



Wauwatosa
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SUBSTANCE USE & HARM REDUCTION OVERVIEW

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Substance Use Data

16%

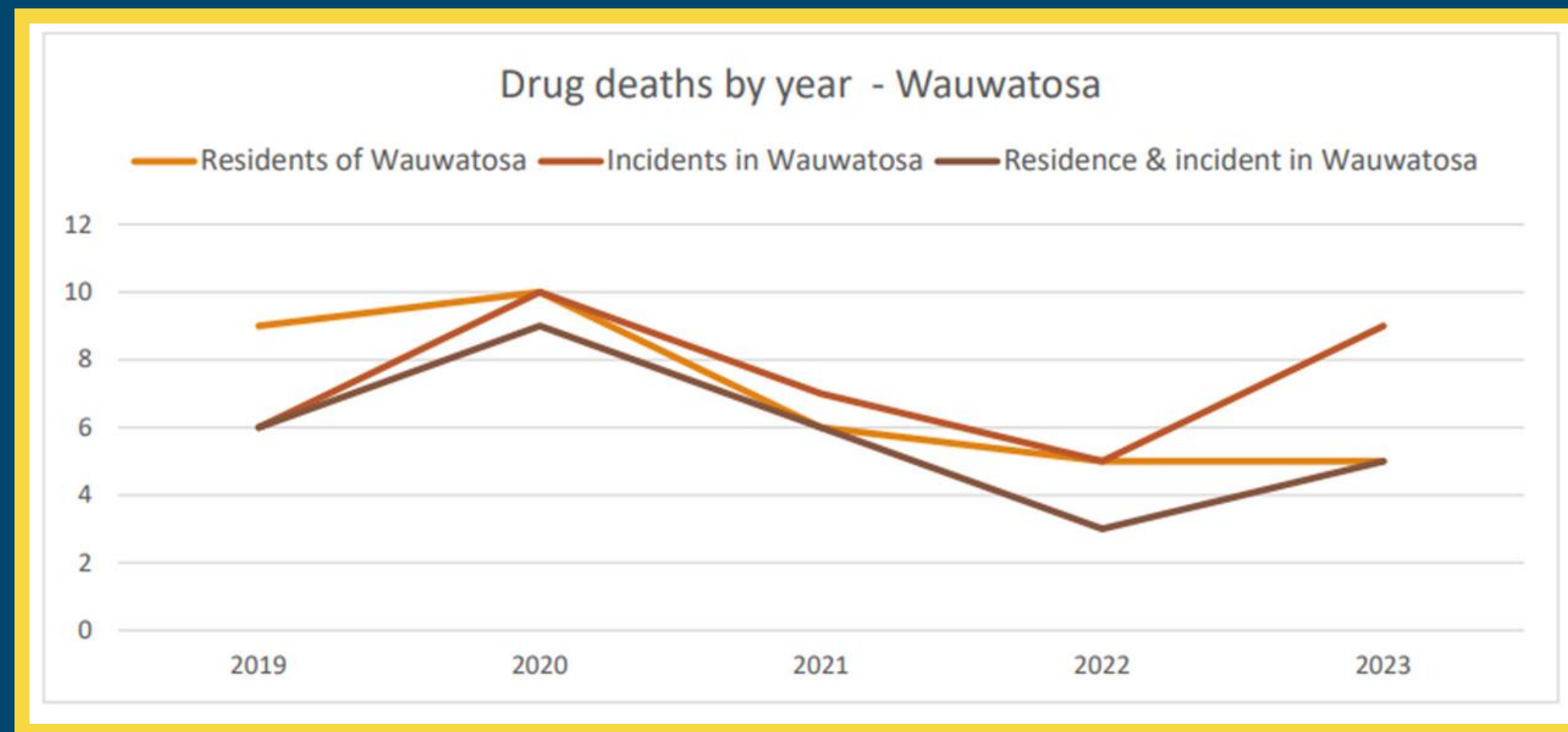
High school students used marijuana in the last 30 days according to the YRBS. Students who used marijuana were also more likely to report indicators of trauma, violence or abuse.

