



Southcoast Public Health Collaborative (SCPHC) Strategies, Resources, and Organizations for Local Overdose Prevention and Response

Background

Opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts increased by 2.5 percent in 2022 compared to 2021, with rates among Black, non-Hispanic residents making up the largest increase, according to preliminary [data](#) released by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

Throughout Massachusetts there were 2,125 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in 2023.

[MADPH data](#) reported that the towns which make up the SCPHC had 134 overdose deaths between 2015 and 2023- 30 in Freetown, 22 in Lakeville, 8 in Marion, 20 in Mattapoisett, 9 in Rochester and 45 in Westport.

Direct investments in evidence-based and innovative community strategies in every municipality are critical to effectively responding to this crisis and saving lives. The Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General has settled lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers for their role in contributing to the devastation caused by the opioid crisis in the Commonwealth. The settlements provide that the defendants pay states and municipalities billions of dollars annually, with a current end date of 2038 to supplement and strengthen resources for opioid prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. Under the terms of the Commonwealth's approved State-Subdivision Agreement, forty percent (40%) of the funds will be directly allocated to the state's municipalities to be spent on abatement strategies. For more information about the Opioid Settlement Funds: [MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH BOARDS Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds](#).

Purpose

This guide provides municipal leaders, non-profit organizations, first responders, and members of the public with a foundation and reference for developing and implementing evidence-based strategies to address the drug overdose epidemic with the Opioid Settlement Funds. This list of recommended strategies, agencies, and organizations is not exhaustive, and the development of new, innovative activities and partnerships is always needed.

This guide is intended to help leverage existing community-level work while also addressing the bias and discrimination of individuals, families, and friends impacted by substance use and overdose. We encourage municipalities to partner with existing organizations, create grants or other funding opportunities for community partnerships, and work with non-traditional partners

such as local businesses, places of worship, schools, gyms, and other places where community gathers.

Racial and Health Equity

Both locally and nationally, inequities in drug overdose deaths continue to worsen for people of color. Over the last several years, overdose death rates for Black and Hispanic Massachusetts residents have been on the rise. Among non-Hispanic Black residents, the opioid-related overdose death rate increased by 42 percent, from 36.4 to 51.7 deaths per 100,000 residents from 2021 to 2022. When broken down by sex, the data show that non-Hispanic Black men had the highest opioid-related overdose death rate increase among males in all race/ethnicity groups, from 56.4 to 79.6 per 100,000 (a 41 percent increase). The rate for non-Hispanic Black women increased by 47 percent, from 17.4 to 25.5 per 100,000. [1]

Addressing structural racism is foundational to reversing the local drug overdose epidemic. Structural racism in the US has created systems that have historically excluded, and marginalized people based on their race and ethnicity, which has caused people of color to suffer worse health outcomes. Health equity is the idea that everyone has a fair opportunity to be healthy and get the quality care they need. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and healthcare.

Creating health equity requires addressing racial inequities, which are the uneven distribution of social and economic resources and power that impacts the health and wellbeing of an individual and of entire communities. Racial equity is not just the absence of overt racial discrimination; it is also the presence of deliberate policies and practices that provide everyone with the support they need to improve the quality of their lives. It is a state in which all people in society share equal rights and opportunities.[2]

Eliminating racism must start with assessments of current policies, systems, and structures on every level. Racial inequities persist in every system without exception. Acknowledging structural oppression and power as the roots of health inequities and reducing differences in health outcomes between different groups of people through policies, practices, and organizational systems can help improve opportunities for all Massachusetts residents.

[1] Source: [Massachusetts opioid-related overdose deaths rose 2.5 percent in 2022 | Mass.gov](#)

[2] Source: Race Forward, What is Racial Equity?

