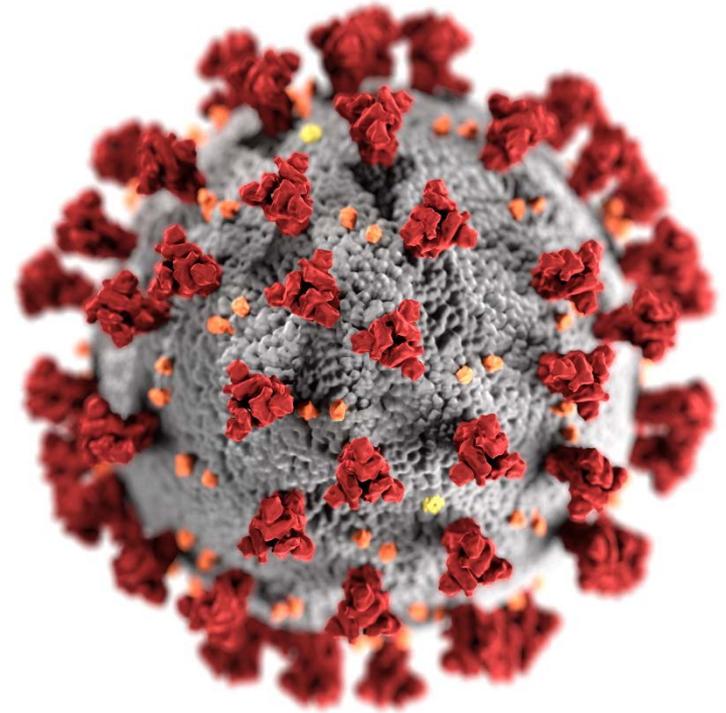


NCIPC COVID-19 Activity: Novel Harm Reduction and Treatment Strategies to Support Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder

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Department of Health and Human Services
Public Health Service
Board of Scientific Counselors
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cdc.gov/coronavirus

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



Cooperative agreement between NCIPC and National Council for Behavioral Health (NCBH) to:

1. Identify and document **novel, innovative, and emerging harm reduction strategies** implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Fund promising strategies for **ensuring or increasing access to services** during COVID-19

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 may increase fatal opioid overdoses, owing to:

- Increased substance use or a return to use after remission
- Delays in seeking treatment or disruptions in access to treatment and naloxone
- People using substances alone

References:

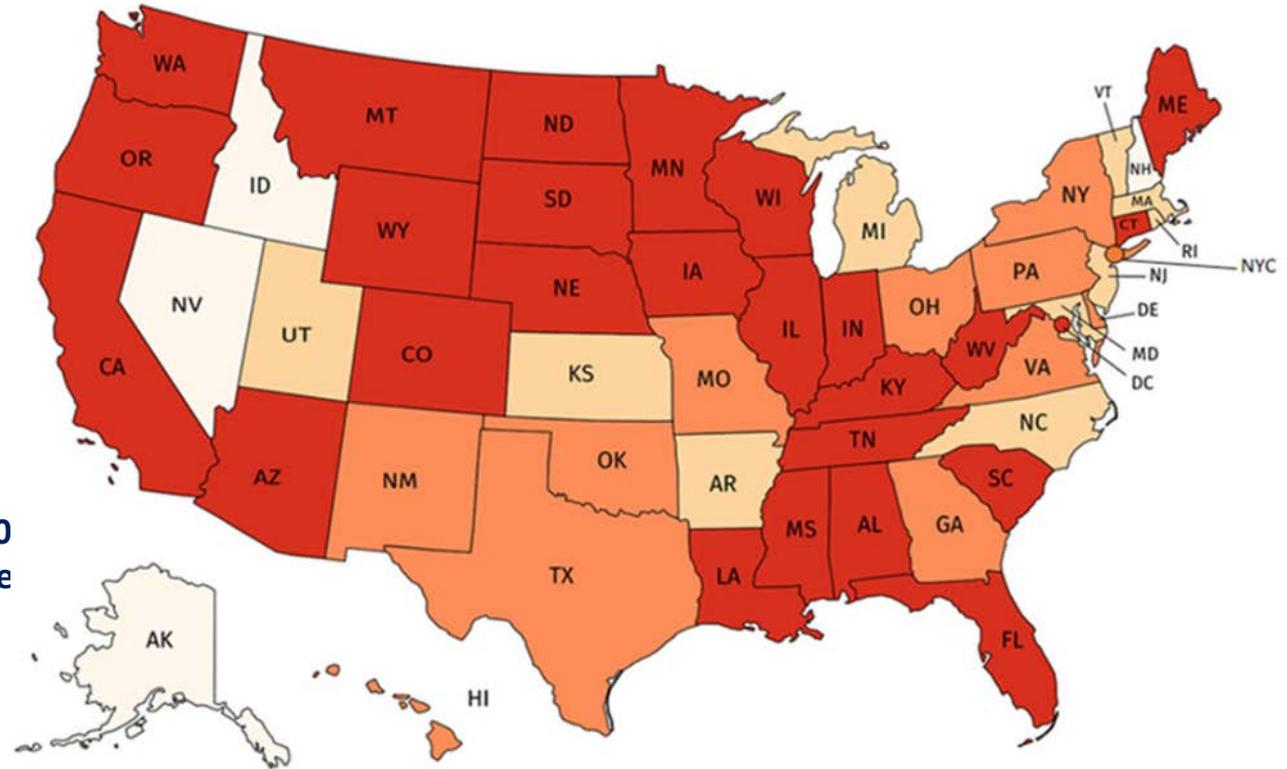
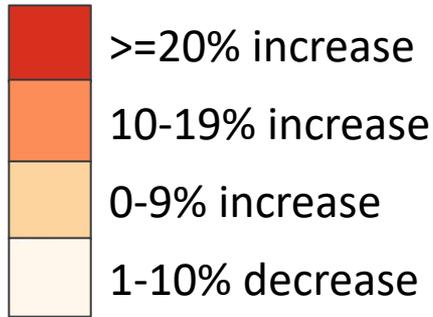
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Percentage change in provisional drug overdose death counts from 12-months ending in June 2019 to 12-months ending in May 2020*



