

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM



HIV, STD, AND HEPATITIS BRANCH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM OVERVIEW

[SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA](https://sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa)

Today's Agenda

- Who we are
- Substance Use and the Continuum of Care
- Harm reduction overview
- Highlights since program launch on April 29
- Resources and information
- Q&A

Program Staff and Support

The County's Harm Reduction Services Program (HRSP) is housed within the HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch (HSHB) of Public Health Services.

There are many people involved in developing and implementing the County's Harm Reduction Services Program:

HRSP TEAM

- ❖ Felipe Ruiz
- ❖ Rachel Kelly
- ❖ Erica Leary
- ❖ Maura Dahl
- ❖ Miriam Quinones

OTHER STAFF

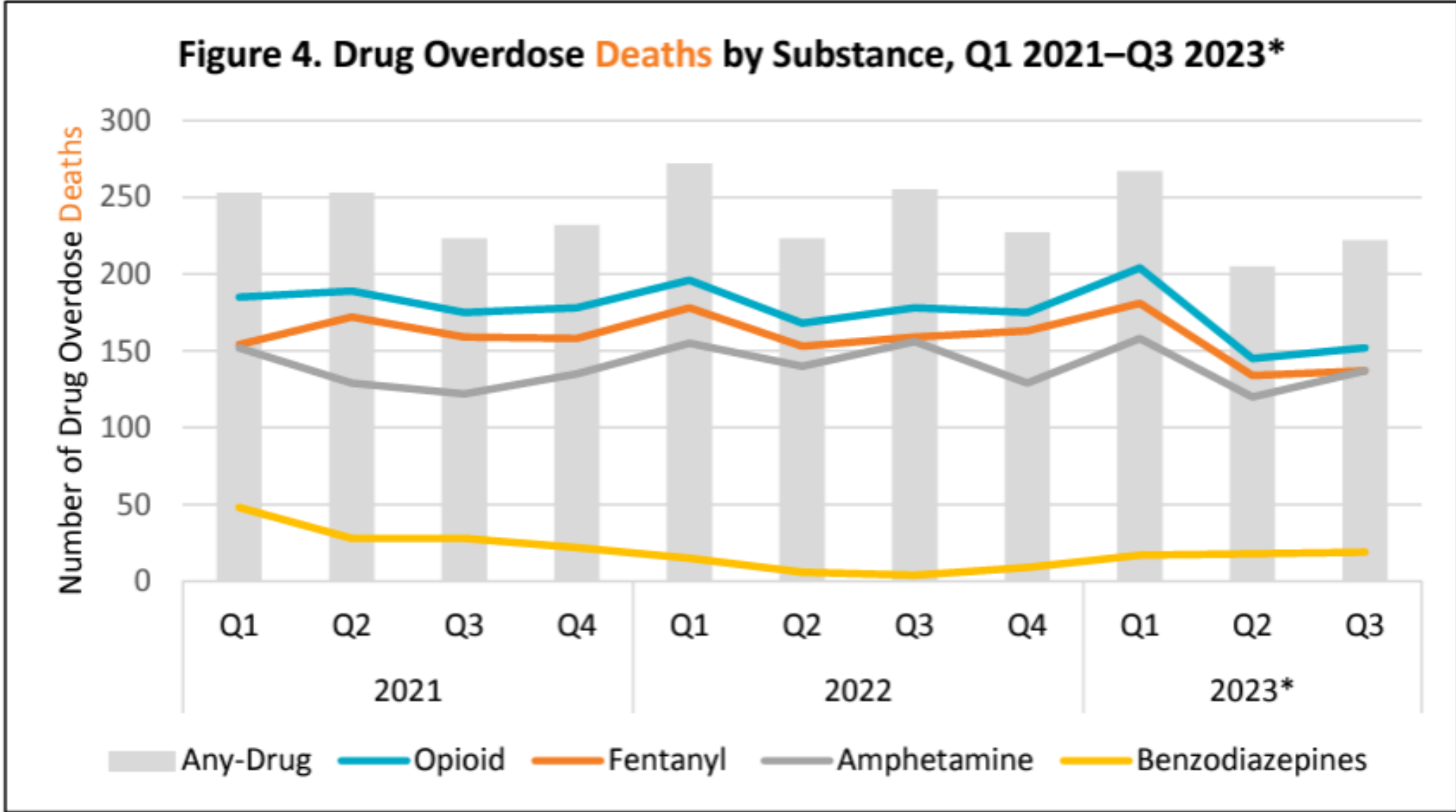
- ❖ Lynn Carson
- ❖ Valerie Ariola
- ❖ Ana Ramos
- ❖ Cecily Coleman
- ❖ Yesenia Villa-Trujillo
- ❖ Irma Perez
- ❖ Shaina Lee
- ❖ Mary Quito
- ❖ Christopher Ford

