**HARM REDUCTION**

refers to a wide range of evidence-based strategies and interventions aimed at reducing the “negative consequences associated with drug use.”¹

Specific interventions include: syringe exchange programs, overdose prevention sites, sterile injection and smoking equipment, fentanyl test strips, drug test sites, and the provision of naloxone for the reversal of opioid-related overdoses.²

Harm reduction strategies may also include more community and structural efforts, including:

- educating and deploying outreach coordinators, first responders, community organizations, medication assisted treatment and addiction recovery providers, primary care providers, doulas and other maternal health providers, and others.
- overdose prevention and response trainings, BLS certification, access to safer consumption supplies, public health education on drug use, overdose, sex work, and stigma, STI/STD testing.
- policies that serve to decrease drug and sex work criminalization, or increase access and accountability for quality access to naloxone, appropriate treatment, public transportation, and social services more broadly.

As a movement founded on the principles of social justice, harm reduction seeks to empower and affirm the dignity of people who use drugs (PWUD), and recognizes that drug use is a “complex, multifaceted phenomenon” that intersects with various social inequities to shape vulnerability to drug-related harms.¹

As a result, proponents of harm reduction are increasingly advocating for a holistic framework that addresses these intersection and builds solidarity with other social justice movements, such as those for racial equity, decarceration, sex work decriminalization, LGBTQIA+ health justice, housing justice, and reproductive justice.³

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