*12-months ending in May 2020 includes the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as months prior to the pandemic

ACTIVITIES

- Environmental scan of **challenges and opportunities** related to the provision of harm reduction services during COVID-19
 - Literature review
 - Key informant interviews
- Identification of **innovative and effective harm reduction practices** employed during the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Funding harm reduction organizations** and developing **peer-to-peer learning** among grantees
- **Technical assistance tools** to disseminate best and promising practices



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- 21 key informant interviews conducted with field experts
- Environmental scan submitted and undergoing revision
- Competitive request for funding applications developed and released to over 100,000 stakeholders
 - 16 stakeholders selected for awards up to \$33,333
- Evaluation plan developed to assess program impacts/outcomes

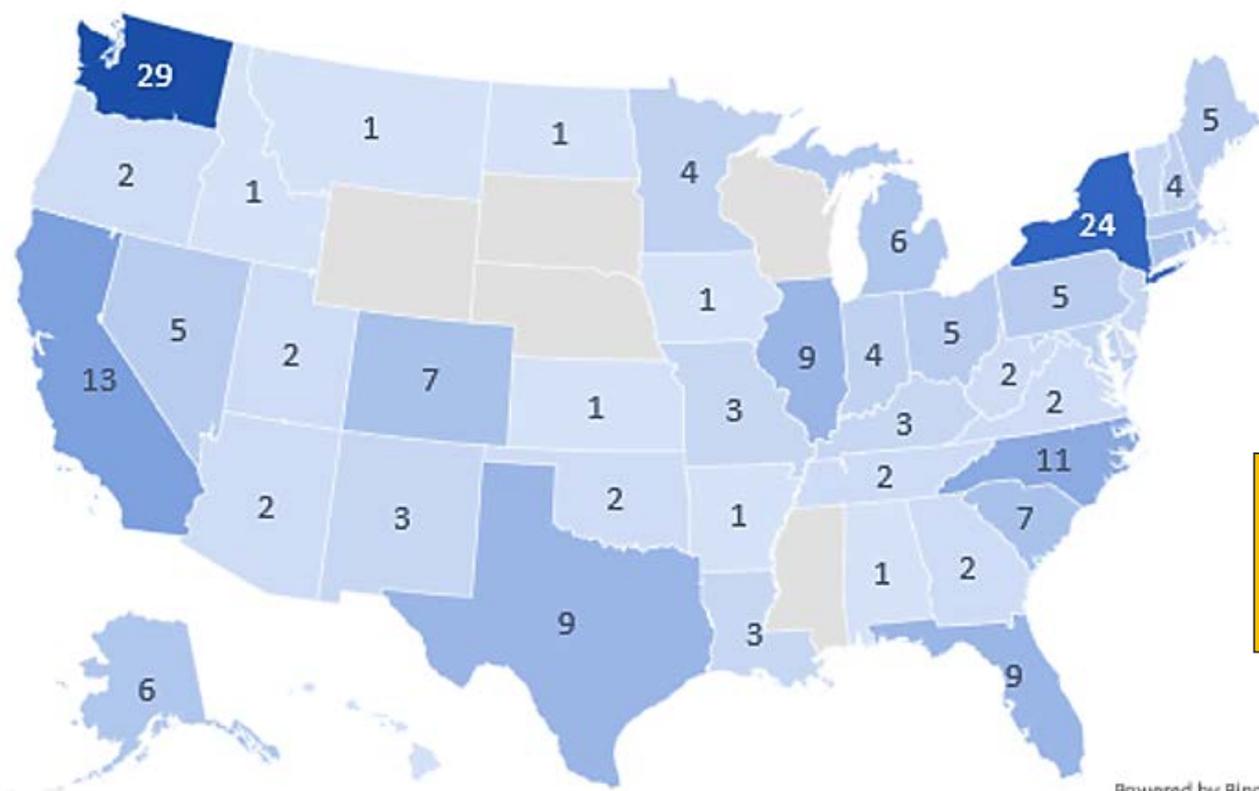
Project period ends on **July 31, 2021**



ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN: FINDINGS

I.	Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people who use drugs	risk of contracting COVID-19; substance use-related health harms; impact on mental health; social and economic harms; criminal-legal system impacts; barriers to essential services
II.	Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on harm Reduction organizations	increased need for harm reduction services; operational disruptions; staffing; supply distributions; impact on workforce
III.	Adaptations and innovations made by harm reduction organizations	operational changes; technology-based adaptations and innovations; partnerships and collaborations; resources and tools





Number of applicants



233 Applicants
from 45 states + DC

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FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	State
HIPS (Honoring Individual Power and Strength)	DC
The Perfectly Flawed Foundation	IL
Southside Harm Reduction Services	MN
Maine Access Points	ME
Milan Puskar Health Right	WV
Trystereo / New Orleans Harm Reduction Network	LA
Dave Purchase Project/Tacoma Needle Exchange	WA
Sex Workers and Allies Network of New Haven	CT
Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition	IA
Sonoran Prevention Works	AZ
NEXT Distro	NY (nationwide)
North Carolina Survivors Union	NC
Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation	AK
SWOP Behind Bars	FL
Bronx Movil	NY
SHOTS Tulsa	OK

16 Grantees
from 15 states + DC
covering 9 HHS regions

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ACCESS
POINTS**



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FLAWED FOUNDATION



trystereo
ALSO: OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM!
syringes, cottons, condoms, cookers, alcohol wipes, & more...
call 504.535.4766



FUNDED STRATEGIES

- **Distribution** of harm reduction and hygiene supplies
 - no contact delivery; postal delivery; call in and secondary exchange
- **Communication and education**
 - educational videos; online resource hub with chat function; virtual peer support meetings; Never Use Alone line
- **Outreach**
 - mobile health unit; outreach van; outreach to homeless encampment
- **Low threshold employment** for people who use drugs
- **Linkage to care** for individuals released from correctional facilities



Budget Period Outcomes

- Improved capacity **to identify, prioritize, and customize harm reduction programs and services** to address public health needs during COVID-19
- Increased capability of public and behavioral health practitioners **to implement evidence-based/informed harm reduction programs, policies, and services** to address public health needs during COVID-19

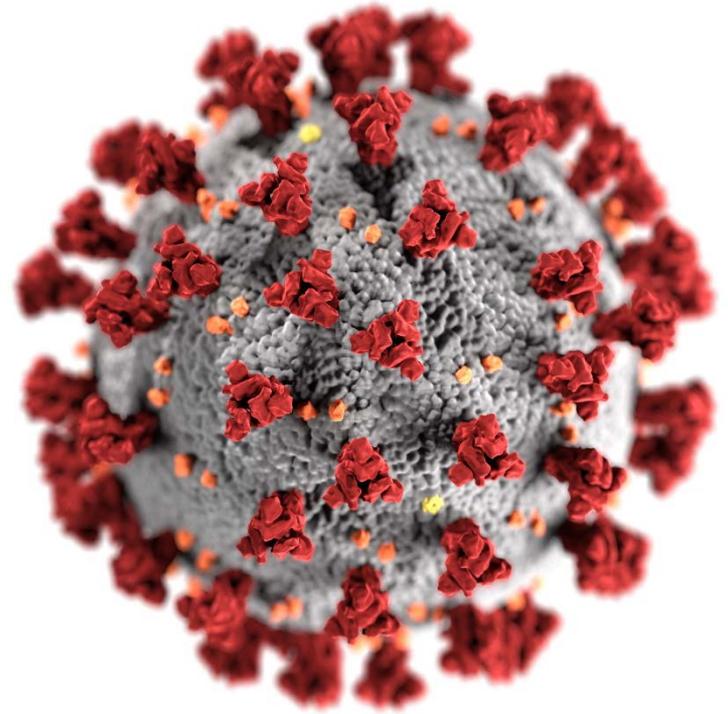
Outputs for Public Dissemination

- **Results** from environmental scan (**3/2021**)
- Technical assistance **tools** to disseminate best and promising harm reduction practices during COVID-19 (**7/2021**)



Thank you!

For questions:
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For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

