or to have someone inject for them)
- 12% either ingested or snorted.



Housing Status

- 80% unhoused indicating they were unsheltered or living in an outdoor public space within the past three months.
- 16% reported living in an apartment or house that they rented or owned in the past three months.



Health Conditions

- All but two respondents reported having at least one chronic health condition, such as chronic circulation problems, wounds or scarring from an injury, abscesses, diabetes, Hepatitis C, or other conditions affecting the heart, liver or lungs.

Service Assessment Info & Results

Wider Burlington Community Survey

Nov 7 – Dec 15, 2025, a community-wide survey was conducted to inform the planning, design, and implementation of an Overdose Prevention Center (OPC) A total of 1,505 community members completed the survey.



Community Survey

- 74% identified as Burlington residents
- 45% work in Burlington
- 2% Burlington business owners
- 12% of respondents did not identify as living or working in Burlington

Note: Participants could select more than one option

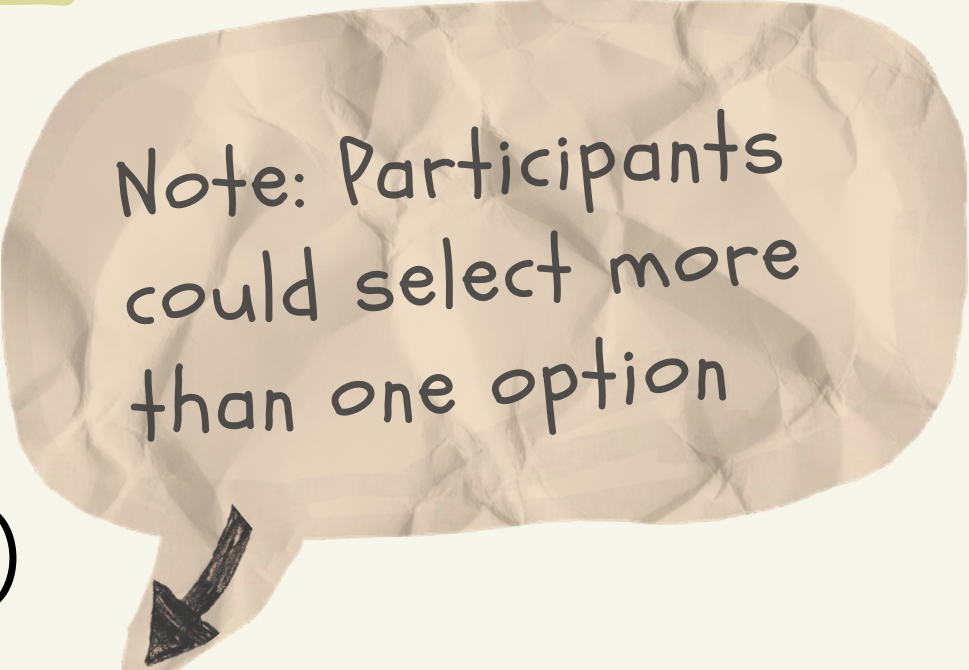
Who will be using the OPC & Why?

People with Living Experience (PWLE)

Of the 49 PWLE surveyed, 92% responded that they would consider using the OPC once it opens in and 73% would use it all or most of the time.

PWLE These are the services they would most utilize

- 98% Compassionate Overdose Response
- 98% Overdose Prevention Supplies & Education
- 98% Health professionals (e.g., basic medical care, wound care)
- 96% Use indoors rather than in public
- 96% Sterile injection and/or smoking equipment
- 93% Referrals for treatment or social services
- 93% Safety from being seen or arrested by police while at the OPC



