



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Harm Reduction Program CORE Measures 2025
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Supervisor

Harm Reduction Program

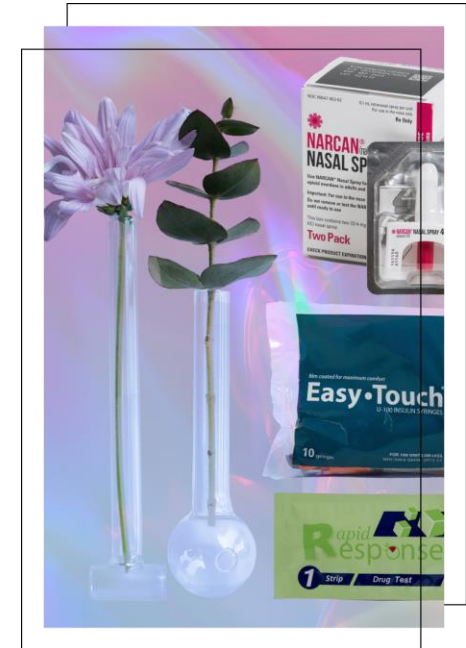
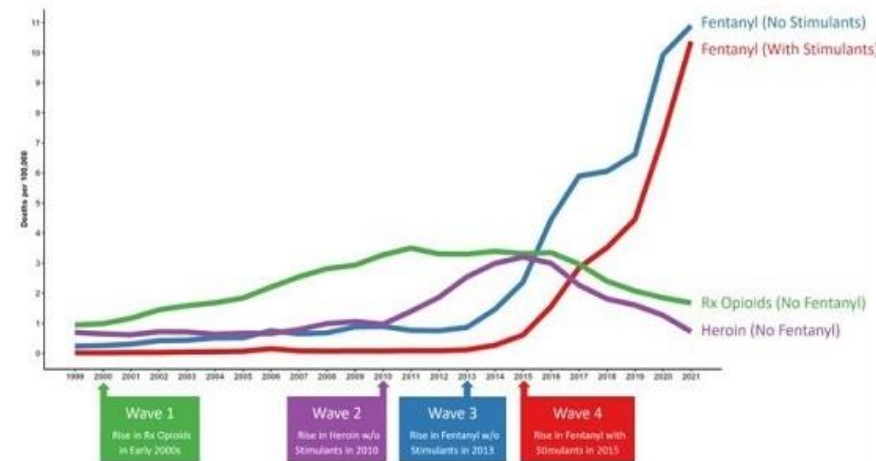
Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs. (*National Harm Reduction Coalition, 2024*)

- Aims to meet people where they are to reduce barriers to resources.
 - Provides rapid testing services for HIV/Hep C/Syphilis/STIs
 - Provides tools for safer substance use and opioid overdose prevention
 - Referrals and connections to various resources
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Story Time!

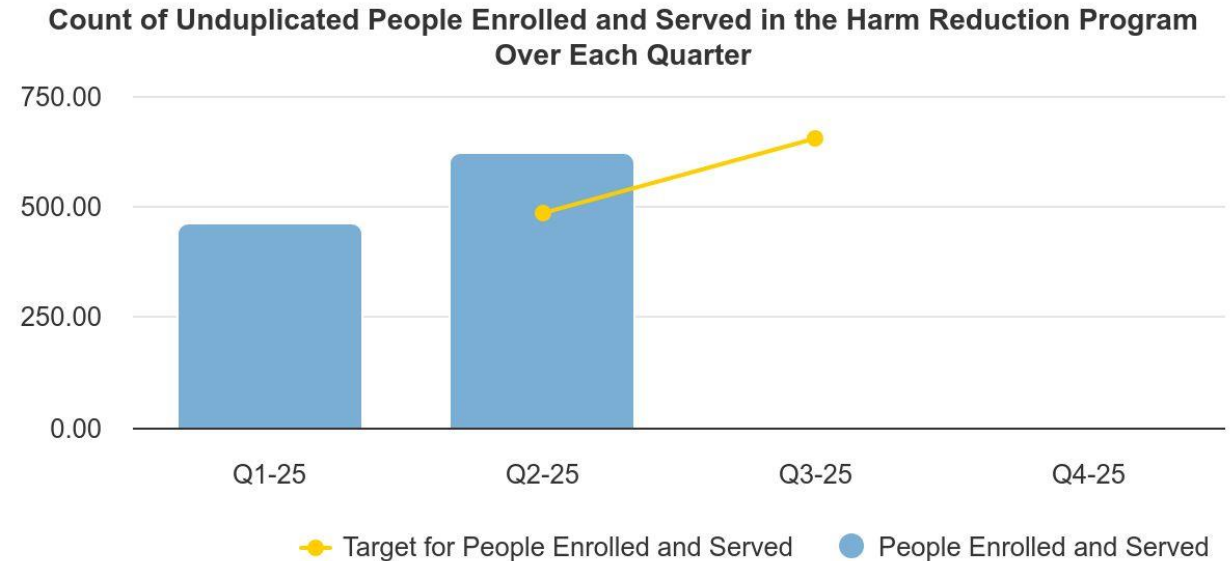
- Once upon a time in the old days...HRP participants were asking for supplies other than syringes (i.e., bubbles for meth use). Unfortunately, we were unable to provide them...Until one day, the CO Paraphernalia exemptions expanded to protect SSP participants from ticketing and arrests for their supplies (specifically glassware).
- In January of 2025, the ACPH HRP finally began distributing these crucial supplies, and began seeing major increases in participants accessing services!
- Since Jan. 1st, 2025, there have been approximately*:
 - 866 newly enrolled participants in the HRP SAP!
 - 118 people tested for HIV, Hep C, Syphilis, and/or gonorrhea & chlamydia.
- Targeted intervention allowed us to support participants in their requests, meet our metric goals, and addresses 4th wave of OD crisis!