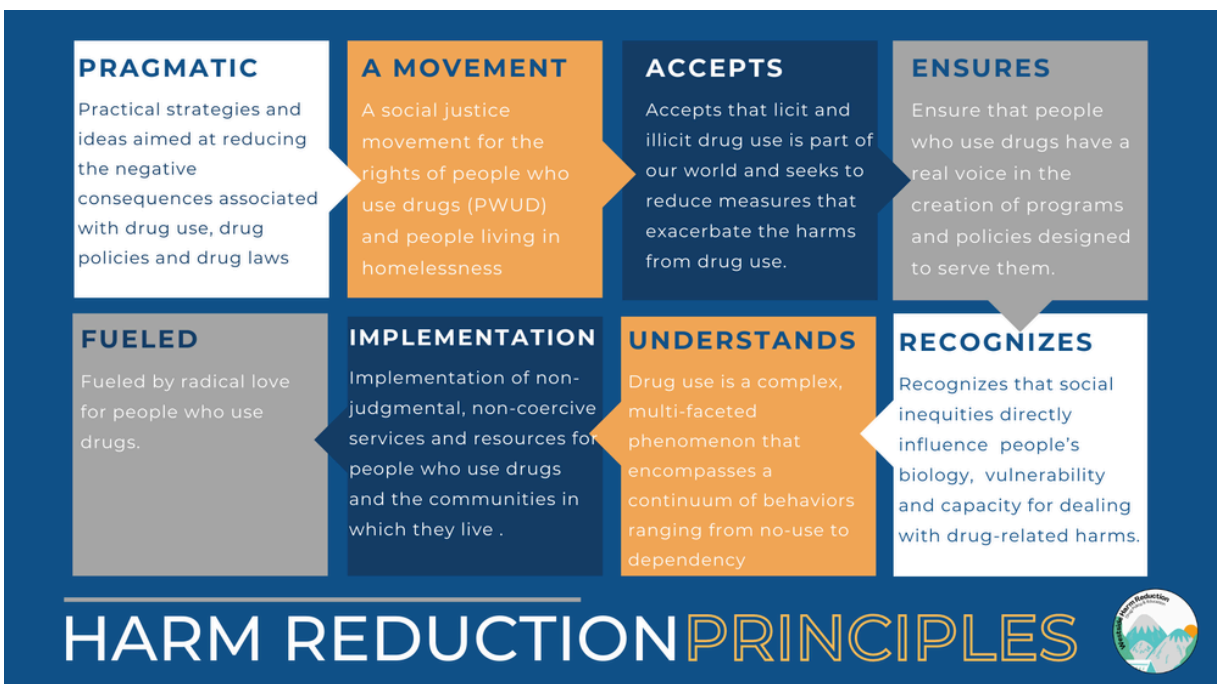
Harm Reduction

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs. It incorporates a spectrum of strategies that includes safer use, managed use, abstinence, meeting people who use drugs “where they’re at,” and addressing conditions of use along with the substance use itself. Because harm reduction demands that interventions and policies designed to serve people who use drugs reflect specific individual and community needs, there is no universal definition of or formula for implementing harm reduction.[3] Harm reduction strategies include (but are not limited to) providing and using naloxone, utilizing fentanyl test strips, syringe services programs, and other safer-use strategies such as education and tools to encourage folks not to use alone.

Harm reduction is an evidence-based approach that is critical to engaging with people who use drugs and equipping them with life-saving tools and information to create positive change in their lives and potentially save their lives. Harm reduction is a key pillar in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#).

Organizations who practice harm reduction incorporate a spectrum of strategies that meet people where they are — on their own terms, and may serve as a pathway to additional health and social services, including additional prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) is also collaborating with CDC on their [National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center \(NHR-TAC\)](#) to provide a comprehensive approach to harm reduction through syringe services programs (SSPs) and to improve access to prevention and intervention services to prevent infectious disease consequences of drug use. Anyone can visit the [NHR-TAC website](#) and request technical assistance on harm reduction — to be connected with experts who will respond in a timely manner.



[3] Source: [Harm Reduction Principles](#)

Image source: <https://www.westsideharmreduction.com/harm-reduction>

SCPHC Local Resources

Freetown

- [Berkley, Dighton, & Freetown | Massachusetts | HEALing Communities Study](#): This multi-site implementation research study will test the impact of an integrated set of evidence-based practices across health care, behavioral health, justice, and other community-based settings. The goal of the study is to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths by 40 percent over the course of three years. Research sites are partnering with 67 communities highly affected by the opioid crisis in four states to measure the impact of these efforts.

The study will look at the effectiveness of coordinated systems of care designed to increase the number of individuals receiving medication to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), increase the distribution of naloxone, and reduce high-risk opioid prescribing. The study also supports harm reduction research to investigate the effectiveness of rapid-acting fentanyl test strips in modifying drug use behaviors and exploring drug checking needs in clinical settings.