Note: Participants could select more than one option

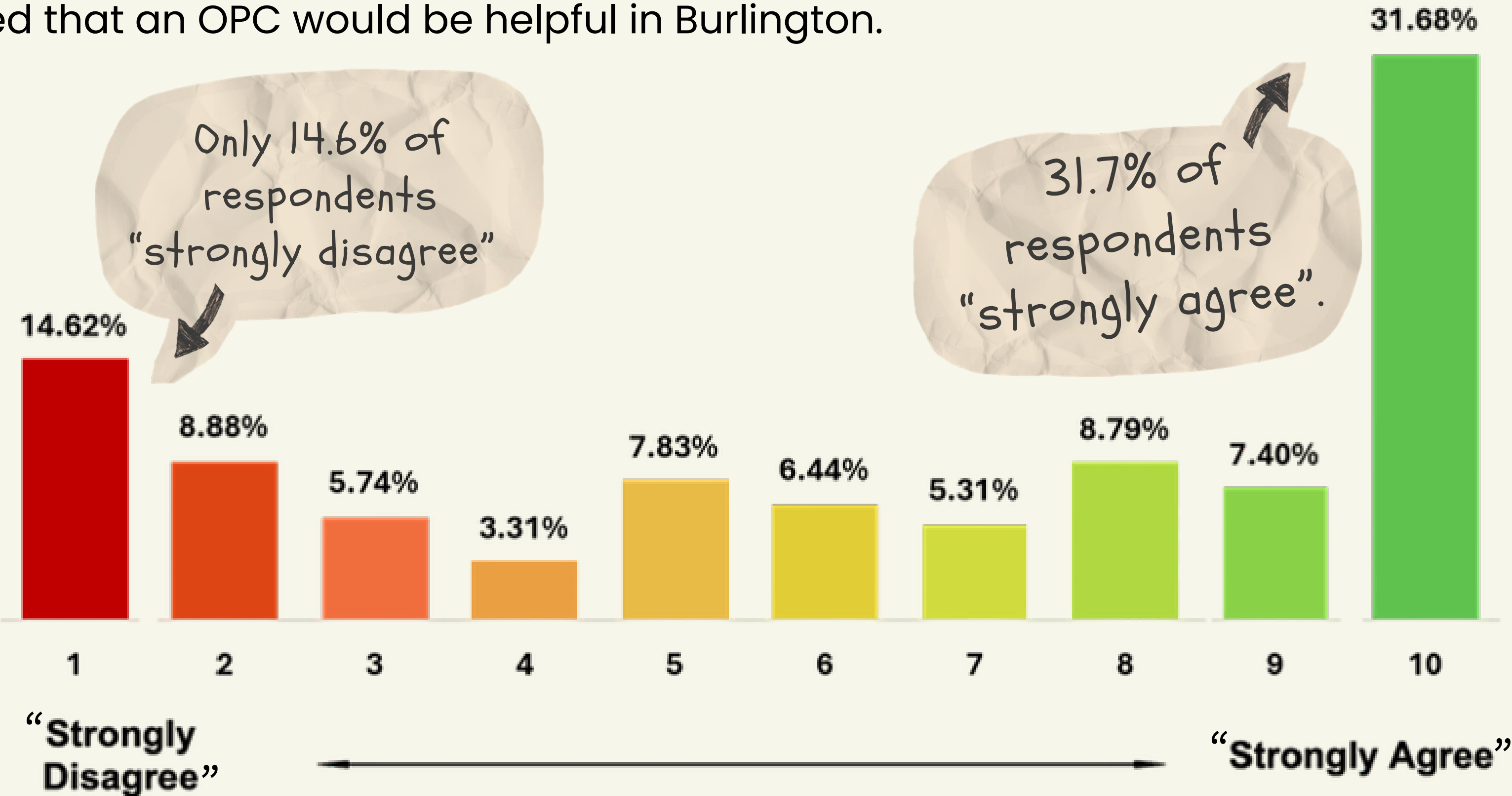
- 93% Want any overdose to be reversed/avoid fatal overdose
- 91% On-site drug checking
- 91% Safety from crime or violence
- 80% Don't want to use alone
- 20% Wrote in additional services they would like access to.



↑
This means that participants wrote in additional services that they think would be helpful. This does not mean they would not utilize other services

Will an OPC be Helpful to our Community?

Community survey respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that an OPC would be helpful in Burlington.

