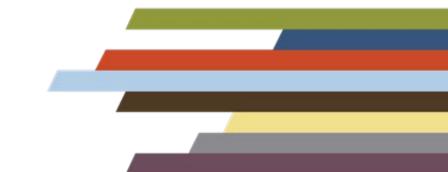
Harm Reduction Strategies Through the Lens of Selective and Indicated Prevention





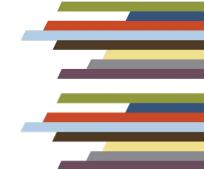
Sp ea ke rs

- Christopher O'Connell, Deputy Director
 SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)
- Holly Hagle, PI/Co-Director
 Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network Coordinating Office (PTTC NCO)
- Laurie Krom, Co-Director
 Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network Coordinating Office (PTTC NCO)
- Monique Tula, Executive Director
 National Harm Reduction Coalition
- Amanda Muller, Manager of Drug User Health NASTAD
- Brenda A. Miller, Senior Research Scientist Prevention Research Center, PIRE





The PTTC Network uses affirming language to promote the application of evidence-based and culturally informed practices.



Christopher O'Connell, Deputy Director

SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)



Holly Hagle, PI/Co-Director Laurie Krom, Co-Director

PTTC Network Coordinating Office

PTTC Purpose



Improve implementation and delivery of effective substance use prevention interventions

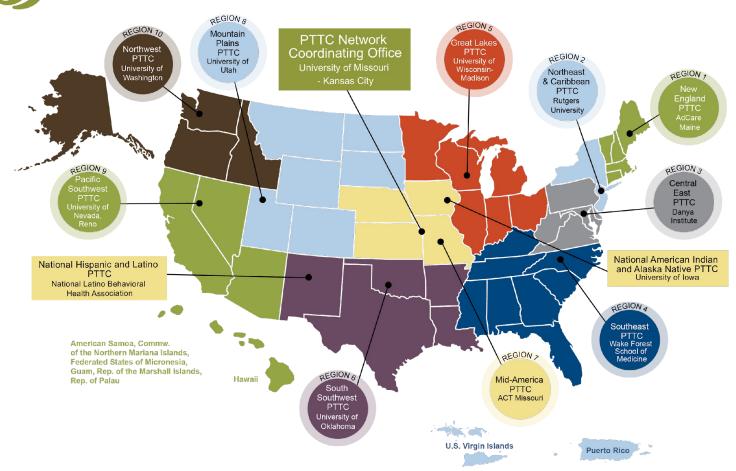


Provide training and technical assistance services to the substance use prevention field

- Tailored to meet the needs of recipients and the prevention field
- Based in prevention science and use evidence-based and promising practices
- Leverage the expertise and resources available through the alliances formed within and across the HHS regions and the PTTC Network.



PTTC Network



Highlight of PTTC Major Projects

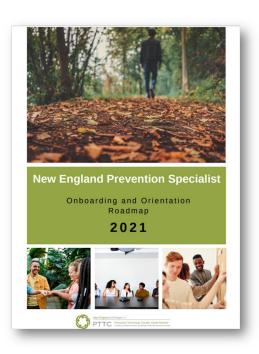
Prevention Ethics for Certification



Support for SAPST



Prevention Onboarding and Road Map





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. Harm reduction does not require abstinence from any risky behaviors.



Harm Reduction (HR) is Additive to Prevention Work

- Harm Reduction is a wide-reaching concept that seeks to enhance the wellbeing of individuals and communities
- It addresses many facets of life including housing, employment, recovery relapse prevention and substance use at any level





Continuum of Care and Restorative Health

HR is all along the way of the continuum of care



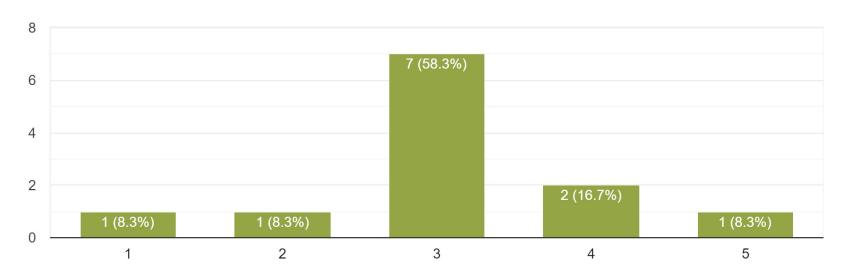
Putting the pieces of the continuum of care puzzle together

Harm reduction is grounded in the ideas of self-determination, person-centered care, and enhancing quality of life for individuals and their communities.