OTHER SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEERS

- ❖ Rosa Ruesga
- ❖ Salvador Garcia
- ❖ Kaylee Smith
- ❖ Jennifer Ledesma
- ❖ Madison Bridge-Kurtz

**And many others working and supporting behind the scenes – THANK YOU!*

San Diego County Overdose Deaths

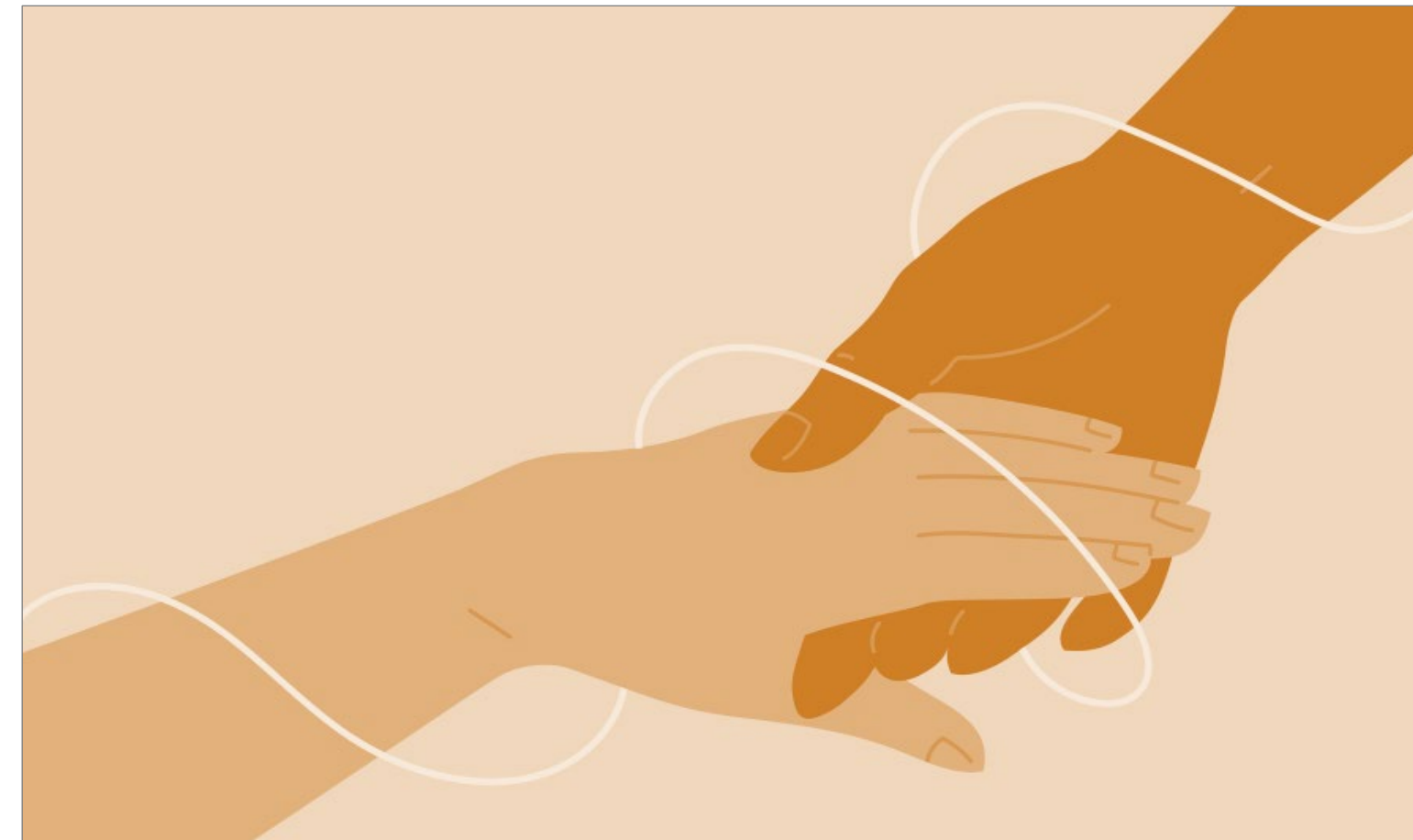


*Data from 2023 are preliminary and may change as new/updated information is received. Data obtained on 04/02/2024. Drug categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, both opioids and amphetamine may have contributed to the same death and these data do not show relative contributions of each. Fentanyl is also included in the opioid category.

