



HARM REDUCTION

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WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION

- “Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.
- Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs” (National Harm Reduction Coalition, n.d., pp1).

WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION (CONTINUED)

Harm reduction refers to policies, programs and practices that aim to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws. Harm reduction is grounded in justice and human rights - it focuses on positive change and on working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that they stop using drugs as a precondition of support.

WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION (CONTINUED)

Harm reduction encompasses a range of health and social services and practices that apply to illicit and licit drugs. These include, but are not limited to, drug consumption rooms, needle and syringe programs, non-abstinence-based housing and employment initiatives, drug checking, overdose prevention and reversal, psychosocial support, and the provision of information on safer drug use. Approaches such as these are cost-effective, evidence-based and have a positive impact on individual and community health (Harm Reduction International, n.d., pp1-2).

PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION (NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION COALITION)

1. Accepts, for better or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them
2. Understands drug use as a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe use to total abstinence, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others
3. Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being — not necessarily cessation of all drug use — as the criteria for successful interventions and policies
4. Calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing attendant harm

PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION (NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION COALITION)

5. Ensures that people who use drugs and those with a history of drug use routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them
6. Affirms people who use drugs (PWUD) themselves as the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use and seeks to empower PWUD to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use
7. Recognizes that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination, and other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm
8. Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger that can be associated with illicit drug use (pp4).

KEY HARM REDUCTION ISSUES (DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE)

Discrimination Against Drug Users

DPA is working to end discrimination against people who use drugs by reducing the stigma associated with both recreational and problematic drug use and advocating for compassionate, judgment-free approaches to addiction.

Drug Overdose

Accidental drug overdose is currently the leading cause of death in the United States for those under 50. Most of these deaths are preventable. We are leading the national effort to reduce drug overdose deaths by promoting sensible solutions and better policy at the state and federal level.

Naloxone

Naloxone is an inexpensive, FDA-approved generic drug that works to reverse an opioid overdose without any potential for abuse. Far too many people are still unable to access naloxone. We're working to save lives by ensuring that more people are equipped with naloxone and are able to help in overdose emergencies.

KEY HARM REDUCTION ISSUES (DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE)

Good Samaritan Laws

People using illegal drugs often fear arrest if they call 911 when they witness an overdose. The best way to encourage them to seek medical help is to provide them immunity for drug law violations, an approach often referred to as Good Samaritan. We push for the broadest protections possible to ensure people do not hesitate to get live-saving help for someone who has overdosed.

Supervised Consumption Services

Supervised consumption services (SCS), also called overdose prevention centers and supervised injection facilities (SIFs), are legally sanctioned facilities designed to reduce the health and public order issues often associated with public drug consumption by allowing on-site, supervised use of drugs. We advocate for supervised consumption pilot programs in the U.S.

KEY HARM REDUCTION ISSUES (DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE)

Syringe Access

Sterile syringe access programs help lower the risks of HIV and hepatitis C by limiting syringe sharing and providing safe disposal options. We support wider access to sterile syringes by ending policies that criminalize syringe possession and limit sterile syringe distribution.

Drug Checking

Drug checking (also known as pill testing or adulterant screening) allows people who use drugs to identify the substance they intend on taking and helps prevent harms associated with unknowingly consuming a substance adulterated with a dangerous contaminant like fentanyl. We advance policies that permit the wide scale use and distribution of testing supplies and equipment as well as drug checking research (pp4).

FACTS (RECOVERY RESEARCH INSTITUTE)

Studies in numerous countries have repeatedly provided compelling evidence that syringe access programs for those injecting drugs are cost-effective from both societal and healthcare perspectives, and the net financial benefits translate across diverse regions and economic settings.

In working to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, harm reduction significantly saves communities financially, compared to the lifetime costs associated with antiretroviral treatment for the condition.

A recent study in Australia found that syringe access had a \$1.3 to \$5.5 return on every \$1 invested.

FACTS (RECOVERY RESEARCH INSTITUTE)

Substance use is tied to risky behaviors such as needle sharing, unprotected sex, and contributes to a weakening of the human immune system, putting individuals with substance use disorder at greater risk for contracting HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases.

Intravenous drug use (injection) is responsible for 33% of adolescent/adult HIV/AIDS cases, and more than 50% of cases at birth.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina has the 8th highest rate of new HIV diagnoses in the country.

DAODAS acknowledges an effective response to this issue is funding RCO's to provide rapid testing and link to treatment. Three RCOs in the state have started this program this year including FAVOR Grand Strand.

ADDITIONAL STATE PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT HARM REDUCTION CONCEPTS

DAODAS began designating different programs throughout the state as “community Narcan providers”. These providers are supplied with nasal Narcan and tasked with distributing Narcan in the community without the usual restrictions attached to other programs.

DAODAS is also making another program available to community Narcan providers to reimburse for fentanyl test strips.



CHALLENGES INC

Challenges Inc. is the grassroots harm reduction provider in the state of South Carolina providing clean supplies. To date this provider has documented 412 overdose reversals.



The background is a solid teal color with a subtle gradient. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art elements resembling circuit traces or neural network connections, with small circles at the end of the lines.

QUESTIONS????

THANK YOU



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Module III Special Topics of Interest July 2021 – September 2021		
Date	Topic	Presenter
08/10	Assertive Engagement Strategies	Tricia Lawdahl, CPSS, NCPRSS
08/24	Comorbid Mood Disorders	Bryan Tolliver, MD
09/14	Suicide Prevention	Jennifer Wray, PhD & Anthony J. Hedges
09/28	Hot topic	TBD



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