

Harm Reduction in Tennessee

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Barriers to care for people who use drugs

- ▶ Stigma
 - ▶ Internal/external
- ▶ Negative experiences
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Insurance status
- ▶ Services not led by directly affected people
- ▶ Lack of access to services
 - ▶ Not enough providers
 - ▶ Too expensive
 - ▶ Inaccessible days/times
 - ▶ Restrictions (sobriety requirements, mandatory groups or meetings, isolation from family)



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Registrant
Questions:

Addressing
Stigma in
Communities



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What is harm reduction?

- Social justice philosophy built by and for people who use drugs
- Accepts decisions people make about their lives
- Provides resources to maximize health and reduce harm
- Recognizes drug use continuum and drug-related harms
- Meets people where they're at – nonjudgmental services are critical
- Person first language



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Image by Nigel Brunsdon

Registrant Questions: Harm Reduction Best Practices

- ▶ 150% of syringes needed to decrease HIV/HCV
 - ▶ Safer sex supplies
 - ▶ Injecting supplies
- ▶ Widespread naloxone distribution to people who use and sell drugs
 - ▶ Fentanyl test strips
- ▶ Safer injection practices to prevent soft tissue wounds
- ▶ Warm referrals, but NO coercion into treatment
- ▶ Safer consumption spaces
 - ▶ Currently not in the US



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Registrant Questions: Harm Reduction Best Practices MOUD



Artwork by Celestial Heartbreak

- ▶ CDC/SAMHSA recommend cross-referral
- ▶ Naloxone distribution critical
- ▶ Low-barrier MOUD



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Registrant Questions: Best Practices and the Role of People who Sell



Issues. Drug Facts. Take

DECEMBER 17, 2019

RESOURCE

Rethinking the "Drug Dealer"

ALYSSA STRYKER

Trusting the source: The potential role of drug dealers in reducing drug-related harms via drug checking

Geoff Bardwell ^{a, b}, Jade Boyd ^{a, b}, Jaime Arredondo ^a, Ryan McNeil ^{a, b}, Thomas Kerr ^{a, b}

- ▶ People who sell drugs as educators
- ▶ Secondary exchange
- ▶ As naloxone distributors
- ▶ Testing for fentanyl

The protective effect of trusted dealers against opioid overdose in the U.S.

Jennifer J. Carroll ^{a, b, *}, Josiah D. Rich ^{b, c, d}, Traci C. Green ^{b, e}

Registrant Questions: Harm Reduction Policies in Tennessee

- ▶ Good Samaritan Law (TN Code 63-1-156 2015)
- ▶ SSP Law (TN Code 68-1 2018)
- ▶ Getting SSP approval through Tennessee Department of Health (TDH)
- ▶ TDH HIV and HCV testing training



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CHN Harm Reduction: Who are we?



- ▶ Multi-disciplinary: anthropology, public health, public policy, psychology, medicine
- ▶ Volunteer team: people with lived experience, students, practitioners, community allies

CHN Harm Reduction: What do we do?

- ▶ Health hub for people who use drugs
- ▶ Syringe and injection supply access
- ▶ HIV/hepatitis C screening, confirmatory testing, and linkage to care
- ▶ Overdose prevention
- ▶ Case management



Community impact

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

- ▶ Number of participants served: 5,619
- ▶ Number of participant visits: 19,372
- ▶ Overdose reversals reported: 1,742
- ▶ Total HIV tests: 355
- ▶ Total HCV tests: 272
- ▶ New PrEP prescriptions: 39
- ▶ Syringes distributed: 1,035,100

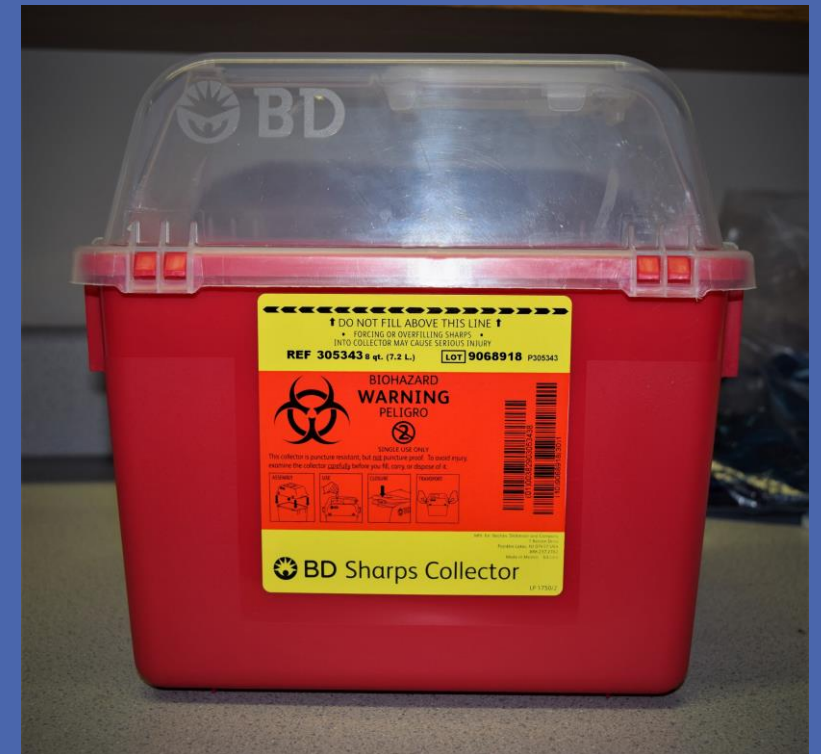


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Registrant Questions: Supporting Caregivers

- ▶ Naloxone
- ▶ Sharps containers
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Referrals for mental health for caregivers



Registrant Questions: Integrating into Community Mental Health



- ▶ Principles of Harm Reduction
- ▶ Cross-referral
- ▶ Distributing naloxone



Participant Feedback

"I want to express my absolute visceral appreciation that this exists, that you've created it, and that I am not alone."



Artwork from Central Arkansas Harm Reduction Project



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Questions?

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