226

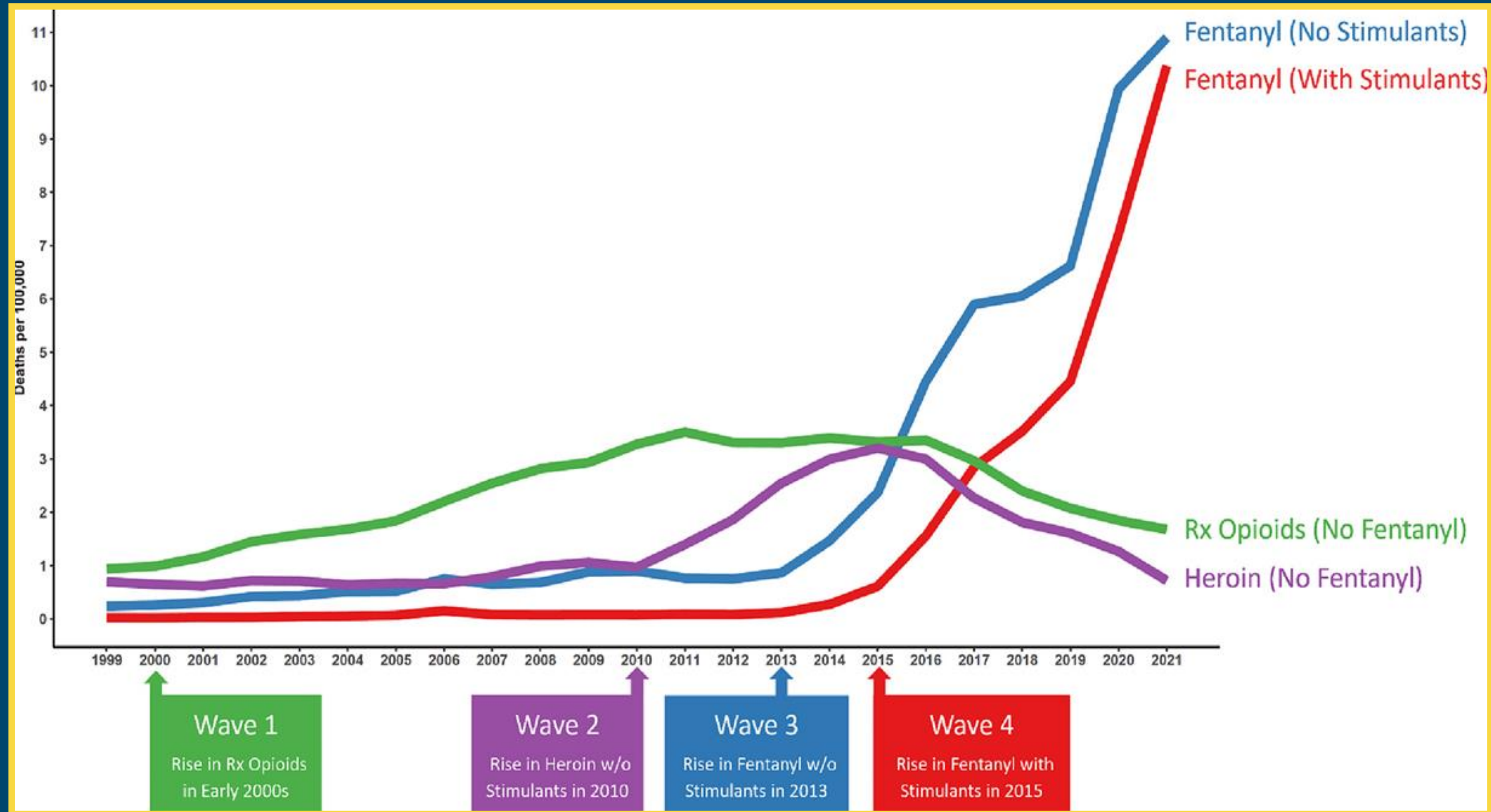
Fatal and Nonfatal Overdoses from 2021-2024 (July 15th)

43

Total Drug Deaths since 2019 (Through 2023)



Stimulants and the Drug Supply



37% of fatal overdoses in Wauwatosa from 2019-2023 have involved cocaine.

