



ANNUAL REPORT

RGAs -2023-DBH-01-OPIOID: Opioid Abatement Programs

September 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



The Syringe Service Alliance of the Nashua Area (SSANA)

Funding: \$42,724.33

Staffing (52%)

Supplies (48%)

The Work:

- 555 unique participants served
- 2157 engagements
- 3731 served through secondary exchange
- 134,082 syringes distributed

The Work:

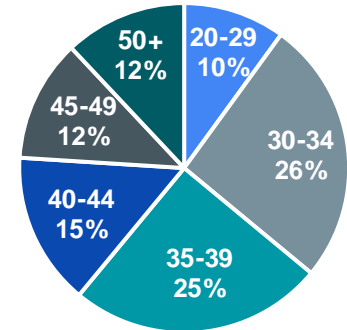
- 131,562 syringes collected (98% return rate!)
- 5035 safer injection kits distributed
- 1687 naloxone kits distributed
- **261 overdoses reversed by participants**

FOCUS: Strengthening Valuable Community Partnerships

“A significant focus of the project was relationship building within the community. During this reporting period, we maintained a strong partnership with The **City of Nashua's Division of Public Health and Community Services**, which joined us for outreach two days a week. The **Doorway of Greater Nashua** also became a key collaborator, accompanying us on outreach two days a week. Despite [The Doorway] facing staffing changes during the grant period, they have now resumed regular participation and are helping individuals connect with treatment resources while on SSANA Outreach.

Furthermore, **St. Joseph's Hospital Mobile Outreach Van** has been a valuable partner, joining us two days a week to provide basic primary care needs such as vaccinations, wound care, and infectious disease testing services during SSANA Outreach. This collaborative effort has significantly enhanced the program's ability to meet the needs of the community.” – *Jessica Carter, Executive Director, SSANA*

Age of Participants



Gender*

Male: 65%

Female: 35%

*This information is limited by the number of participants willing to provide it.

SOS Recovery Community Organization

Funding: \$36,792

Supplies (40%)

Staffing (36%)

Disposal (15%)

Indirect (9%)

The Work:

- 1625 unique participants served
- 5827 engagements
- 359,697 syringes distributed
- 270,096 syringes collected (75% return rate)
- 2374 naloxone kits distributed

The Work:

- 34 HIV Antibody Screenings
- 183 HCV Antibody Screenings
- 3459 HCV prevention safer use kits distributed
- **59 overdoses reversed by participants**

FOCUS: Strengthening Community Services

“**SOS Recovery is very satisfied with the results from the September 2023 to June 2024 reporting period.** Our harm reduction distribution program totaled 5,827 engagements, serving 1,625 unique individuals with critical essential items including safer smoking, boofing, and sniffing kits as part of our HCV prevention programming. We launched HCV and HIV antibody testing on-site and began to build a streamlined referral process for treatment with Better Life Partners and Goodwin Community Health. SOS provides care coordination in our centers and for individuals unsheltered through intensive outreach efforts. The community is significantly displaced and splintered into remote areas of the woods due to aggressive enforcement of encampments.”

"SOS has organized focus groups of advisory boards who are made up of people who use drugs, unsheltered community members, and people in recovery to inform our services in both our Dover and Rochester locations. We have started a pilot project where we have employed a part-time employee who identifies as a member of the unsheltered community and a person who uses drugs. **This has helped empower that individual toward improved wellness, provided critical connections, and built trust with those we serve.**

All this to be said, we were not able to achieve the numbers presented above without navigating challenges and operational barriers. A specific challenge we would like to note is our continued need to get creative with funding streams to continue to support these initiatives. The funding for harm reduction items like sterile syringes and disposal absorbs a large amount of our budget as we have learned that ordering cheaper alternatives than those our participants request proves contradictory to the goal of this program, with participants reporting more adverse effects when using those alternative brands."

- *John Burns, Executive Director, SOS Recovery*

Keene Serenity Center

Funding: \$31,081

Staffing (82%)

Disposal (11%)

Supplies (7%)

The Work:

- 111 unique participants served
- 562 transactions

The Work:

- 366 transactions with returns
- 57 new registrations
- **127 overdoses reversed by participants**

FOCUS: Expanding Supplies

“The attached data does not include the number of participants that received support and supplies for wound care and most safe smoking supplies. One of the exciting pieces to being part of this program is being an ally and supporting individuals with general wound care and hygiene support. We also offer safer sex support supplies and referrals. We also do not report out all Narcan distributions.

