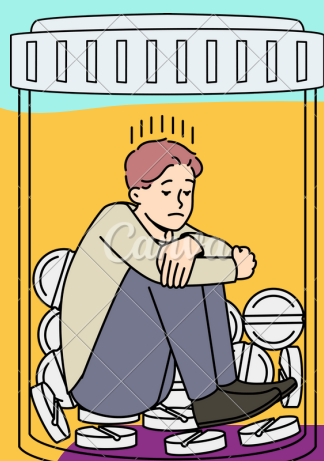


COMBATting THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC USING HARM REDUCTION



The Opioid Epidemic claimed nearly 450,000 lives in the United States between 1999 and 2018

Responding to this crisis involves community prevention efforts and education, inclusion of harm-reduction treatment approaches, and expansion of harm-reduction programs

1 COMMUNITY PREVENTION EFFORTS & EDUCATION

Educating the community about the appropriate medication indications for use of opioids may reduce the prescription, misuse, and addiction to opioids

Increasing public awareness of the benefits of naloxone and highlighting its availability at local pharmacies without a prescription

Did You Know...

Naloxone is an effective opioid reversal agent which has been available in local NJ pharmacies without a prescription since 2017, and it can help save lives?

2 HARM REDUCTION PSYCHOTHERAPY

85-90% of people with substance use disorders received no professional treatment in 2021
40% reported they did not seek care because they were not yet willing to **stop**

HRP CAN SERVE AS A CRITICAL FIRST CONTACT TO CARE & SERVE AS NOT ONLY A FORUM FOR EXPLORATION OR CHANGE, BUT AN ALTERNATIVE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CHANGE PROBLEMATIC USE BUT NOT READY FOR ABSTINENCE

Adoption of harm reduction therapeutic strategies can result in decreased stigmas and increased client engagement compared with traditional, abstinence-only treatment

3 EXPANSION OF HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Methadone maintenance treatment and syringe-exchange programs represent examples of harm reduction programs



Harm reduction programs have documented efficacy in reducing the transmission of blood-borne infectious diseases, reducing illicit drug use, and reducing associated negative behavior

