

INSIGHTS FROM A PEER-LED MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAM

MAPS ARE HARM REDUCTION

Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs) help address severe alcohol use disorder and homelessness. They usually provide participants with regulated doses of alcohol as part of residential housing or shelter services.



MOST CANADIAN MAPS AREN'T PEER-LED

This study describes the experience of members of the Community Managed Alcohol Program, a non-residential, peer-initiated and peer-run MAP in Vancouver, BC, Canada—to our knowledge, the first study to look at a peer-led MAP.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

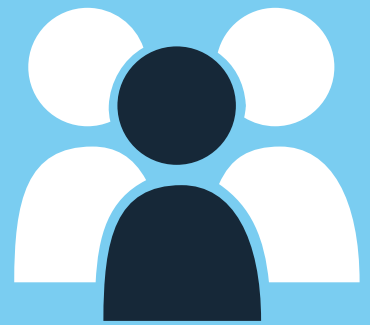
FEWER ALCOHOL-RELATED HARMS

Members of the peer-led MAP said they were able to reduce harmful drinking by drinking less non-beverage alcohol (eg mouthwash, rubbing alcohol) & change harmful drinking patterns.



STRONGER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Participants reported successfully engaging in peer-led program activities and low-barrier employment.



IMPROVED HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Participants said the peer-led program had an overall positive impact on their lives and allowed them to transition out of harmful survival drinking.



WHY PEER-LED MAPS MATTER

BY & FOR PEERS

Peer-informed design of the program meant the program met their needs and gave them autonomy that they might not have found in a residential MAP.



SIMILAR BENEFITS TO RESIDENTIAL MAPS

The benefits reported by members of this peer-led MAP were similar to ones shared by people in residential MAPs—plus more in terms of capacity building and employment.



Source: Pauly B, King V, Smith A, Tranquilli-Doherty S, Wishart M, Vallance K, Stockwell T, & Sutherland C (2020). Breaking the cycle of survival drinking: insights from a non-residential, peer-initiated and peer-run managed alcohol program. *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*. DOI: 10.1080/09687637.2020.1764500

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