

Harm Reduction

Harm reduction interventions and policies serving people who use drugs must reflect unique individual and community needs. Therefore, there is no universal definition of harm reduction. Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies that includes safer use, managed use, abstinence, meeting people who use drugs “where they’re at,” and addressing conditions of use along with the use itself.

STRATEGIES



Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution

Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Programs can reverse potentially fatal overdoses from opioids. Naloxone kits typically include naloxone, breathing masks, and rubber gloves. Kits are distributed to individuals at risk of overdose or people who may respond to an overdose.



Fentanyl Test Strips

Access to fentanyl test strips reduces the risk of overdose. Fentanyl test strips can identify the presence of fentanyl in unregulated drugs, whether in the form of injectable drugs, powders, or pills. Test strips can be purchased online or may be available at local Syringe Service Programs (SSP).



Syringe Service Programs

Syringe Service Programs (SSP) are community-based infectious disease and/or overdose prevention programs that provide a range of services, including: linkage to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and vaccination, testing, and linkage to care and treatment for infectious diseases.



Education & Access to Information

Through the provision of harm reduction supports such as naloxone kits, fentanyl test strips, syringe service programs, and more, there are also opportunities to share information on overdose reversal, HIV and viral hepatitis prevention and testing, local resources, as well as opportunities to connect people to counseling and treatment services.

New users of Syringe Service Programs are:

5x more likely to enter drug treatment and

3x more likely to stop using drugs than those who don't use the program.

RESOURCES

Find a Syringe Service Program (SSP) in your area



or visit nasen.org/map

Compassionate and confidential overdose response hotline

800-484-3731

Never Use Alone, Inc.

Find supplies, including Naloxone/Narcan



or visit findnaloxone.ky.gov