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HEAL@bmc.org

- [Calvary Pentecostal Church | East Freetown MA](#): Local church organization participating in the HEALing Communities Study by providing a drop-in center, food pantry and harm reduction supplies.
Contact: 33 Braley Road, East Freetown, MA 02717
(508) 763-8343
revcdias@aol.com
- [Syringe and Needle Disposal Site: East Freetown](#): Syringe services programs help protect communities by preventing infectious disease outbreaks and facilitating safe disposal of used syringes. These programs do not cause increased drug use, crime, or syringe litter in communities.
Address: 25 Bullock Road, East Freetown, MA 02717
- [Methadone Clinic East Freetown Massachusetts](#): At East Freetown Massachusetts Methadone location, they combine [methadone](#) maintenance therapy; individual, group, and family counseling; relapse prevention; and support groups to provide the most

effective form of opiate addiction treatment possible. The East Freetown, MA Methadone Clinic location is open 5:30 AM - 4:00 PM on Monday - Friday, and 6:00 AM - 9:30 AM Saturday and Sunday.

Contact: (866) 213-1818

- [Freetown Police Department Prescription Drop Box](#): RxDrugDropBox.org was created and is administered by the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, Inc. (NADDI). The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, Inc (NADDI) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) nationwide membership organization that facilitates cooperation between law enforcement, healthcare professionals, state regulatory agencies, pharmaceutical manufacturers and focuses on the investigation and prevention of prescription drug misuse and diversion.

Address: 225 Chace Rd, East Freetown, MA 02717

Westport

- [Safe Disposal of Expired or Unused Medication | westportma](#): The Westport Police Department provides a 24/7 safe disposal of expired or unused medication (NO liquids). Bring your medication to the Police department located at 56 Hix Bridge Road. There is a free medication disposal kiosk in the lobby so you may safely dispose of your expired or unused drugs.
Contact: Westport Police Department, (508) 636-1122
56 Hix Bridge Road, Westport MA, 02790
- [Westport Fire Department](#): The Westport Fire Department has a supply of Narcan that the public can obtain. Narcan is available at both Station 1 and Station 2 day or night while supplies are available.
Contact: Westport Fire Department, (508) 636-1110
Central Village (Station No. 1) 54 Hixbridge Rd Westport, MA 02790
North End (Station No. 2) 85 Briggs Rd Westport, MA 02790
- [CVS Pharmacy Medicine Disposal Box - Rx Drug Drop Box](#): This secure box offers community members a safe way to dispose of unwanted and expired medications.
Contact: (508) 673-3072
599 State Rd, Westport, MA 02790
- [Board of Health | westportma](#): Used Syringe Disposal Box - Prior to bringing syringes to the Town Hall Annex, please call the nurse's office to check availability. The nurse's schedule is Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 8:30am - 2:30pm; Closed on Tuesdays.
Contact: (508) 636-1030
Town Hall Annex, 856 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790

- [Board of Health | westportma](#): Free naloxone available- Prior to visiting the Town Hall Annex, please call the nurse's office to check availability. The nurse's schedule is Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 8:30am - 2:30pm; Closed on Tuesdays.
Contact: (508) 636-1030
Town Hall Annex, 856 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790

SCPHC County/Regional Resources

Bristol County (Freetown, Westport)

- [Bristol County MA Homeless Shelter Directory Homeless Statistics and Shelters](#): There are an estimated 256 homeless individuals in Bristol County Massachusetts. That is a 23% increase from 2018. The homelessness statistics listed are collected from HUD and from the Homeless Shelter Directory database for 2019. This site has a list of shelters in the area.
- [Community Counseling of Bristol County](#): The purpose and mission of Community Counseling of Bristol County, Inc. (CCBC) is to develop and deliver compassionate, responsive, culturally competent, and quality mental health and substance use services to meet the prevention, education, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery needs of those in our community. These services are based on the latest evidence-based approaches to respond to the complex needs of children, adolescents, adults, elders and families as part of a locally integrated health-care delivery system linked to regional and statewide delivery systems.
Contact: (508) 828-9116
One Washington St. Taunton, MA 02780

Plymouth County (Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester)

- [About – Plymouth County Outreach](#): Plymouth County Outreach is a multi-faceted collaboration of the 27 municipal police departments in Plymouth County, as well as Bridgewater State University Police Department, working together with Recovery Coaches and community organizations, and coalitions to make treatment, resources, and harm reduction tools more accessible to those living with substance use disorder and their loved ones. Our goal is to provide compassionate, judgment-free support while reducing overdose fatalities.
Contact: [Facebook page](#), by phone at (508) 830-4218 X261, or by [visiting the connect page](#).
- [About Plymouth County Drug Abuse Task Force](#): The Plymouth County Drug Abuse Task Force brings Law Enforcement together with: Educators, Medical Providers, Substance Use Experts, Public Safety Officials, Legislators, Community and Faith-Based Coalitions to assist in the fight against opioids.
Contact: Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
166 Main Street

Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 584-8120

Plymouth County Sheriff's Department
24 Long Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 830-6200

Southeastern Massachusetts

- [Project Aware – SSTAR](#): Project Aware provides no cost STI testing and treatment, PrEP navigation, Hep C navigation, HIV case management, as well as street outreach to Latinx communities. They provide low barrier medical and substance use treatment from an RV on the streets of Fall River and New Bedford.
Contact: (508) 558-3548
- [Fall River: Medication Assisted Treatment- Better Life Partners](#): They partner with community organizations so that they can provide our medication-assisted treatment services wherever they're needed in Massachusetts. With fantastic partners and virtual options, no matter where you are in the state, you can receive their opioid addiction treatment services.
Contact: (866) 679-0831
- [Southcoast Health Pain Management](#): They understand what a challenge it is to deal with consistent pain following an accident or injury or as part of an ongoing health struggle. Their doctors take the time needed to answer your questions about your condition and your pain and to craft a personalized pain treatment and management plan for you.
Contact: (508) 973-7782
235 Hanover Street
Fall River, MA 02720
- [Comprehensive Health Promotion Services - Seven Hills Foundation](#): Seven Hills employs an integrated team of specialists to work at its Community Wellness Centers located in New Bedford, Fall River, and Taunton. Community Health Workers and peer leaders provide culturally competent community and street outreach & education, prevention workshops and social community-building groups, and comprehensive health promotion services for men, women and youth. Individual counseling on substance use, domestic violence, HIV, Hepatitis C, STIs, and sexual decision-making is available, along with SA, HIV and STI screening, testing, referral for treatment, and free supplies.

The Community Wellness Centers are registered for Opioid-Overdose (O-OD) prevention, and registered and approved for O-OD nasal Narcan distribution. Counselors

provide risk- and harm-reduction counseling and supplies, and offer information on access to sterile injection equipment and overdose prevention.

Seven Hills Behavioral Health is a qualified provider of Comprehensive Health Promotion Services for People Who Inject Drugs inclusive of Syringe Services Programming. Seven Hills works closely with local community partners, including local law enforcement, faith-based groups, local correctional systems, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to implement health promotion and disease prevention initiatives.

Contact: (508) 755-2340, TTY: (508) 890-5584

- [Paaca](#): PAACA is dedicated to providing quality substance use prevention and treatment services. Since 1983 they have provided quality services to people seeking help regardless of their income or insurance status. They are committed to helping any individual or family looking to overcome addiction. As a leading provider of community based recovery services, they take pride in offering the best client centered services.

Contact: (508) 997-9051

360 Coggeshall St, New Bedford, MA 02746

Massachusetts Statewide Resources

- [Never Use Alone Inc.](#): Toll-free national overdose prevention, detection, life-saving crisis response and medical intervention services for people who use drugs while alone. Never Use Alone's peer operators are available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Contact: National: (800) 484-3731

Spanish: (800) 928-5330

Int'l: +01 (800) 484-3731

Mandy: (800) 943-0540 (This service is more of a connection line- We welcome people to call when they're struggling with a substance use disorder (SUD), or just need someone to talk to that has been there and understands. All operators have lived experience with SUD.)

- [NaloxBox](#): Opioid overdose can quickly lead to death if no intervention is made. If we begin to treat opioid overdose like any other bystander enabled medical response, we will begin to reduce the stigma often associated with opioid overdose. NaloxBox units contain Naloxone, instructions for use, and CPR masks. All NaloxBox units are durable, transparent, polycarbonate, surface-mounted enclosures that provide organizations a solution to protecting and providing access to lifesaving naloxone in an easy-to-recognize cabinet mounted in a central location, similar to an AED or a fire extinguisher.

Contact: Info@naloxbox.org

- [Fentanyl Test Strips: Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#): Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is about 50 times as potent as heroin. People use fentanyl because it is cheap to manufacture and a small amount goes a long way. Many individuals consume fentanyl without knowledge while others use it intentionally because of its potency. Overdose deaths involving fentanyl have [quadrupled in recent years](#).