Substance Use Program

- **Narcan Trainings**
 - Bi monthly in the Lower Civic Center
 - Employee Trainings
- **Ad campaigns**
 - Bus Shelters
 - Mayfair Mall
 - Commercial
 - Billboard
- **Events**
 - Teen Bedroom Exhibit
 - 180 Skate Jam
- **Distribution Efforts**
 - Hotels
 - Partnering with Environmental Health
 - Street Angels
- **Wauwatosa Fatality Review**
 - Team of providers, EMS, Law enforcement, Froedtert & MCW
- **School Presentations**
- **The Public Health Vending Machine**



What is Harm Reduction?

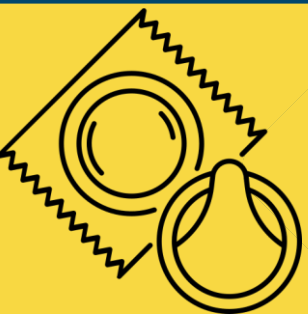
Anything you do to minimize your risk when engaging in a behavior.

01



Following the speed limit to reduce your chances of an injury, accident, or death.

Using a condom or birth control when having sex to prevent the spread of disease or unintended pregnancies.



02



03



Using a ride share app or relying on a friend to be a designated driver when drinking.

Wearing a seatbelt while in a car to prevent injury from an accident.



04



05



Wearing sunscreen when outside to prevent sunburn and skin cancer.

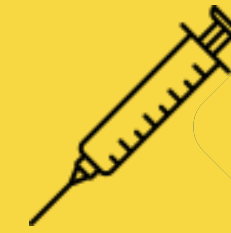
Harm Reduction related to Drug Use

01



Never using alone so that in the event that an overdose occurs someone can assist

Using sterile supplies everytime to prevent infection or spread of HIV or Hepatitis C.



02

03



Being mindful of tolerance changes after periods of abstinence to prevent overdose.

Using a method of administration that has lower risk for overdose.



04

05



Using fentanyl or xylazine test strips to make an informed decision before using drugs.

Why Use Harm Reduction?



Reduced Fatalities

Research has demonstrated that naloxone distribution programs reduce opioid overdose deaths.



Cost Effectiveness

Interventions have been found cost effective in the long term compared to treating infectious disease or complications from SUDs.



Treatment Access

Making connections with people where they gain access to resources for recovery or basic needs.



Disease Transmission

Significant reduction in diseases like Hepatitis C and HIV.

Harm reduction strategies have been supported by a growing body of evidence demonstrating their effectiveness to address substance use.

Benefits of a Vending Machine Model

Accessibility

24/7 access to harm reduction supplies that can reduce the risk of infectious diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C.



Cost Effective

Reduces the need for extensive staffing and allows resources to be allocated more efficiently.



Anonymity

Allows individuals to access supplies discreetly and without stigma. This can encourage more people to take steps to protect their health.

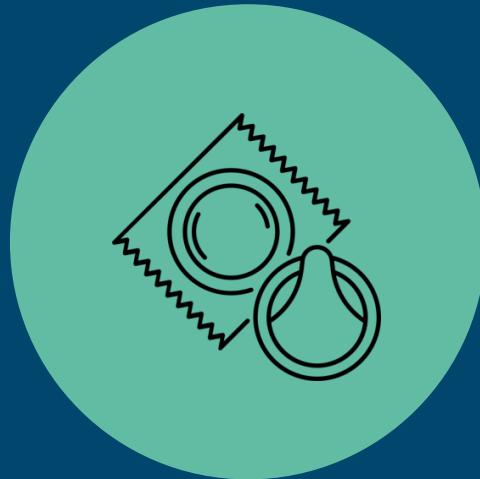


Data Collection

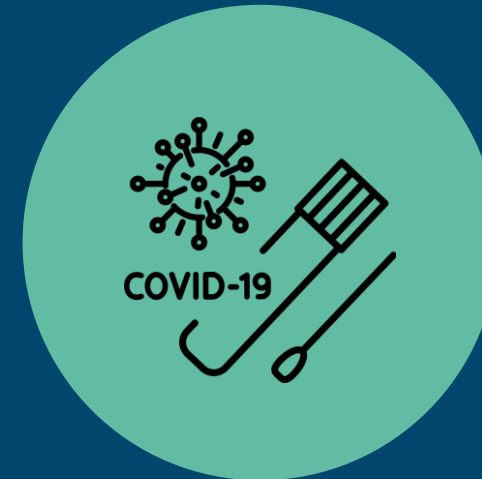
Helps identify trends, target interventions, and measure the impact of efforts to inform resource allocation and decision making.



