



April 2024 Newsletter

Explore new training and resources from HHRC and our partners!

Just Released!



Expanding Harm Reduction through Increased Syringe Access

APRIL 2024

INTRODUCTION: Syringe service programs (SSPs) are trauma-informed public health interventions and an important component of harm reduction. This resource provides an overview of the core components of SSPs, including options for providing syringe access and dispelling myths about SSPs and harm reduction.

What Is Harm Reduction, and Why Is Syringe Access Important?

Harm reduction is an approach to care that seeks to reduce the potentially harmful impacts of behaviors while acknowledging that those behaviors may be ongoing. Regarding substance use, harm reduction is about decreasing the harmful effects of using while providing nonjudgmental and noncoercive services and resources regardless of the person's goals for their substance use. Within a harm reduction framework, goals can range from safer use to decreased/different use to abstinence.

Syringe access is an evidence-based, public health intervention and a prime example of harm reduction principles. Having access to an ample supply of new syringes and safe consumption supplies each time someone uses them helps prevent individuals from sharing needles. This helps prevent contamination, disease transmission from one person to another, and potential infections from reusing a syringe a person has used before.

What Is a Syringe Services Program?

SSPs, sometimes known as "needle exchanges," are evidence-based, public health interventions and foundational examples of harm reduction services. They are an essential intervention for decreasing the spread of infectious diseases, reducing potential harms for those who inject drugs, and creating opportunities for engagement with social services, housing, substance use treatment, and medical care.



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Syringe service programs (SSPs) are trauma-informed public health interventions and an important component of harm reduction. This resource provides an overview of the core components of SSPs, including options for providing syringe access and dispelling myths about SSPs and harm reduction.

Hear how two programs put these core components into practice in our recorded webinar: [Expanding Harm Reduction through Increased Syringe Service Access](#).

[Expanding Harm Reduction through Increased Syringe Service Access](#).

[Download the Fact Sheet](#)

In Case You Missed It:

Naloxone in Public Housing: Success in St. Louis



Partner Resources

New TA Center

SAMHSA Program to Advance Recovery Knowledge

[SAMHSA Program to Advance Recovery Knowledge \(SPARK\)](#) is a national technical assistance center to support transformational, recovery-oriented change for every state, tribal, and territorial behavioral health system and promote equitable access to recovery supports in the United States. SPARK helps to embed recovery-oriented approaches in behavioral health systems and address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact access to recovery supports and services for underserved and under-resourced populations and communities.

New Releases

NFSTAC: Partnering with Families in Behavioral Health Online Course

The [National Family Support Technical Assistance Center](#), led by the [National Federation of Families](#), in partnership with Boston University's [Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation](#) published [FAMILY Partnerships](#), a free 6-lesson, self-paced online curriculum module. NFSTAC designed this module to strengthen core skills, tools, and practices for person-centered family partnerships with the behavioral health workforce. This course will prepare you to invite, build, and maintain family partnerships in your practice in any behavioral health setting.

Point Source Youth: The Direct Cash Transfers Handbook

This [comprehensive guide](#) empowers organizations and advocates working to improve the lives of young people by trusting them and placing power and resources directly in their hands. The handbook delves into the implementation, ideation, and evaluation of direct cash transfer (DCT) programs, including wrap-around support services.

Center for Financing Reform & Innovation: Financing Peer Recovery Support: Opportunities to Enhance the Substance Use Disorder Workforce

This [report](#) provides a history of the development of Peer Recovery (PR), including an overview of the current landscape of PR Programs. This report also describes the variation in peer recovery rates, supervision, credentialing, and substance use disorder vs mental health.

HomelessLink UK: Autism and Homelessness

The [Autism and Homelessness Toolkit](#) is designed for homelessness service providers who engage with and support autistic individuals experiencing homelessness. It is particularly valuable for those seeking to enhance their understanding and effectiveness in working with autistic individuals. The Toolkit aims to fill a critical knowledge gap, aligning with recent research and societal understanding of autism. Given the unique challenges faced by autistic individuals in navigating homelessness, this document provides essential information and practical guidance to improve support within homelessness services.

Partner Webinars and Events

- Webinar: [Navigating Mental Health Care for Immigrant and Forcibly Displaced Communities](#)
April 24, 12:00pm ET. National Council for Mental Wellbeing
- Webinar: [Implementing Harm Reduction Initiatives in Rural Communities](#)
April 24, 1:00pm ET. SAMHSA Addiction Technology Transfer Center
- Webinar: [Service Animals, Behavioral Health, and Housing](#)
April 24, 1:00pm ET. SAMHSA Mental Health Technology Transfer Center
- Webinar: [Peer Supervisors: Centering Peer Values in Supervisory Practices](#)
April 24, 2:00pm ET. SAMHSA Peer Recovery Center of Excellence
- Webinar: [Changing the Narrative About Veteran Homelessness \(Series\) - Shaping the Media Narrative](#)
April 24, 3:00pm ET. SAMHSA Addiction Technology Transfer Center
- Webinar: [Quarterly Recovery Exchange Meeting - Introducing the SPARK TA Center](#)
April 29, 12:00pm ET. SAMHSA Office of Recovery
- Event: [National Healthcare for the Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium](#)
May 13-16, Phoenix, AZ. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
- Webinar: [Paving the Way to College for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
May 14, 2:00pm ET. National Center for Homeless Education
- Webinar: [Peer Perspectives: Charting Your Course in the Mental Health Field](#)
May 15, 10:00am ET. SAMHSA Mental Health Technology Transfer Center
- Webinar: [Emergency Shelter: Creating a Housing Focused Place People Want to Use](#)
May 16, 3:00pm ET. National Alliance to End Homelessness

- Webinar: [Words Matter Wednesdays: A Series on Advancing Equity Through Language](#)
May 1-29, 2:00pm ET. National Family Support Technical Assistance Center
- Event: [2024 National Coalition for Homeless Veterans \(NCHV\) Annual Conference](#)
May 29-31, Washington, D.C.
- Event: [2024 National Symposium on Solutions to End Youth Homelessness](#)
June 24-26, Baltimore, MD. Point Source Youth
- Event: [2024 National Conference on Ending Homelessness and Capitol Hill Day](#)
July 8-10, Washington, D.C. National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Webinar: [Roadway Safety for People Experiencing Homelessness \(Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series\)](#)
July 24, 1:00pm ET. Department of Transportation

Please direct questions or concerns about HHRC training events

to: info@hhrctraining.org



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