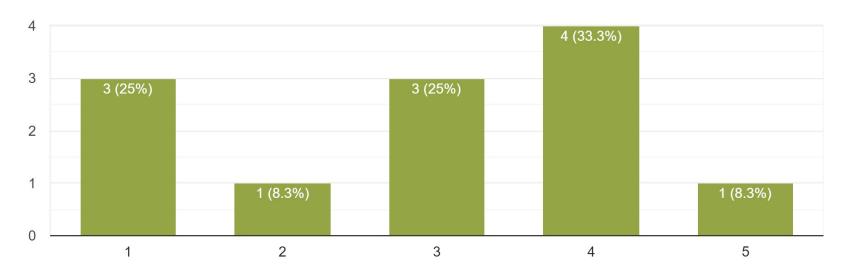
Survey Results

On a scale of 1 - 5: How would you rate your knowledge of Harm Reduction? 12 responses





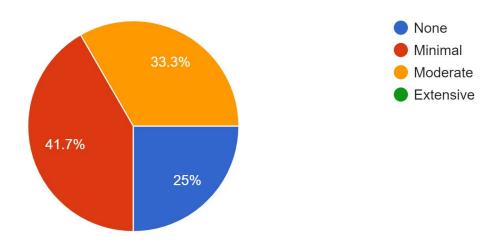
On a scale of 1 - 5: How comfortable do you feel managing Harm Reduction grant programs? 12 responses





What is your experience working either directly or indirectly with Harm Reduction programs?

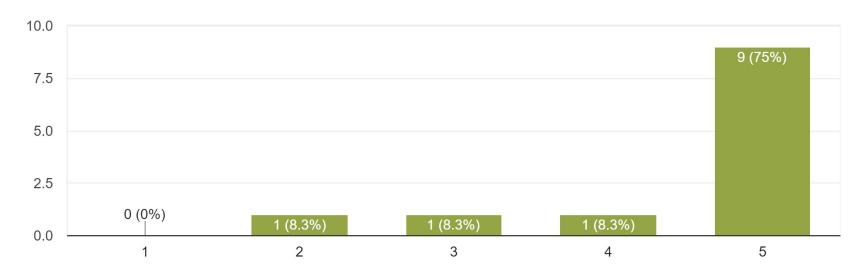
12 responses





On a scale of 1-5: How enthusiastic are you to learn about how Harm Reduction could benefit your work?

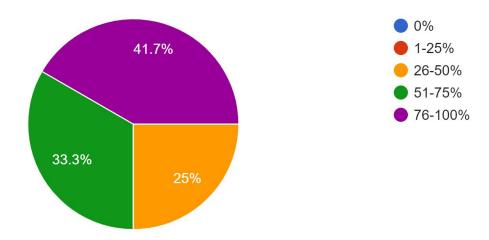
12 responses





From your perspective, what percentage of overlap does Prevention share with Harm Reduction?

12 responses







How the PTTCs can be helpful

- Facilitate learning sessions: i.e., webinars, learning community, or online course
- Support: host dialogue sessions with subject matter experts (a modified Project ECHO model)
- Connect: make connections with, national, regional and state stakeholders

More Information

Slides and Resources available at pttcnetwork.org

Contact us at network.org





Harm Reduction and Prevention have common goals in reducing the adverse health and social consequences but exist at different places in the continuum of Universal, Selective, and Indicated Prevention.

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. Harm reduction does not require abstinence from any risky behaviors.



The principles of harm reduction were developed nearly 25 years ago by and for people who use drugs. At their core, the principles are people centered, pragmatic, and take into consideration important sociocultural factors—such as race, poverty, and social disapproval of drugs and drug users.