Products



Condoms



Covid Tests



Gun Locks



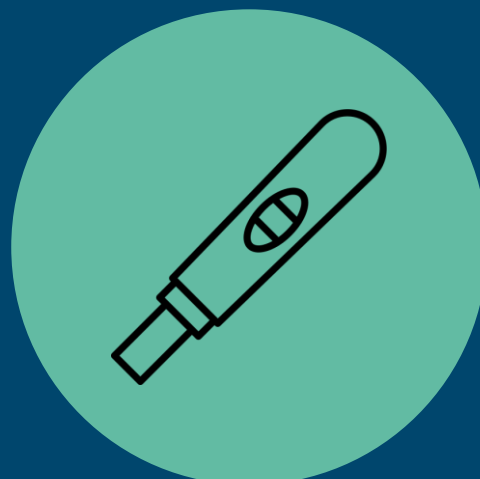
Hygiene Kits



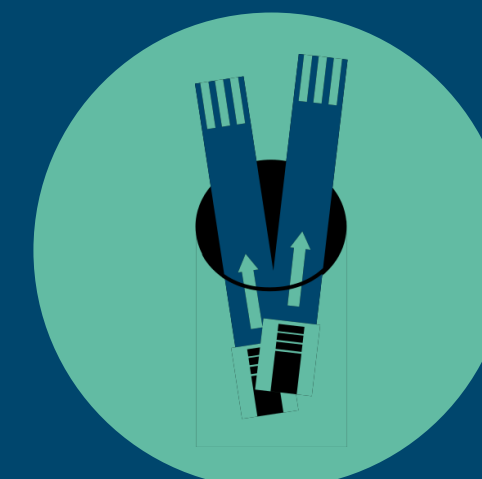
Tick Kits



Hand Warmers



Pregnancy Tests



Fentanyl & Xylazine Test Strips



Narcan

Common Concerns

Harm Reduction enables drug use



Harm reduction can lead to better outcomes for individuals and communities, as it focuses on reducing the harms associated with drug use. Ultimately, the goal is to promote safety and well-being rather than to encourage drug use.

Harm Reduction will increase drug use



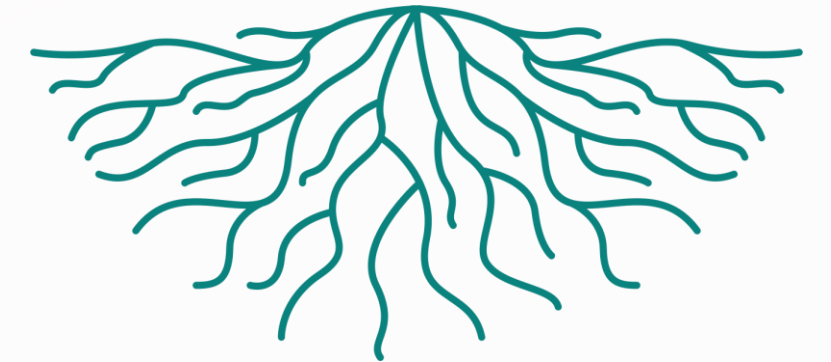
Research shows that harm reduction strategies don't lead to increased drug consumption; instead, they provide essential support for those already using drugs. By addressing health risks and offering resources.

Harm Reduction undermines the law.



Effective harm reduction policies often work in partnership with law enforcement agencies to enhance public safety and reduce the negative impact of drug use on communities.

Harm Reduction ignores the root causes of SUD.



It's true that harm reduction doesn't directly address the root causes of substance use disorders (SUDs), such as trauma, mental health issues, or social factors. Harm reduction strategies can instead serve as entry points for people to access treatment and support services to address root causes.

QUESTIONS?



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