



## AB 362 – Overdose Prevention Programs

### SUMMARY

This bill allows the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco the discretion to authorize overdose prevention programs where adults may use controlled substances under supervision of staff trained to prevent and treat overdose, prevent HIV and hepatitis infection, and facilitate entry into drug treatment and other services. This law would be repealed January 1, 2026.

### BACKGROUND

According to the California Department of Public Health, drug overdose is a leading cause of accidental death in California. In 2013, California hospitals treated roughly one overdose every 45 minutes, while heroin and opiate use continue to rise.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2010 nearly 4,000 new cases of HIV were attributed to unsafe injections, and heroin overdose mortality in the United States nearly tripled between 2010 and 2014. Many of the most marginalized and high-risk drug users, who lack housing and other supports, inject in public spaces without clean equipment or a readily accessible method of syringe disposal.

Overdose Prevention Programs, or Supervised Consumption Services, have been utilized in Vancouver, Sydney, and approximately 100 other cities around the world to reduce overdose death and injury, decrease public health concerns like discarded syringes and public injection, reduce the transmission of infectious diseases, and provide entry to treatment for this most marginalized group.

In addition to these benefits, research has shown that these programs **do not** encourage additional drug use or increase crime in the surrounding area, and potentially save millions of dollars in healthcare and incarceration costs. For these reasons, the American Medical Association endorsed piloting these sites in June 2017.

### THIS BILL

AB 362 would allow, pursuant to a vote of the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco, exemptions from state controlled substance offenses for employees, staff, volunteers, and clients of health facilities intended to reduce drug overdose death and to facilitate entry into drug treatment.

AB 362 requires any such program to provide access to drug treatment and other services, maintain specified safety and security protocols, and to be accountable to local governments for data collection and reporting.

This bill only allows for authorization of programs for adults, aged 18 years and older, in San Francisco, and requires the local government to hold a public hearing with input from law enforcement, public health, and the general public.

It has a sunset date of January 1, 2026.

### CO-SPONSORS

CA Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives  
California Society of Addiction Medicine  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Healthright 360  
Project Inform  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Tarzana Treatment Center

### SUPPORT

San Francisco Public Defender  
AIDS Legal Referral Panel  
Any Positive Change  
APLA Health  
Coalition on Homelessness, SF  
Community Aid and Resources  
Community Housing Partnership  
Consumer Attorneys of California  
CORE Medical Clinic  
Desert AIDS Project  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights



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### **SUPPORT (continued)**

Face to Face – Sonoma County AIDS Network  
Glide Foundation  
Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club  
HIVE  
Homeless Health Care Los Angeles  
Larkin Street Youth Services  
San Francisco Drug Users' Union  
Shanti Project  
St. Anthony's Foundation  
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development  
Corporation  
Tenderloin People's Congress  
Transitions Clinic Network

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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