What is Harm Reduction?

Harm reduction approaches help reduce certain health and safety issues associated with drug use. As a model of substance use care distinct from treatment or recovery support, harm reduction was created by and for people who use drugs to improve health and wellbeing, including during active drug use.

Source: NIH –
National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2022



Harm Reduction Video



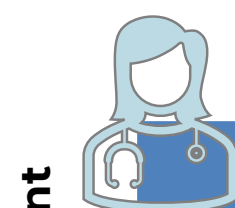
Source: National Harm Reduction Coalition

Benefits

WHOLE PERSON APPROACH

- Referrals to substance use disorder treatment
- HIV and hepatitis testing and linkage to treatment
- Education about overdose prevention and safer use practices
- Assistance and referrals to medical and social services
- Tools to prevent HIV, STDs, and viral hepatitis
- Safe disposal containers for used needles and syringes

PROGRAM BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY



Entry to Treatment

- Reduce drug use
- Program participants are 5x as likely to enter substance use disorder treatment
- Program participants more likely to reduce or stop injecting



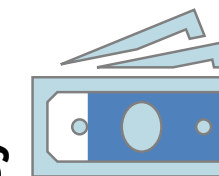
Prevent Needlestick Injuries

- Programs reduce needlestick injuries among first responders
- Program increases safe disposal and protects the public from needlestick injuries
- Programs do not increase local crime in the areas where they are located



Prevent and Reduce Overdose Deaths

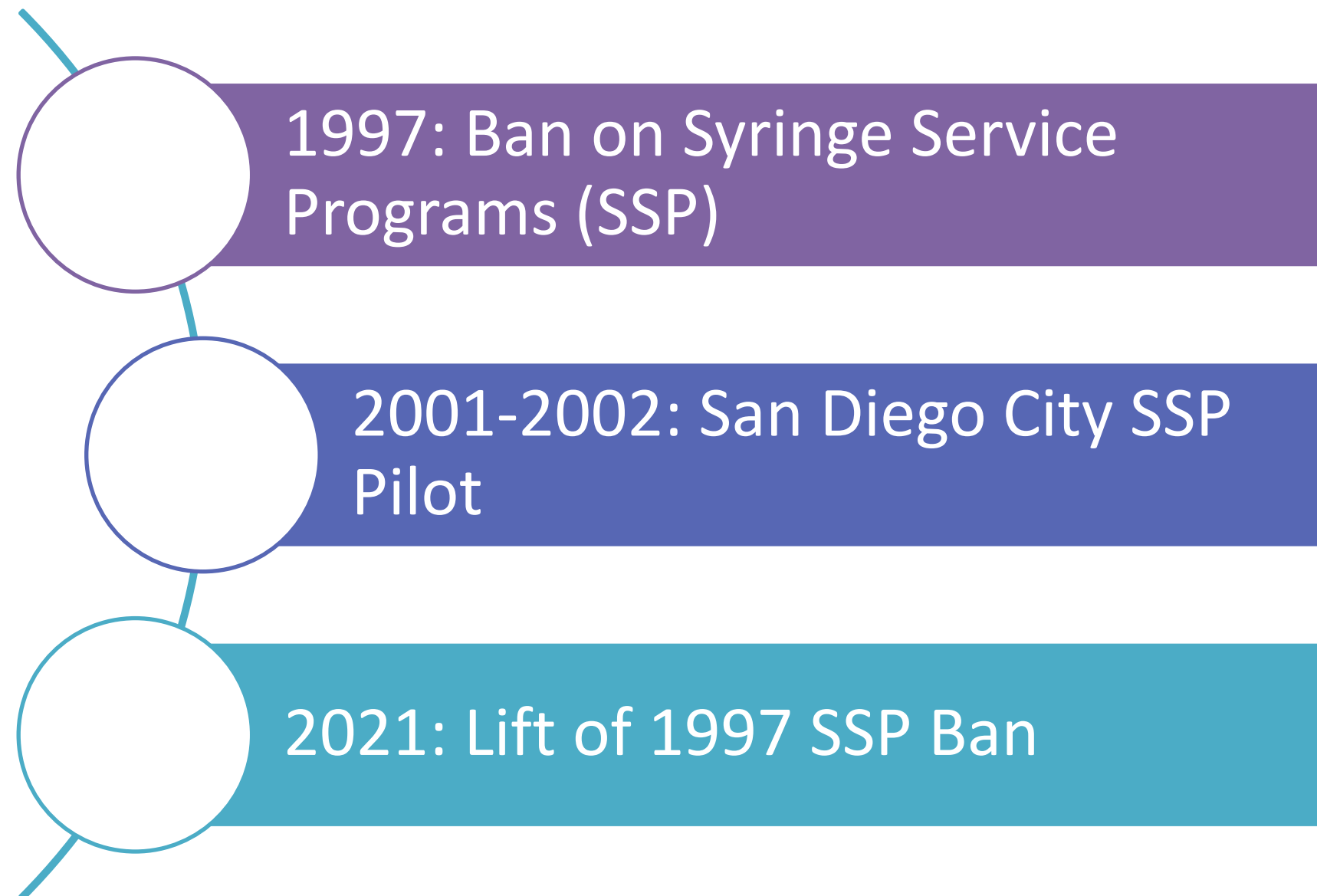
- Programs reduce overdose deaths by teaching participants how to prevent and respond to drug overdoses
- Participants also learn how to use naloxone