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) are a low-cost method of helping prevent drug overdoses and reducing harm. FTS are small strips of paper that can detect the presence of fentanyl in all different kinds of drugs (cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, etc.) and drug forms (pills, powder, and injectables). FTS provide people who use drugs and communities with important information about fentanyl in the illicit drug supply so they can take steps to reduce risk of overdose.

In April 2021, CDC and SAMHSA [announced](#) 7 federal funding could be used to purchase FTS. This purchase approval applies to all federal grant programs, like CDC's multiyear [Overdose Data to Action](#) cooperative agreement, if the purchase of FTS is consistent with the purpose of the program. Allowing federal grant programs to purchase FTS helps create opportunities for people who use drugs to interact with community-based organizations who may also offer mental health and behavioral services a person needs.

Contact: Use the link in the header to order test strips for your organization.

- **Wellness/Harm Reduction Vending Machines**: Around the country, vending machines are being used to dispense harm reduction tools that can help prevent overdoses and reduce the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis C. Through these vending machines that are placed strategically in public settings such as bus stations, fire departments, police stations, etc, individuals can access free, sterile syringes, rapid tests for sexually transmitted infections, naloxone, wound care & hygiene kits, and fentanyl test strips any time of day or night. [Learn more:](#)
 - [ENCORE New Initiative: Harm Reduction Vending Machines | Providence/Boston Center for Aids Research \(CFAR\) | Medical School | Brown University](#)
 - [Vending Machines Dispense Narcan to Reverse Opioid Overdoses - WSJ](#)
 - [Narcan vending machines help deter overdose deaths](#)
 - [Naloxone Vending Machine Outside Emergency Department for Public Use](#)
 - [ODMHSAS Places First Life-Saving Vending Machine](#)
 - [Narcan vending machines now in 2 Durham Co. buildings as part of fight against opioid-related deaths](#)
 - [Vending machines dispense critical tools for preventing overdose – PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER](#)
- [Coalitions - Community Health Training Institute](#): The Community Health Training Institute (the Training Institute) provides targeted skills development to individuals and teams working to build healthy communities in Massachusetts. They customize our in-person trainings and [webinars](#) around core competencies that include: Coalition

Building; Leadership; Policy and Systems Change; Communications; Health Equity; Youth Development; Strategic Planning and Evaluation.

Their overarching goal is to increase the capacity and skills of community health leaders and stakeholders to build and sustain coalitions and partnerships that support healthy communities and actively address systemic racism to improve health outcomes across the Commonwealth.

Contact: 2 Boylston St., 4th floor, Boston, MA 02116

Phone: (617) 502-6587

- [Peer Recovery Support Centers | Mass.gov](#): A regional listing of Massachusetts Peer Recovery Support Centers (PRSC) which offer support from individuals in recovery from substance use disorder, as well as families and loved ones affected by addiction.

The PRSC's are free accessible peer-led spaces that provide individuals in recovery from substance use, as well as families and loved ones affected by addiction, the opportunity to both offer and receive support in their community environment. The PRSCs are warm, welcoming spaces grounded in the values and principles of Recovery and reflective of Multiple Pathways. Programming is based on national standards and best practices in providing peer recovery support services and reflective of peer choice.

Contact: Visit the link above to Connect to a Peer Recovery Support Center near you (Regions/Locations)

- [Learn to Cope](#): Learn to Cope is a peer-led support network that offers education, resources, and hope for family members and friends who have loved ones affected by substance use disorder. Founded in 2004, the organization has grown to include 27 chapters in MA, over 11,000 members, and has become a nationally recognized model for peer support and prevention programming.

Contact: Office (508) 738-5148

Email lrc@learn2cope.org

- [MA Helpline](#) : The Helpline is a statewide, public resource for finding substance use harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and problem gambling services. Helpline services are free and confidential, and available 24/7.

Contact: Call now: (800) 327-5050

Text: "HOPE" to 800327

- [Brave](#): Brave Technology Co-Op makes tools that detect overdoses and activate life-saving community response, whenever and wherever people use drugs. Brave has developed a variety of overdose prevention tools that can be used anywhere- The Brave Button, Brave Sensor, and the Brave App. Brave Buttons allow supportive housing residents to request a safety check before they use drugs, eliminating the risk of overdose fatality. Brave sensors are a reverse-motion sensor system that passively monitors public bathrooms and washrooms for signs of overdose and other

emergencies. The Brave mobile app lets people who use drugs (PWUD) alone request remote supervision and anonymous overdose support when they are using alone. The Brave App can be customized for public health organizations striving to solve the opioid overdose crisis in their communities so they can address community-specific needs while protecting the privacy and autonomy of community members.

