

HARM REDUCTION IN CALIFORNIA

The Current Landscape

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NATIONAL
HARM REDUCTION
COALITION

**National Harm Reduction Coalition creates spaces
for **dialogue and action** that help heal the harms caused
by racialized drug policies.**



**Policy &
Advocacy**



**National &
Regional
Conferences**



**Trainings &
Technical
Assistance**



**Overdose
Prevention**



**Resources &
Publications**

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CASEP Coalition
What can you do?



HARM REDUCTION IN CA

SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS (SSPs)

- SSPs began to proliferate in the 1980s and played a central role in dramatically reducing HIV infection among people who inject drugs.
- Decades of evidence to support the benefits
- Prevent transmission of other infectious diseases (hepatitis C & B), reduce skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs), and other health conditions **including COVID-19 response**
- Provide tools and services, care and compassion, Often a point of entry into healthcare and treatment services

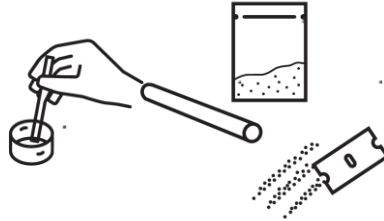


Photo: Community Health Project Los Angeles

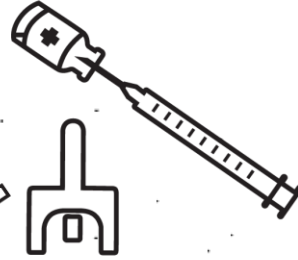
HARM REDUCTION SERVICES



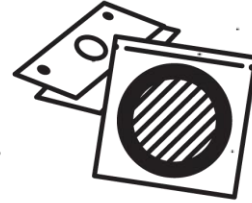
Syringe Access and Disposal



Safer Drug Use Supplies



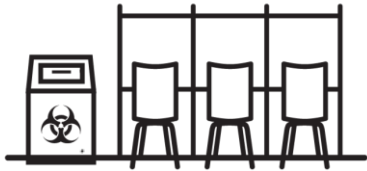
Overdose Prevention



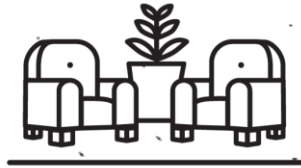
Safer Sex Materials



Medication for Opioid Use Disorder



Safer Consumption Services



Drop-in Centers



Housing First



Referrals





BARRIERS TO SERVICES

OPPOSITION

- As harm reduction programs have become more pervasive opposition has grown
- Stigma and xenophobia are alive and well
- Makes it hard for programs to focus on providing services, lack of safety for participants
- sean.morgan@chicoca.gov

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY!

Sean Morgan:

- ✓ Proposed the ban on needle giveaways and supported the citizen lawsuit to stop the program
- ✓ Supported all efforts to clean up our streets, parks, and greenways
- ✓ Proposed solutions to get drug addicts the help they need instead of enabling their disease
- ✓ Endorsed by Chico Police Officers and Firefighters

Sean MORGAN
CHICO CITY COUNCIL

VOTE SEAN MORGAN FOR NEEDLE FREE STREETS AND PARKS

CRIMINALIZATION OF PWUD

- AB 2077 makes syringe possession legal, also new health and safety code includes pipes and other drug paraphernalia
- Citations, arrests, confiscation, and intimidation by law enforcement happening every day
- Who is being targeted?



<https://healthcarenohandcuffs.wordpress.com/>

SUPPLY SHORTAGE

- Clearinghouse supply fund has not kept pace with demand
- 75% of SSPs surveyed will not have enough supplies this year
- Programs unable to follow best practices for distribution
- Still gaps in areas covered, programs can't expand without funding and supplies





ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

CALIFORNIA SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS COALITION

- A mutual-aid and advocacy network of SSP providers and participants
- Share knowledge, best practices, resources
- Advocate for policy that advances the rights of PWUD
- Partnered to get \$15.2 million of state funds for harm reduction staffing



INTERCONNECTION IS OUR STRENGTH

- Regional work around Reimagining Public Safety
- COVID-19 breaking barriers and bringing people together
- CA End the Epidemics Advocacy Coalition
- Be an ally!





THANK YOU

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