Saves Money

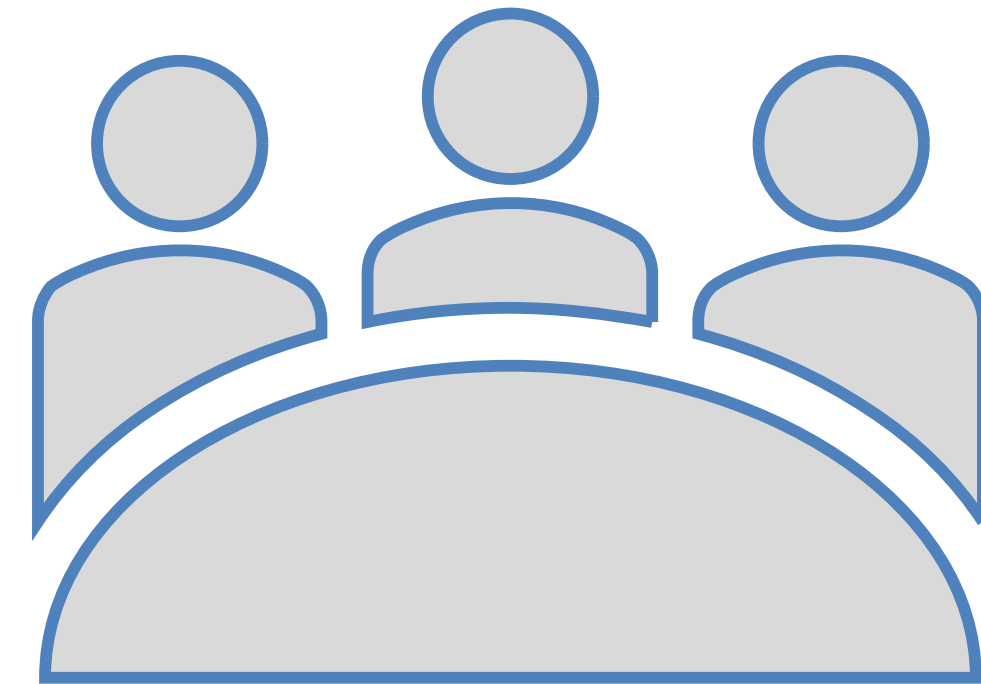
- Programs save healthcare dollars by preventing infections
- Estimated cost of treating one person living with HIV is more than \$400,000
- Testing linked to hepatitis C treatment can save an estimated 320,000 lives

BRIEF HISTORY OF SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMS IN COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