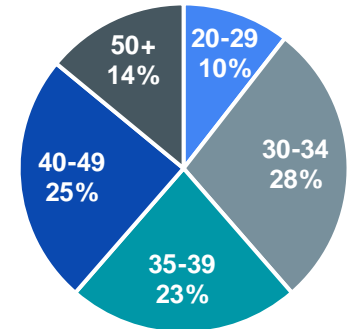
Within this past year we started including a **full line of safe smoking supplies and support**.

Many individuals have switched from syringe use to other methods.

Most individuals use multiple different substances. Poly substance use seems to be increasing.

Offering **multiple options for testing** strips is empowering to individuals. It allows them to make informed choices.” – *Sam Lake, Executive Director, Keene Serenity Center*

Age of Participants



Gender

Male: 65%
Female: 33%
Unknown: 2%

*This information is limited by the number of participants willing to provide it.

HIV/HCV Resource Center

Funding: \$37,160

Staffing (70%)

Supplies (30%)

The Work:

- 116 unique participants served (NH)
- 53 new members enrolled
- 124,663 syringes distributed
- 47,332 syringes collected

The Work:

- 1097 doses of naloxone distributed
- 173 HIV/HCV tests performed
- **74 overdoses reversed by participants**

FOCUS: Collaboration & Expansion of Services

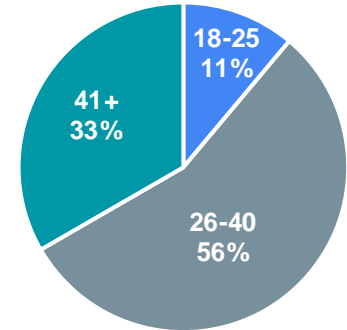
“Over the past year, in addition to distributing harm reduction supplies, we have **expanded our work** in overdose outreach and naloxone distribution, HIV and HCV testing and wound care.

Through our overdose outreach efforts, we distribute naloxone in hard-to-reach communities and train clients and their peers in overdose prevention. Many of the opioids used by our clients are cut with xylazine and other non-opioid respiratory depressants. It is important for clients to know that naloxone does not work on these substances. In addition, some of our clients are exclusively stimulant users, for whom the likelihood of fatal overdose is increased when fentanyl is present in the stimulants they are using. It is important for all clients to be trained in rescue breathing and naloxone administration as part of responding to an opioid overdose.

Our Overdose Outreach Coordinator and other staff trained **97 individuals** in recognizing signs of overdose, strategies to prevent overdose, and administration of naloxone. We **collaborate with Listen Community Services, the Upper Valley Haven**, and other organizations to set up trainings at their locations. We also **installed a total of 29 naloxone boxes** throughout the Upper Valley to increase access to naloxone for people at risk of overdose.

From September 2023 to June 2024, our “To The Point” testing program performed 173 HIV/HCV tests for NH residents. We **offered testing events** in Lebanon and Claremont. We offer a **seamless connection to care** for people who test positive [and require additional testing.] If it turns out that they have the active virus, they can get a prescription for medication from our partner physician and follow up with our nurse.” – *Laura Byrne, Executive Director, HIV/HCV Resource Center*

Age of Participants



Gender*

Male: 52%

Female: 47%

*This information is limited by the number of participants willing to provide it.

Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region (LEX)

Funding: \$7,000
Supplies (100%)

The Work:

- 169 unique participants served
- 31,627 syringes distributed

The Work:

- 31,336 syringes collected (99% return rate)
- 672 wound care kits distributed

FOCUS: Growing and Expanding

Successes

Since introducing safer smoking kits in November of 2023, our **weekly participation rate has more than doubled.**

Police and Fire departments have not received any phone calls since September 2023 regarding syringes found in public places.

We have engaged **multiple LEX participants in Recovery Services** where they have been successful.

We **introduced Wound Care Kits** to our participants at LEX and they have been a huge success. Community organizations have collaborated to purchase supplies and assemble kits. Volunteers have also come together to assemble kits.