DEFINITION FROM THE HARM REDUCTION COALITION

HARM REDUCTION AND PREVENTION HAVE COMMON GOALS

- Provide interventions for a continuum of substance users for a variety substances.
- Focus on individual and community risks associated with substance use.
- Honor and incorporate cultural competency in interventions.
- · Promote individual and community wellbeing.

TO REDUCE HARM WHEN USING SUBSTANCES, INDIVIDUALS SHOULD ALWAYS

- Have a safety plan with a trusted individual.
- Use clean needles and do not share if injecting.
- · Assess the safety of the surroundings before using.
- Know personal limits and decide how much to use in advance.
- Test the strength and purity of each use by starting with a small dose.

PTTCNetwork.org



Keep in touch!

- 5 PTTCs have regular e-publications
- PTTC Network Office publishes the PTTC POST monthly
 - Please Subscribe:

https://pttcnetwork.org/centers/global-pttc/pttcsubscription-page





@PreventionTTCnetwork



Harm Reduction:

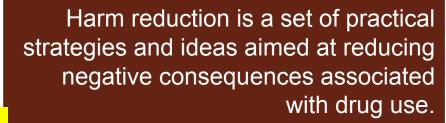
expanding our approach to prevention

MONIQUE TULA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION COALITION



Personal Autonomy

Recovery is a process of change through which people improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.



Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

Definition of Harm Reduction

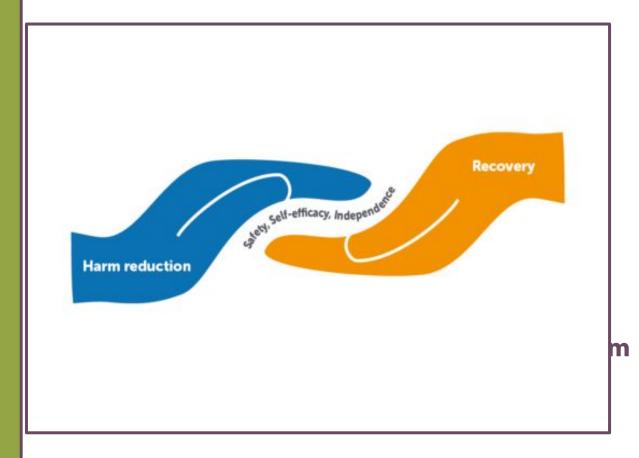
SAMHSA working definition of recovery

Practical Strategies



Sometimes we speak about harm reduction, prevention and recovery as separate things

In actuality, each are part of a continuum of increasing safety, self-efficacy, and autonomy



PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF RECOVERY

Health and Dignity

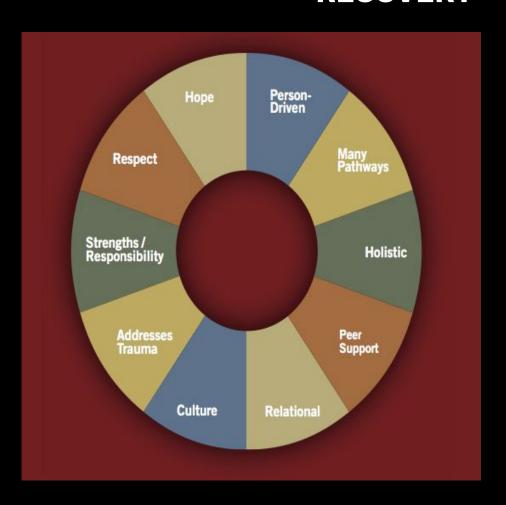
Participant Centered Services

Participant Autonomy

Pragmatism and Realism

Culturally Informed

Participant Involvement



California Harm Reduction **Initiative**

Point in Time Survey Results

2021

California Harm Reduction Initiative, or CHRI, funded 37 Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) across 21 California counties beginning in August 2020 to expand the range, reach, and quality of harm reduction services in California, CHRI was allocated in the Budget Act of 2019 and is led by National Harm Reduction Coalition and funded by the CDPH Office of AIDS.

