FOUNDATIONS OF HARM REDUCTION

SAVANNAH ONEILL, MSW, CATC
JENNA HAYWOOD

HARM REDUCTION COALITION
Harm Reduction Coalition

Policy & Advocacy

Trainings & Technical Assistance

Overdose Prevention

National & Regional Conferences

Resources & Publications
North Star Statement

Harm Reduction Coalition creates spaces for dialogue and action that help heal the harms of racialized drug policies.
Learning Objectives

- To identify and define the 6 principles of harm reduction.
- To describe 3 harm reduction interventions to reduce drug-related harms.
- To identify at least one harm reduction implementation strategy participants can employ to reduce drug-related harm in their community.
WHY DO PEOPLE USE DRUGS?
WHY DON’T PEOPLE JUST STOP?
PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION

- Health and Dignity
- Participant Centered Services
- Participant Involvement
- Participant Autonomy
- Sociocultural Factors
- Pragmatism and Realism
FOCUS ON HEALTH AND DIGNITY

Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.
PARTICIPANT-CENTERED SERVICES

Calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing attendant harm.
PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT

Ensures participants and communities impacted have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.
PARTICIPANT AUTONOMY

Affirms participants themselves as the primary agents of change, and seeks to empower participants to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of harm.
SOCIOCULTURAL FACTORS

Recognizes that the realities of various social inequalities affect both people’s vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with potential harm.
PRAGMATIC AND REALISTIC

Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger associated with licit and illicit drug use or other risk behaviors.
Let’s talk about Bakersfield....

What drugs are people doing?

What services exist?

What are barriers to accessing services?
Principles of Harm Reduction +
Tools and Services =
Practicing Harm Reduction
Thank you for participating in this workshop!

Savannah O’Neill
oneill@harmreduction.org

Jenna Haywood
haywood@harmreduction.org