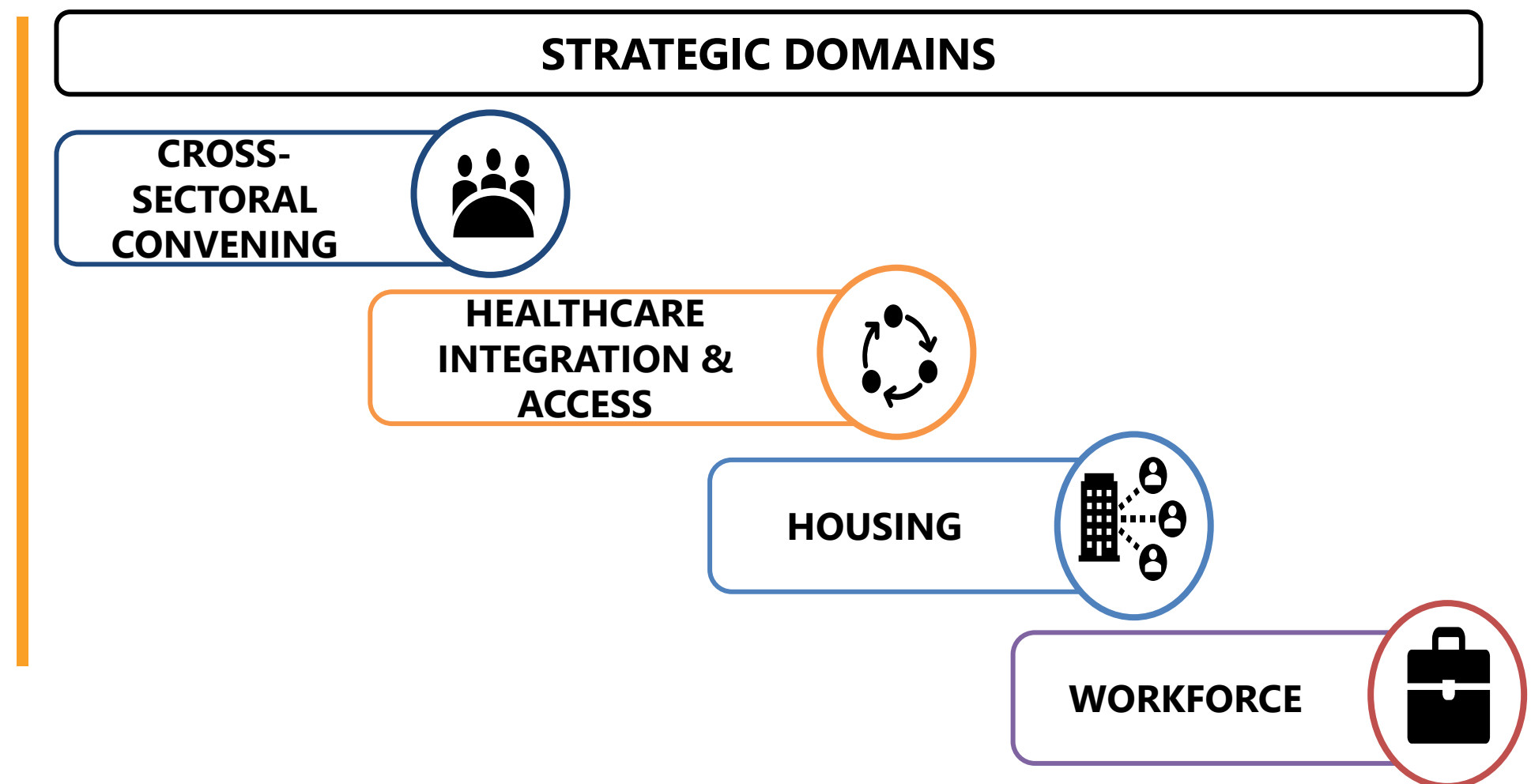
BOARD ACTIONS RELATED TO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

- In January 2021, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors directed that the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency develop a comprehensive harm reduction strategy.
 - Collaboration
 - Housing
 - Workforce
 - Healthcare Integration and Access
 - Naloxone Distribution Program
 - Syringe Service Action Plan
- Ongoing County overdose and illicit fentanyl crises underline the need for County-wide Harm Reduction Services.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

