

Anne Arundel County Department of Health Risk Reduction Services Overview

8/7/2026

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Definition of Risk Reduction



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

Goals of Risk Reduction



- Improve the overall health and well-being of people who use drugs (PWUD), their families, and communities
- Reduce the spread of infectious diseases - HIV and Hepatitis C Virus
- Prevent drug overdose deaths and related disability
- Reduce illness and injury from high risk behaviors
- Increase access to health and social services, including treatment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- Empower communities to make positive changes
- Reduce stigma associated with substance use

Overdose Response Program

- Increase accessibility of naloxone
- Provide community trainings and supply requests to community organizations
- Coordinates and stocks Public Health Vending Machines
- Assists other entities become their own Overdose Response Program



Risk Reduction Health Educator

- Risk Reduction 101 Training
- Attend Community Events
- Risk Reduction Advisory Council
 - Improve services for PWUD
 - Reduce stigma of Risk Reduction at the community level

AA POWER Services

- Anne Arundel Peers Offering Wellness Education and Resources
- Syringe services, safer use education and supplies, peer support and care coordination
- Overdose prevention and response education
- Linkage to medical, mental, social, and other support services, including treatment for SUD
- Infectious disease education, testing, and referral for treatment
- Wound care education and supplies

AA POWER Services

- Conduct outreach via stationary model, backpack and mobile
- Pick ups, drop offs, mailing
- Transportation for program participants
- Currently partnering with the Department of Social Services to conduct outreach in encampments in northern Anne Arundel County and Annapolis

AA POWER Services

Care Coordination and Peer Support

Linkage to Medical, Mental, Social, and Other Variety of Supports including but not limited to food assistance, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, mental health services, healthcare, dental care, legal aid, Peer Support Services, Medical Treatment (Buprenorphine, Methadone, and Naltrexone)

AA POWER Supplies

Overdose Prevention

Naloxone kits, test strips for Fentanyl, Xylazine, Medetomidine and Benzodiazepines

Syringe Services

Sterile Syringes (variety of sizes), fit packs for safe disposal, large sharps containers for safe collection and for community use, safe injection supplies including cookers, cotton, sterile water, tourniquets, alcohol swabs, syringe cleaning kits, split safe kits

AA POWER Supplies Contd.

- Safe snort kit
- Xylazine wound care
- Infectious disease prevention
- Safe sex kits (pregnancy tests, male and female condoms and lubrication)
- Hepatitis, and HIV testing
- Education and referrals

AA POWER Supplies

Hygiene Kits

Shampoo, conditioner, soap, washcloths, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wipes, deodorant

Feminine Care

Disposable pads and tampons,

Weather Kits

Hand and body warmers, emergency blankets, tents and tarps

Safety Kits

First aid kits, flashlights, masks, hand sanitizer

Snacks

Variety of food, water, and juice

Contact Us

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