

Action Steps for Prevention Practitioners To Enhance Harm Reduction Efforts

Take Action!

This resource highlights the actions that the prevention workforce can take to augment harm reduction efforts in their communities. By working together across the continuum of care, we can have a greater impact on the reducing substance misuse and its consequences.

As prevention practitioners, we are in a unique position to assist harm reduction efforts. Our knowledge, skills, and experiences can assist those working on harm reduction in the areas of community readiness, stigma, and community support.



For additional guidance on prevention's role in harm reduction, visit Great Lakes PTTC:
<https://pttcnetwork.org/center/content/great-lakes-pttc>



Promote Community Readiness

- Review the [Community Toolbox](#) for tools and resources to address community readiness
- Increase community readiness for harm reduction
- Create and implement plan of action to increase readiness based on community readiness level

Address Stigma

- Educate [stakeholders](#) and others on the nature of addiction and the recovery process
- Promote use of [non-stigmatizing language](#) in your communications and broader community
- Raise awareness of substance use disorder as treatable diseases

Provide Education and Resources

- Develop messaging designed to build awareness and support for harm reduction efforts
- Educate on topics such as identifying an overdose, using naloxone, and accessing recovery supports

Coordinate Strategy Implementation

- Connect with local task forces, first responders, and programs focused on harm reduction
- Assist harm reduction efforts in creating collaborative opportunities
- Bring community sectors together to coordinate and merge activities when possible

Link Harm Reduction to Prevention

- Add prevention services to harm reduction efforts (e.g., to children of parents who have overdosed)
- Champion laws and policies that address both harm reduction and prevention issues