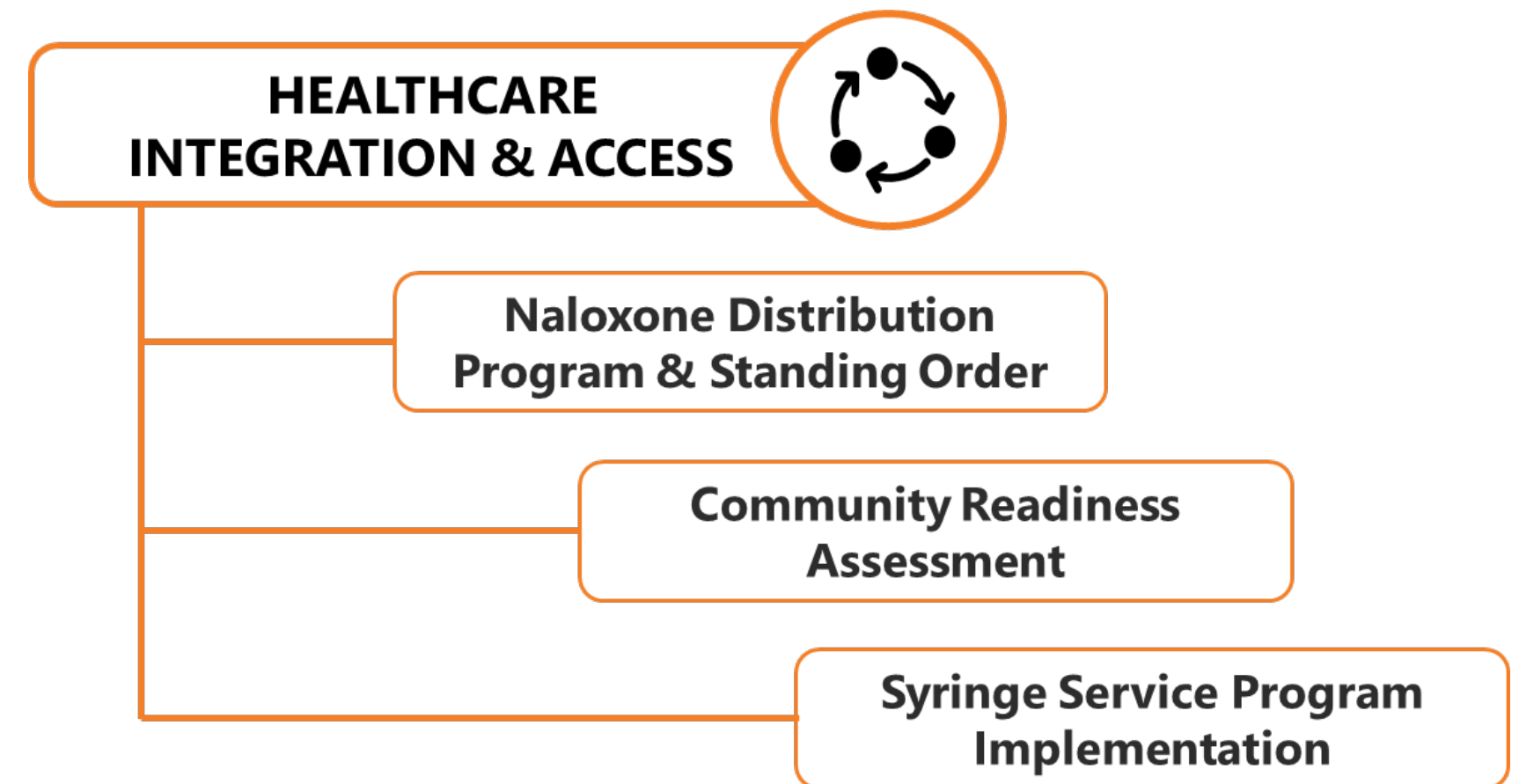
- Multidisciplinary evidence with four strategic domains
- Each focus area is built on a roadmap of immediate, intermediate and long-term tactics



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

Guiding principles:

- Human rights and dignity
- Diversity and social inclusivity
- Health and well-being promotion
- Partnerships and collaborations
- Participation (“nothing about us without us”)
- Accountability and improvement





County of San Diego Program

PROGRAM GOALS

- Reduce transmission of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne infections in the community
- Decrease the number of fatal overdoses
- Increase the number of syringes that are safely and securely discarded in the community
- Increase community understanding of the health and social benefits of substance use treatment and harm reduction services
- Improve the quality of life of people who use drugs in underserved communities

PROGRAM FORMAT



MOBILE SERVICES

- Central San Diego
- Staggered Approach
- Onsite nurse, community health workers

PROGRAM SERVICES



INTEGRATED SCREENING ACTIVITIES (HIV AND HCV)

- Onsite rapid testing
- Wound care



DISTRIBUTION OF HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES

- Naloxone
- Fentanyl and xylazine strips
- Collection and safe disposal of used syringes
- Provision of sterile syringes and safer sex and smoking supplies