Contact: contact@brave.coop, 1-833-833-2100

- [The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative](#): The Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) provides training, strategic guidance, support, and resources to help law enforcement agencies nationwide create non-arrest pathways to treatment and recovery. Now a national network of nearly 600 police departments in 34 states, PAARI primarily supports non-arrest, or early diversion, program models that reach people before they enter the criminal justice system. Programs are customized based on the community and can utilize multiple law enforcement entry points to treatment, including self-referrals to the station and risk or incident-based outreach. Cross-sector collaboration and partnerships are vital to these programs and they are often supported by clinicians, social workers, recovery coaches, and/or trained volunteers.

Any law enforcement or public safety agency wanting to create or currently has non-arrest pathways to treatment can join PAARI free of cost to access resources such as technical assistance, webinars, convenings, a network of like-minded law enforcement agencies, capacity building and recovery coaches through AmeriCorps, and connection to training resources.

Contact: To join or request more information and support, please complete the [online form](#).

- [Buprenorphine Treatment Practitioner Locator | SAMHSA](#): Find practitioners authorized to treat opioid use disorder with buprenorphine by state.
- [Opioid Treatment Program Directory](#): View the opioid treatment programs in any state.
- [RIZE Massachusetts](#): RIZE Massachusetts is an independent nonprofit foundation working to end the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts and reduce its devastating impact on people, communities, and our economy. The RIZE website contains resources and toolkits for people who use drugs and people who provide services to folks who use drugs.
Contact: 101 Huntington Avenue
Suite 1300 MS 0116
Boston, MA 02199
(857) 991-1195
- [Harm Reduction Commission | Mass.gov](#): The Harm Reduction Commission was established in August 2018, with Governor Baker's signing into law of chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018. The commission is charged with reviewing and making recommendations

regarding harm reduction opportunities to address substance use disorder. The commission is composed of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who chairs the commission, and a diverse panel of policymakers, public health professionals, legal scholars, clinicians, and local residents.

Contact: Executive Office of Health and Human Services, (617) 573-1600

- [Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream - Opioid Policy Research Collaborative | The Heller School at Brandeis University](#): The goal of the Massachusetts Drug Supply Data Stream (MADDS) is to learn more about the local illicit drug supply to better inform public health and public safety responses. MADDS is a state-funded collaboration between Brandeis University researchers, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, various town police departments and local community partners. Piloted in 2019 in Boston and New Bedford, MADDS currently partners with New Bedford, Quincy, Lynn, Boston, Greenfield, and Berkshire County communities, with new sites coming on board across the state. MADDS is part of the state's responses that align with the [Harm Reduction Commission's](#) recommendations. For more information, [check out their one pager](#).

MADDS is funded by grants from the Centers for Disease Control, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

MADDS current testing sites:

Berkshire County, Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Gloucester, Greenfield, Lawrence, Lynn, New Bedford, Northampton, Quincy

Contact: maddsbrandeis@gmail.com

- [HRH413](#)- Harm Reduction Hedgehogs 413, part of the New England Users Union, is a multi-nationality, multi-gender, and multi-generational group of activists who work to support and improve the rights of folks who use substances.
Organize a meeting: <https://www.hrh413.org/foundationsstart-here-2>
Contact: <https://www.hrh413.org/contact-1>

Additional Trainings, Information, and Initiatives

- **Racial Equity**
Racial equity should be central in all substance use initiatives. Below are tools, documents and studies that demonstrate the importance of racial equity and discuss ways that racial equity can be considered when creating programs.
-[Workforce considerations for improving racial equity in substance use disorder treatment](#)
-[Elevating Voices of Overdose Survivors Living on the Street A Boston Overdose Linkage to Treatment Study \(BOLTS\) Sub-Analysis Focusing on Mass. and Cass Area Community Members](#)

- [Triple stigma: Experiences of racism and addiction-and homelessness-related stigmas among overdose survivors in Boston](#)
- [The Drug War, Mass Incarceration and Race](#)
- [Drug Policy Alliance](#)
- [Black Harm Reduction Network](#)
- [Understanding Racial Inequities in the Implementation of Harm Reduction Initiatives | AJPH](#)
- [Racism and Health | Minority Health | CDC](#)

- **Stigma Training**

Municipalities partner with drug user health organizations and/or specialists to develop and host harm reduction and stigma training to reduce stigma and ensure a person-centered approach. Anti-stigma training and training on the principles of harm reduction can be given to treatment providers, recovery housing providers, medical providers, first responders, and members of the general public.