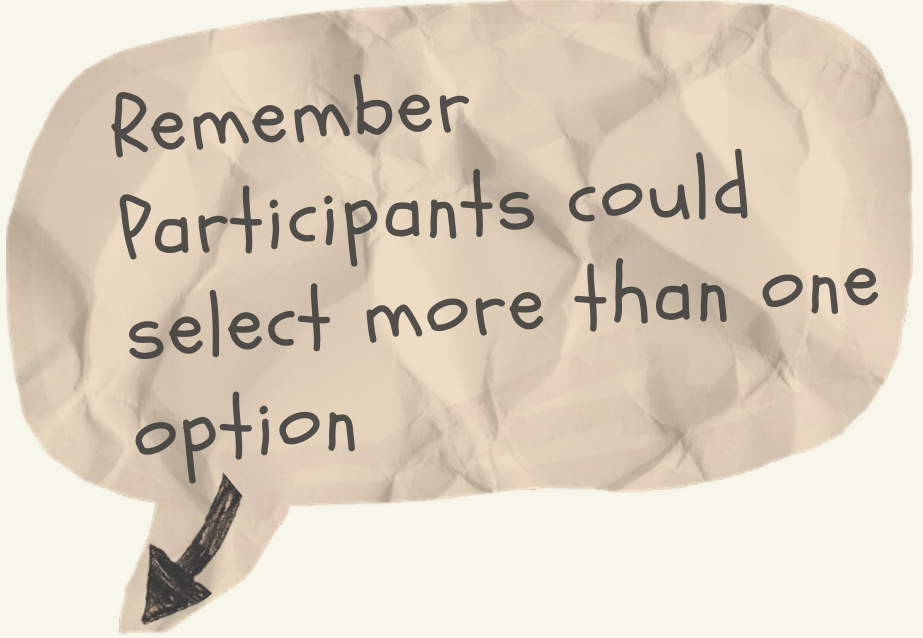


What Factors will Determine Location?

Considerations:

1) Where people are currently using drugs:

- 78% where living or staying
- 70% Outside like a park or alley
- 67% A vehicle
- 63% Outside at City Hall Park
- 61% At someone else's residence
- 57% Public restrooms
- 55% Outside on or near Church St
- 53% Outside at the Waterfront
- 43% Public building like a library



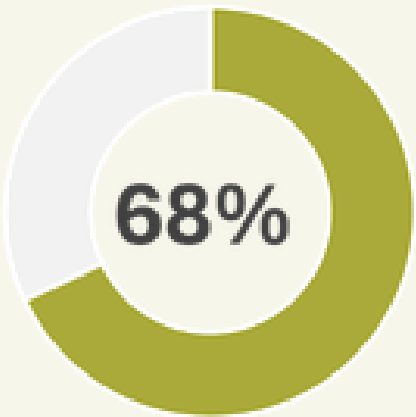
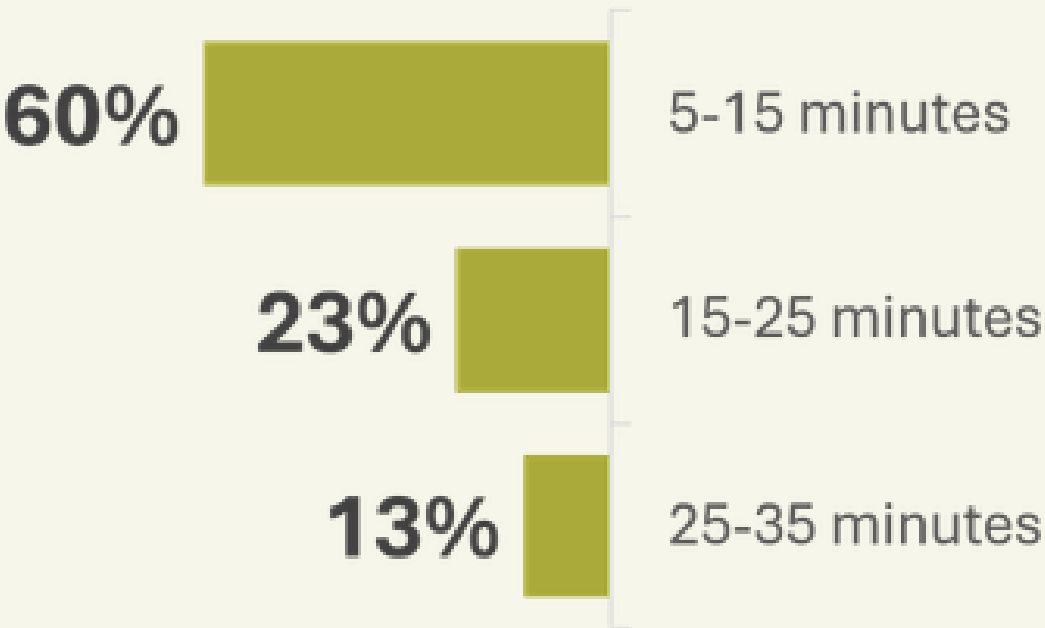
Remember
Participants could
select more than one
option

2) Available and appropriate spaces to lease or buy in Burlington:

Space in Burlington is limited, and making sure the space fits the needs and budget of the OPC is critical.

