

Department: Health Department **Program Contact:** Kim Toevs
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs: 40010B
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

Access to sterile injection equipment is proven to reduce transmission of hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, and bacterial infections. The national opioid epidemic, coupled with rising methamphetamine use, has led to continued growth of injection drug use and, in turn, the need for syringe exchange and other harm reduction services. The Harm Reduction program provides syringe exchange, naloxone distribution, and resources that work to increase readiness and linkages to engage clients in addictions treatment services.

Program Summary

The harm reduction program works with people who may not be ready to stop substance use, offering strategies to reduce risks and negative outcomes for people who inject drugs (PWID) and those around them. While syringes are legal for purchase in Oregon, 70% of program clients report homelessness/unstable housing and rely on low barrier access to services and supplies offered through Harm Reduction programming. Services incorporate trauma-informed risk reduction counseling and referrals based on readiness for change. Strategies include promoting one-time use of new, sterile syringes and other supplies, which are crucial to prevent hepatitis C, HIV, and hepatitis B transmission.

The Harm Reduction program offers access to services at the field-based and clinical site. These access points mitigate barriers faced by PWID, such as the stigma associated with drug use and housing status, through an approach focused on building trusting relationships. Sites offer syringe exchange and addictions education and resources, including access to an addictions benefit coordinator. The clinical site also provides low barrier wound/abscess care, and sexual health services for people not typically engaged in health care. Currently, the Oregon Health Plan is expanding hepatitis C treatment access to PWID, among others. The program will optimize this opportunity to engage clients in HCV/HIV testing and linkage to treatment.

Opioid overdose prevention and naloxone distribution (a medication that reverses overdoses) help clients, first responders, and other community members recognize and respond to an overdose. While prescription drug overdose (OD) deaths recently declined in Oregon, statewide data shows an increase in OD death due to illicit drugs. Multnomah County has the highest OD death rates in Oregon, but opioid OD has declined each year since the advent of naloxone distribution, a reduction not seen nationally or in local counties with limited naloxone access. Harm Reduction clients reported 913 OD reversals in FY18, an increase of 22.7%. To support overdoses prevention efforts, staff provide regional and statewide technical assistance and capacity building training, allowing local community-based organizations to buy naloxone through the program. Staff also work with partners to coordinate system-level strategies.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer
Output	Number of syringe exchange client encounters	48,458	50,000	47,541	50,545
Outcome	Number of overdose rescues reported	913	750	970	939
Output	Number of syringes collected	6,057,763	NA	7,281,362	6,110,545
Output	Number of naloxone doses distributed	6,680	NA	7,228	7,050

Performance Measures Descriptions

1) Visits to MCHD and Outside In. 2) Overdose rescues reported to MCHD and Outside In. 3) Includes MCHD and Outside In. 4) Clients from MCHD and Outside In.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Personnel	\$687,732	\$222,817	\$359,198	\$406,947
Contractual Services	\$357,417	\$114,320	\$278,838	\$96,000
Materials & Supplies	\$442,738	\$39,651	\$412,522	\$111,975
Internal Services	\$250,265	\$28,098	\$228,986	\$46,499
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,738,152	\$404,886	\$1,279,544	\$661,421
Program Total:	\$2,143,038		\$1,940,965	
Program FTE	6.45	2.32	3.44	3.43

Program Revenues				
Indirect for Dept. Admin	\$21,859	\$0	\$0	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$360,360	\$0	\$646,421
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$44,526	\$0	\$0
Service Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Total Revenue	\$21,859	\$404,886	\$0	\$661,421

Explanation of Revenues

- \$ 463,421 - HIV Prevention Block Grant
- \$ 15,000 - Medicaid CareOR FFS
- \$ 66,000 - Public Health Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- \$ 117,000 - SAMHSA Opioid Use Disorder

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2019: 40061A-19 Harm Reduction

In FY20, there are decreases in general fund revenue, FTE, and scope/level of services, resulting in fewer sterile syringe, disease prevention, wound care/hygiene, and overdose supplies being distributed; elimination of sharps container distribution; closure of one field-based site; and reduction of operating times at the remaining field-based site.