- [Words Matter - Partnership to End Addiction.](#)
- [Words Matter - Terms to Use and Avoid When Talking About Addiction](#)
- [Stigma Addiction Language Guide](#)

Words to Use	Words to Avoid
Person with substance use disorder	Addict/drug abuser
Person with alcohol use disorder	Alcoholic
Substance use disorder	Drug problem, drug habit
Drug misuse, harmful use	Drug abuse
Substance Use	Substance abuse
Not actively using	Clean
Testing negative for substance use	A clean drug screen
Actively using	Dirty
Testing positive for substance use	A dirty drug screen
Person in recovery, person in long-term recovery	Former/reformed addict/alcoholic

Image source: <https://www.axialhealthcare.com/words-matter-when-it-comes-to-addiction/>

- **Substance Use Training Opportunities**

- [Trainings and Events Calendar | Careers of Substance](#)
- [BeHERE Training & Events](#)
- [Grayken Center for Addiction TTA](#)
- [Harm Reduction | Pre-recorded trainings | Training | Grayken Center for Addiction TTA | Boston Medical Center](#)

- **Good Samaritan Law**

It is important to provide education about the Good Samaritan Law (GSL) so that people

are not afraid to call 911 in the event of an overdose. Consider promotion and education about the GSL to culturally diverse populations, law enforcement, businesses, people who are actively using drugs, and the general public.

[General Law - Part I, Title XV, Chapter 94C, Section 34A](#)

- **Youth Prevention**

[Project SUCCESS \(Schools Using Coordinated Community Efforts to Strengthen Students\)](#): Project SUCCESS is a research-based program that builds on the findings of other successful prevention programs by using interventions that are effective in reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors. Project SUCCESS counselors use the following intervention strategies: information dissemination, normative and prevention education, problem identification and referral, community based process and environmental approaches. In addition, resistance and social competency skills, such as communication, decision making, stress and anger management, problem solving, and resisting peer pressure are taught. The counselors primarily work with adolescents individually and in small groups; conduct large group prevention/education discussions and programs, train and consult on prevention issues with school staff; coordinate the substance abuse services and policies of the school and refer and follow-up with students and families needing substance abuse treatment or mental health services in the community.

- **Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND)**

[The VA OEND Program](#) aims to reduce harm and risk of life-threatening opioid-related overdose and deaths among Veterans. Key components of the OEND program include education and training regarding opioid overdose prevention, recognition of opioid overdose, opioid overdose rescue response, and issuing naloxone kits. The VA Academic Detailing Service has worked with the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) to produce patient education brochures for overdose prevention, overdose recognition, and instructional guides for the naloxone products.

- **Safe Stations**

The purpose of Safe Stations is to address the overdose epidemic by providing hassle-free and immediate access to supportive services. Individuals living with substance use disorders may not be aware of the resources available to them or have the ability to access them. Safe Stations break down barriers for individuals, allowing them access to critical supportive services provided by a peer in recovery when and where they need them most. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, you can visit any Safe Station and speak with the trained staff on duty, and immediately get connected to treatment support and services. Safe Stations are free and provide a welcoming environment for when you're ready for recovery. Municipalities can work with their local fire departments to establish Safe Stations in their communities.

[-Fall River fire stations become Safe Stations for people seeking addiction treatment](#)

[-Providence Safe Stations](#)

- **Imani Breakthrough Project Faith-Based Community Recovery Program**
[Imani Breakthrough](#) is a faith-based, person-centered, culturally informed harm reduction recovery program that takes place in churches. This program provides an innovative approach to engaging vulnerable groups into SUD treatment, by focusing on SAMHSA's 8 dimensions of wellness (social determinants of health/ SDOH), 7 domains of citizenship, culturally informed education, and referral to medication for addiction treatment (MAT) or any FDA-approved pharmacotherapy for treating a SUD. Built upon the foundation of spirituality, of high cultural significance among Black and Latinx communities, Imani groups are delivered in churches and are administered by trained church representatives, including a person with lived experience of a SUD.

The Imani Breakthrough Project was started in Connecticut in 2018. Recently the project has been expanded to Rhode Island and has potential to expand further.