3) Accessibility and Likelihood of for utilization

Time PWLE are willing to travel to access an OPC:



68% of PWLE responded that they would be likely or very likely use a **free shuttle** if it were offered between downtown and the location of the OPC

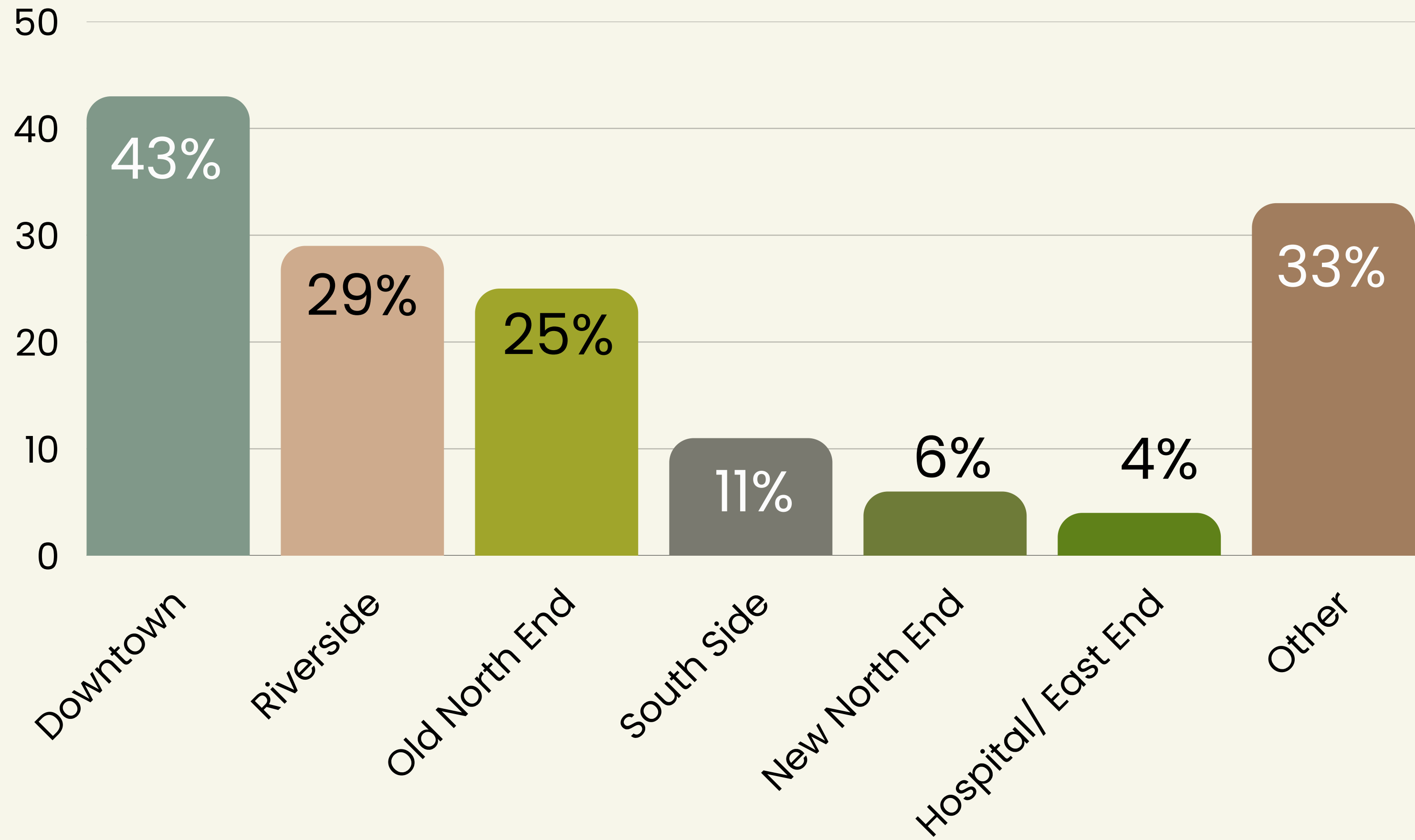


Likelihood of PWLE using an OPC by location:

- 95.8% In a building in downtown Burlington
- 85.4% In a building in the Old North End of Burlington
- 80.9% In a building near Riverside Avenue and the Intervale
- 60.4% In a building in the New North End of Burlington
- 43.8% In a building in the South End of Burlington

Remember
Participants could
select more than one
option

5) Wider Community Input: Location Where an OPC Would Be Most Effective



What will Location Roll-Out Look like?

1. **Coordination with Key Players**

Local Leaders: Service Providers, City Council, City Committees, Legislators

2. **Community Engagement:**

Community Stakeholders: Ward NPAs, Service Providers, Community Groups, Burlington Businesses, Local Media Stakeholders

3. **Site Secured & Preparation for Opening**

City Council approval, a community-wide announcement, renovations to properly equip the space for our needs, and a grand opening and operational launch (including safe consumption)



Questions?