In February 2021, CHRI funded Syringe Services Programs conducted 491 unique interviews with participants. National Harm Reduction Coalition included Point in Time surveys as a core part of evaluation, to specifically measure how SSPs are including people who use drugs more meaningfully in planning, executing and evaluating services. The interviews offer key insights to the reality for people who engage with SSPs statewide. Participants shared their experiences with overdoses, drug use, gaps in services and resources needed to support them.

ACCESS & BARRIERS TO MOUD

Commented that they wanted Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOOD), 36, No. SSPs, such as treatment on site, case for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) services at management and linkage services

Participants reported that they wanted MOUD offered by people who treated them non judgmentally.

"Yes, prescribed 5 years ago, started it, wasn't able to fulfill obligations to go to meetings, motivation went down because I started using again - worked when I did use it."

"I used to take Suboxone and I was clean for a long time and I failed a single drug test and was cut off of it by my provider."

HIGHLIGHTS

Identified as unstably housed* in the past six months

Higher rate for BIPOC participants:

78.8% Latinx Asian 86.4% Black 72.3% White

*We defined "unstably housed" as living in a single room occupancy hotel or shelter in place hotel, a house or apartment of a family member, a house or apartment of a friend, a garage, or other place not meant for human habitation, a mobile home (RV), a van, a car, a shelter, navigation center, transitional housing, or in a homeless encampment.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Median Age

41.5 years old

Gender

64.8% Male Transgender 30.1% Female 0.8% Two-spirit 1.0% **GNC** 1.4% No response

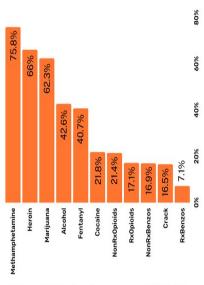
Sexual Orientation

Straight 1.6% Lesbian 9.6% Bisexual 3.9% No response

4.3% Queer

56.6% White 4.5% American Indian 14.3% Black & Alaska Native 13.4% Other 0.6% Asian 7.5% More than 2.6% No response one race

DRUG USE DATA



Used at least one stimulant in the past 6 months

Used at least one opioid in the past 6 months

23_8% Reported transportation as a top

Other barriers to accessing MOUD:

32% clinic barriers when discussing methadone (long waits, waiting lists, limited or difficult hours, daily dosing)

28% clinic barriers when discussing buprenorphine (long waits, limited or difficult hours, security presence)

15% needing an ID requiring abstinence 8% not covered by insurance 8% don't trust providers

12% can't get an appt

Participants specifically noted that having to go to a methadone clinic every day was a barrier to continuing treatment.

"I have done it a few times. But I start to get tired of the trip each day and stop going at first once, or twice a week. But I finally just say screw it, and stop all together." (methadone specific)

"Had it before for almost a year, never got any take homes -- makes a huge difference to get take homes." (methadone specific)

The majority of participants did report they know of a provider that offered buprenorphine, some had either been on buprenorphine recently or were currently on it.

There is an opportunity here for SSPs who have reported generally high knowledge about buprenorphine to provide more information directly to participants and build their knowledge.

Reported methamphetamine use. the most common drug used

Reported some stimulant use

Reported smoking drugs, the most common method of use

Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) do much more than offer sterile syringes or injection equipment and this is important data to make sure people who smoke drugs are receiving safe smoking supplies and the best resources possible.

Nearly half reported they get extra supplies for someone unable to obtain supplies themselves

This could be for a number of reasons: Stigma, fear of harassment, legal concerns, travel distances - but it shows the importance of providing ample access to participants.

Witnessed an overdose in the last six months

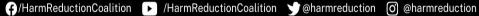
48.5%

Used Naloxone on someone in the last six months

SSP participants are witnessing high rates of overdose in their communities and they are the ones saving each other's lives.

It is important to invest in the infrastructure of SSPs that already exists rather than creating new infrastructure.