Metric Overview

Core Strategy: Optimize

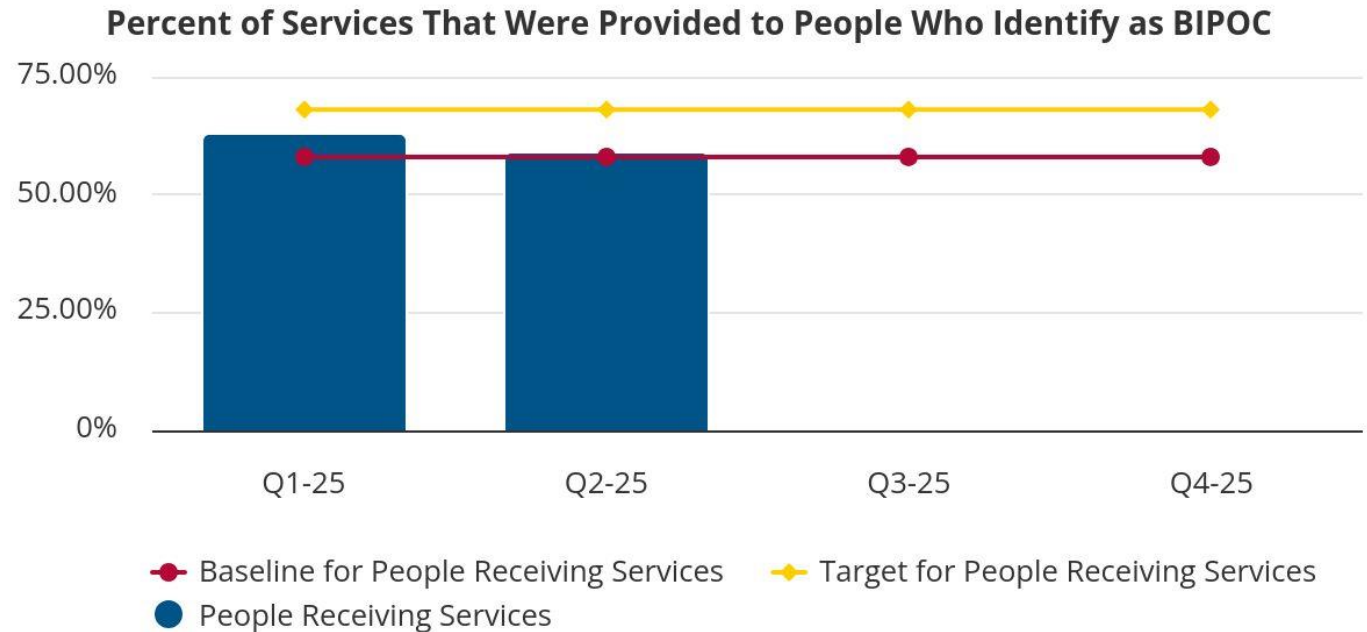
- Count of unduplicated people enrolled and served in the harm reduction program over each quarter.
 - Ensure our program is reaching people most vulnerable to HIV and opioid overdoses by enrolling them in our program.*
- When people access our program, they're getting connected to life-saving resources such as naloxone, substance use treatment referrals, and a place for nonjudgemental, noncoercive services.
 - The goal is to reduce opioid overdose deaths and prevent new HIV infections in Arapahoe County.*



Metric Overview

Core Strategy: Cultivate

- Percent of services that were provided to people who identify as BIPOC .
 - *Ensure BIPOC are receiving services in culturally and linguistically appropriate way.*
- BIPOC continue to experience higher rates of overdose deaths and HIV infections.
 - *Ensure harm reduction services are equitably addressing racial disparities in HIV cases and opioid overdoses.*



Learning Opportunities

Challenges

- Increased need for services by participants despite limited HRP staffing, limited and reduced funding.
- Increased overdose deaths in BIPOC, despite national declines in overdose deaths.
- Increased hesitancy around harm reduction interventions both locally and federally.

Actions

- Utilizing multiple funding streams to ensure program operations and variety of offerings (i.e., Binx rapid STI, mobile outreach); i.e., braided funding!
- Leaning on partners to expand capacity and reach for our impacted participants (i.e., ACPH SHP, other SSP providers, local community resources).
- Continued advocacy and education on harm reduction interventions and our programming.
- Data Insights
 - From Q1 2025 to Q2 2025, we've had a 129% increase in participants accessing services for a total of 623 unduplicated enrolled participants.
 - Through 2025, we have a steady baseline of approx. 58% of participants identifying as BIPOC, non-white.

Path Forward

Opportunities

- More collaboration with different providers and organizations to expand service offerings and sustain growth. (Reinforce & Enhance)
- Establishing more sense of a collective community to see greater program impacts. (Cultivate & Optimize)

Wins

- Program growth and breaking internal records! (Cultivate, Optimize, Reinforce and Enhance)
 - Service expansion to include pregnancy testing, rapid gonorrhea and chlamydia testing and treatment, rapid response for syphilis; 100% contact with participants compared to 2024 (0% contact for treatment) (Cultivate, Optimize & Reinforce)
 - Placement of 6/9 public health kiosks for increased access to naloxone and other harm reduction and safe sex supplies! (Cultivate, Optimize & Reinforce)
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Thank you!!!

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