Challenges

Earlier in 2024, LEX lost its location for a month due to a plumbing leak. It was managed by utilizing local partners and a local church to provide a safe space to run the exchange while the office was fixed.

As LEX has grown, **demand for Harm Reduction supplies has increased.** We are limited in what items we can supply our participants due to budget constraints. We are currently working on applying for more funding.

– Daisy Pierce, Executive Director, Navigation Recovery of the Lakes Region

Gender

Male: 68%
Female: 31%
Prefer not to say: 1%

Substance Use

51% use **one** substance regularly
49% use **more than one** substance regularly
59% Only **smoke** substances
41% **Inject** substances (may also smoke substances)

NH Harm Reduction Coalition

Funding: \$371,699

Staffing (42%)

Subcontracts (48%)

Other (10%)

Supplies (0%)

The Work:

- 2354 unique participants served
- 533,898 syringes distributed
- 445,595 syringes collected (83% return rate)

The Work:

- 13,367 safer injection kits distributed
- 3922 naloxone kits distributed
- **763 overdoses reversed**

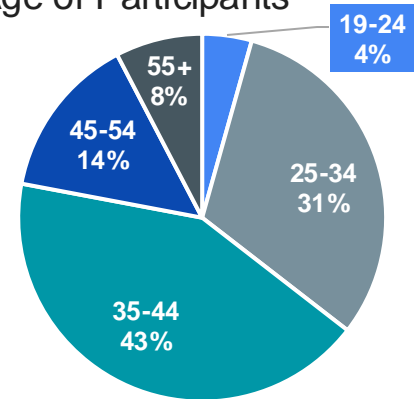
FOCUS: Responding to the Needs of Our Communities

"In year one, NH Harm Reduction Coalition (NHHRC) successfully acted as the Facilitating Organization (FO) for harm reduction services and Opioid Abatement (OA) funding in the first phase of our Capacity Expansion (CapEx) project. Within the past 12 months, a stable funding foundation has been built to ensure that harm reduction services in New Hampshire grow sustainably and with the direct influence and guidance of people with lived or living experience. Infection, disease, and fatalities as a result of substance use are both tragic and preventable. Utilizing OA funds to support the full range of harm reduction services is a dynamic and advanced strategy to address substance use and prevent fatalities. As programs across the state continue to grow and new and emerging programs are supported by these funds, consistent and diverse funding streams are the most critical element to experiencing the positive impacts of healthy harm reduction systems of care.

NHHRC acts as both the FO for Opioid Abatement funds and operates 3 of the state's 9 harm reduction programs. Our experience as both FO and SSP has led NHHRC to prioritize the expertise and guidance of the local community-based programs across New Hampshire that have utilized these funds. Allowing the use of funding to be flexible and responsive is critical to success because the drug supply, the way people use drugs, and the external factors contributing to risk and fatality are volatile. Supporting communities in determining what they need most to be successful has been the primary driver for the successes you see within this report."

– Lauren McGinley, Executive Director, NH Harm Reduction Coalition

Age of Participants



Gender*

Male: 62%
Female: 37%
N/A: 1%

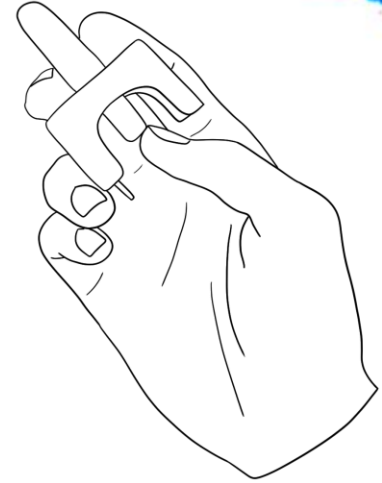
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OVERDOSES REVERSED

BY PARTICIPANTS



While this number will always be an incomplete measure of how many lives have been saved by the people who partner with harm reduction programs across the state, it is still a powerful recognition of the tireless work and dedication of people who want to keep other people safe. Compassionate, self-directed care for and with people who use drugs will continue to prevent the unnecessary loss of life that has left holes across this state in communities, workplaces, and families.