24%



Identified as Hispanic or Latinx



Opportunities for Harm Reduction Approaches



Assess problems and related behaviors Prioritize problems (criteria: magnitude, time trend, severity, comparison) Assess risk and protective factors Consider that context, not the drug itself, may confer risk Develop questions and interpret data alongside people who use drugs

Assess structural factors

Evidence-Based Practices that Reduce Harm

- Enumeration of root causes of substance use disorder related to housing, employment, access to healthcare, punitive criminal legal initiatives, food access, transportation, and social and community support
- Community-based participatory research and other restorative justice approaches to engage the community and counter the systemic disempowerment of people who use drugs and communities of color caused by the War on Drugs



Engage community stakeholders Develop and strengthen a prevention team Raise community awareness

Engage people with lived experience

Ensure people who use drugs are part of the decision-making process

Expand capacity of peer-based advocacy

Step 3: Planning

Prioritize risk and protective factors (criteria: importance, changeability) Select interventions (criteria: effectiveness, conceptual fit, practical fit)

Develop a comprehensive plan that aligns with the logic model

Prioritize structural factors and address the social determinants of health

Develop questions and interpret data alongside people who use drugs Elevate harm reduction principles as primary and secondary prevention

- Addressing SD0H as an intergenerational protective factor for primary prevention
- Non-punitive programs that do not require abstinence for participation as secondary prevention
- Reducing stigma and growing community support for evidence-based programs as tertiary prevention



Deliver programs and practices Balance fidelity with planned adaptations

Retain core components

Establish implementation supports and monitor Consider that context, not the drug itself, may confer risk Develop questions and interpret data alongside people who use drugs Address social determinants of health

- Overdose education and naloxone distribution
- Health and wellness sites to prevent overdose
 Deploy non-punitive treatment models
- Revise policies that impose barriers to social determinants for people with substance use
- disorder
 Syringe service programs
- · Alternative crisis/overdose response models



Conduct process evaluation

Conduct outcome evaluation

Recommend improvements and make mid-course corrections

Share and report evaluation results

Ensure programs work for ALL in target population, (e.g., people of color) Gain input from people w/ lived experience at the beginning, middle, and end of evaluation

Combine data and stories to humanize the issues and reduce stigma

- When communicating findings, initiatives should not underestimate the value of contextualizing findings and humanizing approaches
- Building and maintaining community support for harm reduction requires a sustained commitment to reducing stigma



Rationale for Federal Support

- Federal resources can alleviate the sustainability treadmill for unfunded/underfunded harm reduction programs
- A federal strategy can guide regional metrics and consistent application and practice
- False narrative about promoting drug use and crime hinders bringing harm reduction to scale in all 10 SAMHSA's regions
- Training, technical assistance, and grant-making through the 'center' model can deepen CSAP's impact



Thank you!

Monique Tula, Executive Director

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The Intersections of Infectious Disease, Drug Use, and Incorporating a Drug User Health Framework

Amanda Muller Manager, Drug User Health NASTAD



About NASTAD

- WHO: A non-profit, non-partisan national association founded in 1992 that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs funded by state and federal governments.
- WHERE: All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, seven local jurisdictions receiving direct funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Pacific Island jurisdictions.
- **MISSION:** NASTAD's mission is to end the intersecting epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, and related conditions by strengthening domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building, and social justice.
- VISION: NASTAD's vision is a world free of HIV and viral hepatitis.

Goals and Objectives

Goal

To increase participants knowledge of infectious disease and harm reduction, comprehensive care for PWUDs, and building meaningful support for harm reduction programs.

Objectives

- Improve understanding of how to build support for harm reduction programs
- Identify a range of services necessary to meet the need of people who use drugs
- Increase knowledge coordinated services for PWUDs and systems of comprehensive care

National HIV & Hepatitis Overview

Injection Drug Use accounts for ~9% of new HIV cases ¹
Over 65% of HCV cases ²

Among people who inject drugs 60%-90% have HCV after 5 years Median time to HCV transmission is ~3 years And each year ~ 20-30% of PWID acquire HCV ³

Comorbidity
Among PWID and have HIV, 75% also have HCV
Among PLWHIV w/o IDU, 25% have HCV ⁴

Life time cost of each HIV infection is over \$480,000 ⁵

Accumulated costs of HCV care over the next 20 years on this trajectory over \$78 billion ⁶