For further information please contact: [Dr. Chyrell Bellamy](#) or [Dr. Ayana Jordan](#).

- **Local Recovery Community Centers**
Recovery Community centers provide information, education, non-clinical recovery support, and a peer-based supportive community that builds hope and supports healthy behaviors for individuals with substance use disorder. Studies show that [individuals who are connected to a local recovery community center](#) have more resources to sustain their recovery, higher self-esteem, higher quality of life, and lower psychological distress than those who are not connected to a community center. Municipalities can connect with and support local recovery community centers as a way to build trust and [recovery capital](#) with their community members.
- **Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFW)**
Addiction and substance use disorders cost the United States billions of dollars per year in healthcare costs, criminal justice involvement, and lost work and productivity. More than 15 million Americans with current or past SUD are members of the workforce. The Recovery Ready Workplace Initiative is a voluntary program that provides information, education, and resources to businesses to support their employees and family members who are in recovery from addiction. Supporting people in their recovery is good for local businesses. Recovery Ready Workplaces see:
 - Increased employee retention and fewer absences.
 - Healthier and safer work environment.
 - Greater productivity and loyalty among staff.
 - Lower healthcare costs.
 - Enhanced reputation as a supportive, yet highly accountable, organization.[Learn more about how to make your workplace a RFW.](#)
- **Mobile Addiction Services Programs**
In January 2018, the Kraft Center for Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital, in partnership with Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Boston Public Health Commission's AHOPE program, and the GE Foundation, launched

CareZONE, a mobile health initiative intended to expand access to on-demand care for the city's most vulnerable populations. CareZONE is the inaugural program launched under The Kraft Center's Community Care in Reach initiative. The initiative combines harm reduction services, clinical care including medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), mobility, and data hotspotting to bring essential addiction services to Boston's most vulnerable populations who are not currently accessing care.

Having already successfully established a program in Boston, the purpose of this manual is to serve as a guide for other programs interested in replicating the mobile health model. [This toolkit](#) outlines guidelines and protocols that may assist organizations in the planning and implementation of a mobile addictions services program that combines harm reduction and clinical care.

According to the [Homeless Shelter Directory](#), there are an estimated 256 unhoused individuals in Bristol County and an estimated 1,088 unhoused individuals in Plymouth County. That is a sizable population that could benefit from such a service.

- **International Overdose Awareness Day (August 31st)**

[International Overdose Awareness Day](#) (IOAD) is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died from overdose, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. Host or attend an International Overdose Awareness Day event in your community. Events are a powerful way to remember those lost to overdose, learn more about overdose, or advocate for change.



Image source: National Harm Reduction Coalition

Opioid Settlement Funds- Massachusetts

Details

Agreements/ Information:

- [Massachusetts Agreement](#)
- [Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund](#)

Controlling Entities:

Fund: Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) Advisory Council
Local: Cities, Towns, and Counties

Contact Information:

- ORRF Advisory Council:
OpioidRecoveryandRemediationFund@mass.gov
- General Inquiries: MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov

Important Resources:

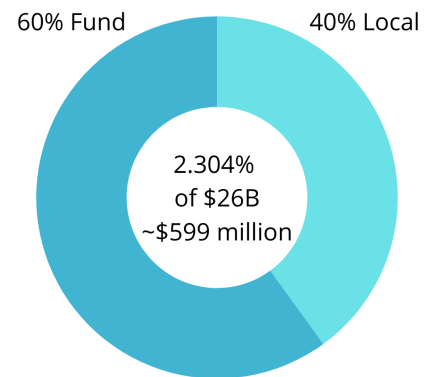
- [Guidance for Municipalities Utilizing Opioid Settlement Abatement Payments](#)
- [AG's Opioid Settlement Funds Website](#)
- [Municipal Abatement Payments](#)
- [MA Opioid Settlement Funds FAQs](#)
- [ORRF Advisory Council, ORRF Meeting Materials](#)
- [March 2023 AG Webinar on OSF](#)

Meetings:

ORRF: [ORRF Advisory Council](#),

Source: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zJYHpQ2V0IS1mocNm7pEQwpyn1SvJQi_3bmkzii0WJk/edit

MA Settlement Allocation



Free online training videos and resources:

[The Opioid Crisis in America | Harvard University](#)

[Harm Reduction, Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training](#)

[The harm reduction model of drug addiction treatment | Mark Tyndall](#)

[Harm Reduction 101](#)

[The Stigma of Substance Use: Its Impact and What You Can Do](#)