

Building a Movement to End the Intersecting Issues of Overdose, Homelessness and Incarceration

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KENTUCKY
HARM
REDUCTION
SUMMIT

Faculty Disclosure

I have no financial disclosures to declare.

Educational Need/Practice Gap

- **Educational Need:**
 - The direct input and advocacy of Kentuckians who use drugs is necessary to tackle the overdose crisis and related health issues.
 - The overdose crisis and related health issues in Kentucky is exacerbated homelessness and extreme poverty, incarceration and the lack of critical services and care
- **Practice Gap:**
 - The engagement of active and former drug users in bottom-up policy setting and advocacy to end the overdose crisis
 - A policy roadmap for Kentucky that includes critical housing, services and care

Objectives

- Upon completion of this educational activity, you will be able to:
 - Objective: Describe meaningful ways to engage active and former drug users in bottom-up policy setting and advocacy.
 - Objective: Describe housing, services and care needs to address the intersecting issues of overdose, homelessness and incarceration.

Expected Outcome

- *Attendees will have a better understanding of how to engaged active and former drug users in policy creation*
- *Attendees will have a better understanding of policy changes needed to tackle the intersecting issues of overdose, homelessness and incarceration.*

Surviving the Drug War

Meet the Team!



What Is the Drug War Really About

-You want to know what this was really all about? The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

— Dan Baum, *Legalize It All: How to win the war on drugs*, *Harper's Magazine* (April 2016)

From Marginalization to Compassion and Care

- Commit to transformational change. Refuse to accept the status quo.
- Divest from/end policies that fuel criminalization and incarceration.
- Invest in housing, social services and care – including proven public health interventions.
- Commit the political will and the political capital.

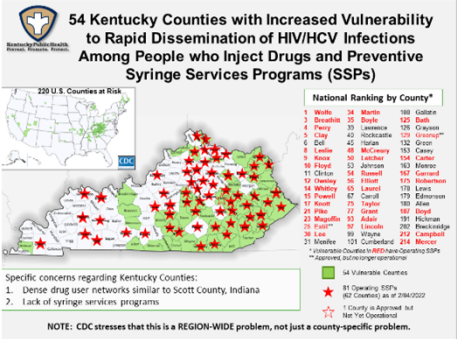
Examples of Short- to Long-Term Intersectional and Transformational Policy Setting

Harm Reduction Housing:

- Short-term: Emergency housing in hotels with longer-term stays to connect people to critical services
- Long-term: Medically appropriate housing where people can safely use (and obtain) drugs.

From Incarceration to Care:

- Short-term: Diversion programs that divert people from incarceration into services.
- Long-term: Drug decriminalization. Dramatic increase in spending for increased services and care.



Local Harm Reduction

Louisville has a total of 11 Syringe Services sites, including 2 fixed sites and 9 mobile sites.

Syringe Service Participants: 26388

Syringes Distributed:

12405044

Syringes Returned:

8902039

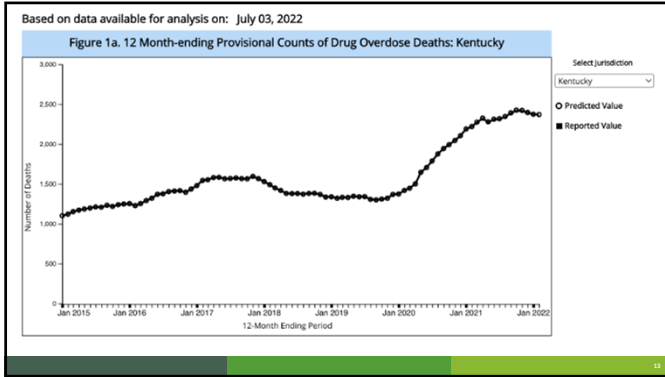
Narcan Distributed:

26340

Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed: 13378

HIV Tests:

3228



Urban and Rural Homelessness

Urban:

- Homelessness is more “visible”
- More people living in shelters and transitional housing
- More transient-move in and out of locations
- Often seek services
- More resources and funding available

Urban and Rural Homelessness

Rural:

- Homelessness is often a “hidden” issue
- Less availability for shelters
- Living in abandoned homes/buildings without running water, electricity, tents, barns, wooded areas
- Do not move as frequently
- Less likely to accept or seek out services
- Fewer resources available

Barriers Faced by Those Experiencing Homelessness In Rural and Urban Areas

Very limited to no access for basic needs to be met	Lack of affordable housing opportunities
Transportation	Stigma/Discrimination
Don't meet available shelter/program requirements	Criminalization of homelessness
Limited Access to Important health and social services	HUD's PIT Count doesn't capture all experiencing homelessness/not an accurate picture of needs

Engaging People Who Use Drugs

- | | |
|---|--|
| Common ways of engagement: | Deeper forms of engagement: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection via medical and/or incarceration systems • Surveys and studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups/Meetings • Ongoing community outreach and engagement |
| Common Delivery of information: | Direct input of community needs: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published report • Briefings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom-up policy setting • Community action versus awareness |

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Join us on
INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY to
REMEMBER those we've lost and
DEMAND change for those still here.

WE WILL TURN OUR PAIN INTO POWER AND DEMAND NO MORE DRUG WAR, NO MORE OVERDOSE AND NO MORE HARM IN KY!
 DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
 TIME: 4:00 PM
 PLACE: INJUSTICE SQUARE (6th & Jefferson St.) and
 march to MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER

National Harm Reduction Coalition presents:
 the 13th National Harm Reduction Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico
 October 13-16, 2022
 Registration is now open!

Visite esta página en español

13TH NATIONAL
**HARM REDUCTION
 CONFERENCE**
 OCT 13-16, 2022
 SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

LA 13ª
**CONFERENCIA
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 REDUCCIÓN DE
 DAÑOS**

[National Harm Reduction Conference](#)

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Thank you!
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