^{1.}Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017. HIV Surveillance Report, https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-

^{3.} Grebely, J. et al. 2011. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3072734/

^{4.} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017. HIV and Viral Hepatitis. https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/factsheets/hiv-viral-hepatitis.pdf

^{5.} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017. https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/programresources/guidance/costeffectiveness/index.html

^{6.} National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017. https://www.nap.edu/read/24731/chapter/8

Diseases Associated with Injection Drug Use

- Viral infections (bloodborne)
 - Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)
 - Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
 - Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)
 - HIV
- Bacterial Infections (soft tissue/skin) ⁴
 - Septicemia
 - Bacteremia
 - Cellulitis
 - Abscesses (staph, strep)
 - Endocarditis
 - Necrotizing fasciitis
 - Wound botulism

- Hepatitis C is the leading cause of death among all infectious diseases
- The CDC estimates 41,200 acute HCV cases in the US in 2016 ¹
- Estimated 2.4 million people have HCV in the US (~1% of US pop.)
- 85% of HCV infection leads to progresses to chronic infection ¹
- IDU is currently the most common risk factor for HCV in developed countries (60-80% worldwide)³



^{1.} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm

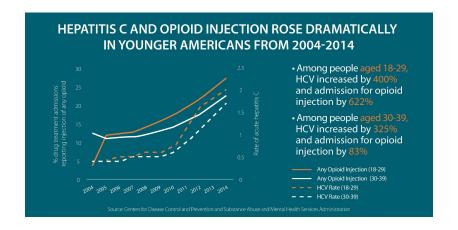
^{2.} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018. https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2018/hepatitis-c-prevalence-estimates.html

^{3.} Nelson, et al. 2011. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21802134/

^{4.} Collier, M., et al. 2018. https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10900-017-0458-9

Huge Increases in HCV Related to Injection Drug Use

- Among 18- to 29-year-olds, there was a
 - 400 percent increase in acute hepatitis
 - 817 percent increase in admissions for injection of prescription opioids
 - 600 percent increase in admissions for heroin injection
- Among 30- to 39-year-olds, there was a
 - 325 percent increase in acute hepatitis C
 - 169 percent increase in admissions for injection of prescription opioids
 - 77 percent increase in admissions for heroin injection
- There were also sharp increases among whites and among women

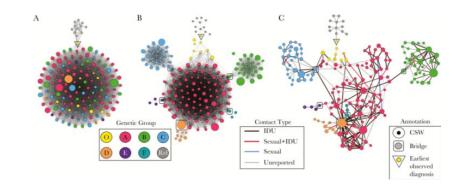


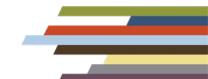
Zibbell, J., et al. 2017. https://aiph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304132



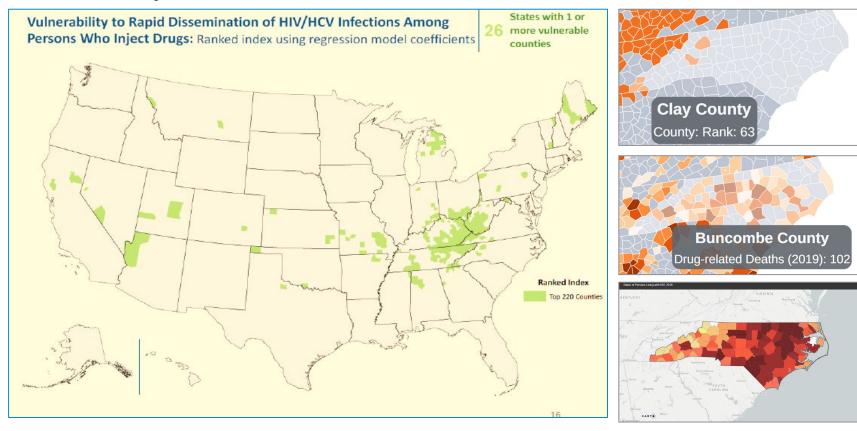
Scott County, Indiana

- HIV Outbreak in Austin, Indiana (pop. 4,200) in 2015
- Over 200 cases of HIV were eventually attributed to injection drug use behavior
- Only had 5 reported cases of HIV in the previous decade
- Within this initial outbreak 115 persons were co-infected with HCV and currently 92% are co-infected