WARM HAND-OFFS TO REFERRALS

- Screening and treatment for substance use related medical issues
- Enhanced care management
- Evidence-based services (low threshold medication-assisted treatment, behavioral treatment and recovery services)



HEALTH EDUCATION

- Transmission of HIV, STIs, hepatitis C
- Proper syringe disposal and overdose prevention

Launch Day – April 29, 2024



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM



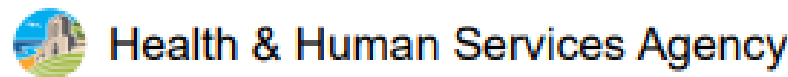
Program operations:

Mondays from 10 AM to 1 PM
Thursdays from 12 AM to 3 PM
HHSA Complex
3851 Rosecrans, San Diego

Accomplishments to Date April 29 – October 31, 2024

- **296** participants enrolled
- **432** participant encounters
- **322** street outreach contacts
- **1,178** naloxone kits distributed
- **15,610** syringes distributed
- **9,278** syringes collected
- **21** HIV tests
- **20** HCV tests (first tests available 5/20/24)

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM



HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch

Mission: To improve health outcomes in communities disproportionately impacted by HIV and STDs.

Contact us at (619) 293-4700 or send us an **email**.

HIV and STD Testing

- HIV Counseling and Testing Services
- STD Testing and Clinical Services
- *Getting to Zero*

HIV/AIDS Care and Services

- Find HIV Care and Services
- For Providers:
 - HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Services
 - AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
 - Partner Services (PS)
 - Intensive Case Management

Prevention Resources

- Harm Reduction Services Program
- HIV and STD Prevention
- HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Youth Resources

Information for Clinical Providers

- STD Case Reporting Information
- Ryan White Primary Care Contractor Resources

Reports and Resources

- HIV and STD Fact Sheets and Resources
- Reports and Statistics
- Ryan White ARIES Reporting Resources
- San Diego HIV Planning Group

We're Online!

[Harm Reduction \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](http://sandiegocounty.gov)

Program Email:

PHS-HRSP.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

Program Information:

619-692-8880



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM

Harm reduction saves lives and protects the health of people who use substances and their communities.

MONDAYS: 10 AM TO 1 PM

HHS Parking Lot*
3851 Rosecrans St., San Diego
*Look for a white van and canopies

Program Goals

- Reduce the number of fatal overdoses
- Reduce transmission of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne infections in the community
- Increase the number of syringes that are safely and securely discarded
- Increase community understanding of the health and social benefits of substance use treatment and harm reduction services
- Improve the quality of life of people who use drugs in underserved communities

Program Services

Integrated Screening Activities

- On-site rapid testing for HIV and HCV
- Wound care

Harm Reduction Supplies

- Naloxone
- Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips
- Sterile syringes and safe disposal
- Safer sex and smoking supplies

Warm Hand-offs to Referrals

- Screening and treatment for SUD
- Health insurance
- Behavioral health
- Enhanced case management

Health Education

- Overdose prevention
- Proper syringe disposal
- Disease prevention

Date: 5/2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION
engage.sandiegocounty.gov/hrsp

Print Materials

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM

Free, confidential services in your community.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM

Free, confidential services in your community.



Services

- Sterile syringes & safe disposal
- Rapid testing for HIV & HCV
- Wound care
- Naloxone
- Fentanyl & Xylazine test strips
- Safer sex & smoking supplies
- Referrals to other services
- Overdose & disease prevention education

Mondays: 10:00am-1:00pm

HHS Parking Lot*
3851 Rosecrans St., San Diego
*Look for a white van and canopies

5/2024

Important Reference:

Learn the facts about California Law and our Service Programs. Use the QR code provided here or visit [CDPH.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov) - Syringe and Needle Programs.

Emergency and Referral Hotlines:

24/7, social service referral line
8-8, suicide and crisis lifeline
800-484-3731, never use alone hotline



Find fact sheets here, including *California Law and Syringe Services Programs*.

- English and Spanish
- Full-size fliers
- Palm cards



Q&A

For additional information:

Erica Leary, Program Manager: EricaB.Leary@sdcounty.ca.gov

Maura Dahl, Community Health Worker: MauraM.Dahl@sdcounty.ca.gov

Felipe Ruiz, Health Program and Planning Specialist: Felipe.Ruiz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Program Email: **PHS-HRSP.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov**