




DCengage

HealthHIV.org

**Syringe
Services
Programs in
a COVID
Environment
Handout**

**Inaugural DC Engage
Harm Reduction Conference**
AUGUST 25, 2022



Harm Reduction/SSP Programming– Effective Outreach: An Inside Job


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Inaugural DC Engage Harm Reduction Conference
AUGUST 25, 2022

Aims of Harm Reduction

- Meet people where they are in the community and in their own journey of wellness.
- Non Judgmental, non-coercive services and support.
- Sets quality of life as the criteria for success, not necessarily cessation of use. Affirms people’s choice as their human right.
- Works to impact and dismantle forms of oppression, such as structural racism which increases harm to those targeted.
- Partners with local law enforcement agencies to strengthen the alliance of service to the community


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What is Harm Reduction?

- Harm Reduction refers to policies, programs and practices that aim primarily to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs without necessarily reducing drug consumption. Harm reduction benefits people who use drugs, their families and the community.
- Harm reduction complements approaches that seek to prevent or reduce the overall level of drug consumption.

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Key Components of FMCS's Harm reduction program

- Sterile syringes and other injection equipment
- Safe disposal containers for needles and syringes
- HIV and Hepatitis testing and linkage to care
- Education about overdose prevention and safer injection practices
- Referral to substance use disorder treatment, including medication for opioid use disorder
- Referral to medical, mental health and social services
- Tools to prevent HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis including counseling, condoms and vaccinations.
- Referrals for obtaining DC Non-Driver's Identification
- Distribution of Fresh meals

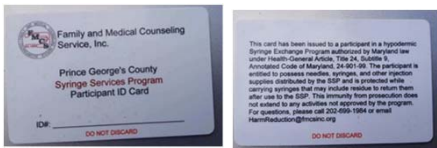
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The FMCS Harm Reduction Model

- FMCS Model is a Mobile Unit and Backpack model for the purpose of carrying Service supplies with flexibility and mobility to reach participants where they are to achieve proximity. This is one of the key tools within the Harm Reduction Model
- Program Registration/ Anonymity/ SSP ID
 - Ideally Engage each participant and assign each participant a unique identifier.
 - The Participant's Unique Identifier provides them with confidentiality and anonymity. 15 alphabetical and Numeric code: Mother's 1st letter of her 1st name, Ethnicity, Race, Birth Month, Zip Code, Birth Year, 1st two letters of Participants first name, Gender.
 - Continue to encourage and promote the engagement with individuals who are secondary SS participants to ensure their protection and safety with formal SSP enrollment

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Participant Card



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Overdose Information

- Community Education
- Narcan distribution to program participants
- Training on the use of Narcan
- Distribution of Narcan to family members friends and community stakeholders
- How Narcan works

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Harm Reduction/SSP Referral Process

- We accept referrals for Harm Reduction services including Narcan distribution from organizations and community members in Washington, DC.
 - To make a referral call our offices at 202-889-7900 ext 5 and ask for a SSP Staff person
 - Reach our staff in the field by calling Tyrone Pinkney@ 202-910-6237
 - Reach our Regional Syringe Service Program Coordinator at our offices at 202-889-7900 ext 107, by cell at 202-699-1984 or by email at arobinson@fmsinc.org

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Benefits of Harm a Reduction Program in Washington, DC.



- **Lowers risk of HIV and HEP C Transmission.** According to the Centers for Disease Control, persons who inject drugs can substantially reduce their risk of getting and transmitting HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood borne infections by using a sterile needle and syringe for every injection.
- **Reduces Occupational Risk.** HRP/SSPs reduce needle stick injuries among first responders by providing proper disposal.
- **Bridge to Treatment.** HRP/SSPs increase entry into Substance Abuse Treatment
- **Provides Prevention Tools.** HRP/SSPs provide tools to prevent HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis including counseling, condoms and vaccinations.

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Questions????

Please feel free to ask questions or submit them via email to:
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