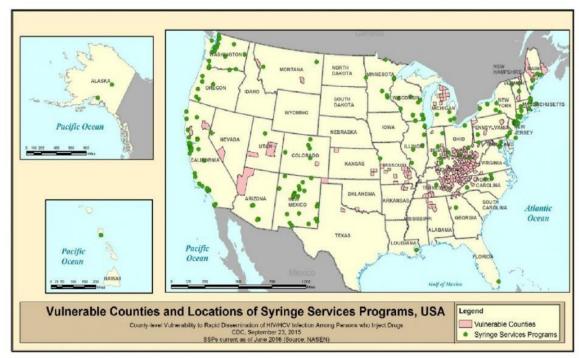




HIV/HCV Vulnerable Counties



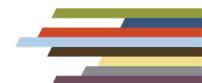
So What Can Be Done?



Source: Van Handel, et al. JAIDS; in press

HARM REDUCTION and Syringe Services Programs

- Most effective way to prevent infectious disease transmission for PWIDs
- Do not increase drug use or crime
- SSP participants are 5 times more likely than nonparticipants to enter treatment





Amanda Muller amuller@nastad.org www.nastad.org

Harm Reduction for Substance Use Behaviors: Expanding programs and strategies to reach more individuals, families, and communities

Brenda A. Miller, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist
Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Prevention Research Center
Berkeley, CA



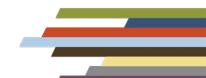
Harm Reduction: "Accessing" Selected and Indicated Populations

- Universal prevention sought to prevent any use and largely focused on children with "prevention of any use" as the goal.
- Selected populations are substance users "at risk" for substance-related problems and can be "reached" with harm reduction programs
- Indicated populations can include users with problems who are not ready to seek treatment, harm reduction programs can offer an intermediary step



Why Embrace Harm Reduction Programs & Strategies?

- Relevant to a continuum of substance users (first time, intermittent, regular, to addicted)
- Opens the door to examining co-occurring unwanted consequences (e.g., aggression, accidents)
- Increases access to strategies that address the entire lifespan.



Using a Harm Reduction Perspective Results in a Broader Scope of Actions



Reduce social or legal consequences



Improve physical health and/or longevity



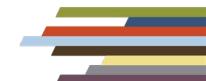
Address mental, emotional, and/or spiritual needs



Improve access to treatment



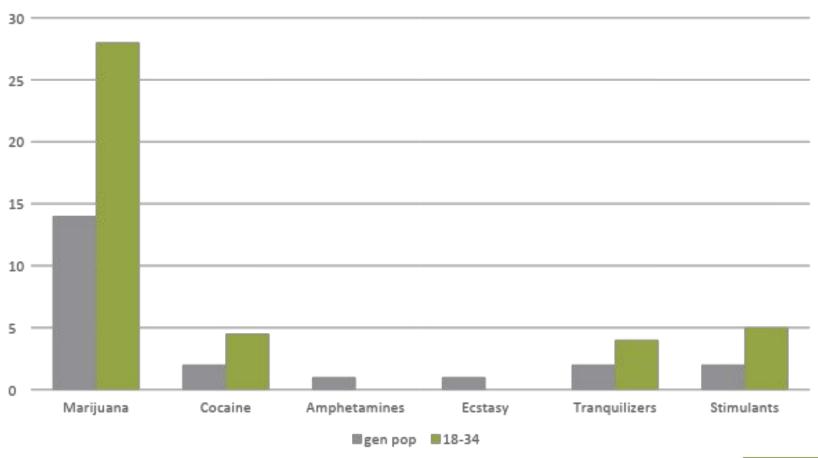
Inclusive of larger community impacted by substance use



Selected and Indicated Populations--Frequency of drinking in past year

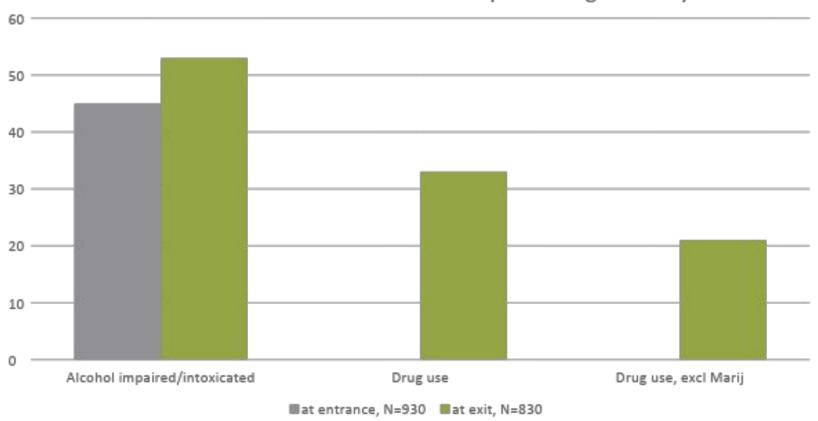
Figure 1: How often people drank alcohol in the past year Every day, 4% 3-6 times per week, 11% Not at all, 29% 1-2 times per week, 14% About 1-11 times per 1-3 times per month, year, 20% 21%

Selected and Indicated populations: Drug Use-Past Year



Young Adults* at Nightclubs: Example of a Selected Population

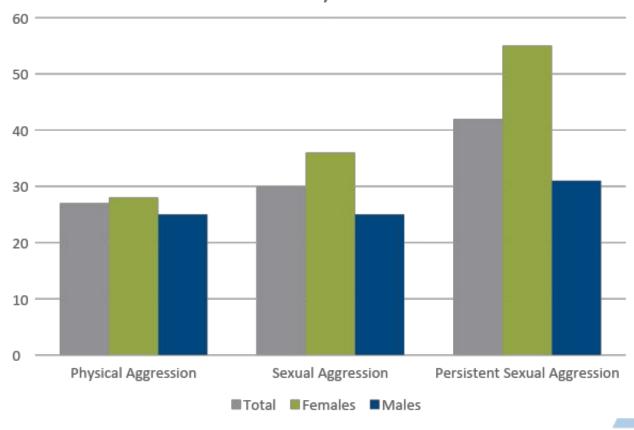
Prevalence of substance Use based upon biological assays





Young Adults at Nightclubs: Prevalence of Aggression

Aggression experienced at a club during past 30 days



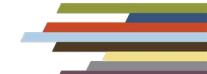
Rethinking Outcomes

Rather than a binary outcome (use/no use)—measure the reductions in number of days or amounts used

Consider the context of use—(e.g., alcohol consumption is safer if there is not a drinking driver).

Consider the related harms that are averted (e.g., drug overdoses decreased, less victimization, less aggression).

Identifying harms that are avoided for the community, the family, and other individuals



Engaging Communities—From Punitive to Safety Approaches

- Perception is important! Identifying motives behind our public health efforts.
- Staying safe approach --makes it easier for young people to accept and adopt harm reduction approaches—
- Nightlife Safety Approach—working with naturally occurring groups to reduce harm while at nightclubs—A RCT for harm reduction



Engaging Families in Harm Reduction Approaches

- Families as a resource for prevention—universal, selected and indicated populations
- Reframing from monitoring to guiding difficult real-life scenarios helping youth make safe choices—the Smart Choices for Teens approach—A RCT for teens and parents as a harm reduction approach



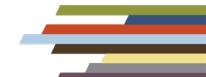
Final Thoughts on Harm Reduction Approaches

- Greater than a list of programs or strategies—a change in thinking, measuring, and evaluating success
- De-emphasizes stigmatization and marginalizing people and communities
- Emphasizes building health and resilience in the entire community
- Harm reductions models, beliefs and strategies are not static but constantly evolving



Next Steps: Focusing on Selected and Indicated Populations

- Importance of the 18-34 age range for expanding our services and adopting a harm reduction approach
- Addressing not just the substance use, but the related harms
- Engaging the community and resources available in the community



Questions?



Thank you

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