

New Jersey AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline

PRESS RELEASE

NJ Harm Reduction Programs Combat Opioid Crisis and HIV A Milestone in Public Health and Community Safety

(New Jersey) — Governor Murphy’s Administration continues to be committed to providing needed, comprehensive harm reduction services to communities throughout the state. [Harm reduction centers](#) (also known as HRCs) provide New Jersey communities with an evidence-informed, community-based solution to decrease the physical and social harms associated with drug use without stigma or judgement.

Simply put, harm reduction services reduce risk and harm, while improving the lives of everyone affected by addiction. Not only do these proven public health interventions improve an individual’s health and safety, but also their family’s wellbeing, and the health of their community. This public health approach offers a combination of interventions connecting people who use drugs to essential and life-saving services, including clean needles, overdose prevention education including naloxone, HIV and hepatitis C testing, and access to counseling, treatment, and social support services.

HRCs play a pivotal role in bridging the gap to health services to prevent and treat HIV, hepatitis C, and skin or tissue infections as well as foster trust between people who use drugs and their healthcare providers. By connecting people who need it most with essential resources for managing their health, HRCs are able to significantly [decrease](#) new HIV and hepatitis C infections in their communities.

Recent legislative efforts have paved the way for [expansion](#) of harm reduction centers in New Jersey. These initiatives include funding allocations for harm reduction programs, the removal of legal barriers to harm reduction services, and the implementation of policies to ensure the safety and effectiveness of harm reduction centers. The department’s HRC expansion will include a mix of new sites both mobile and fixed as well as expanded services for already existing centers. Learn more about [New Jersey’s Harm Reduction Centers](#).

If you think you have HIV or hepatitis, or been exposed, contact the [New Jersey AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline](#) to get connected to free HIV and other STI services in New Jersey. The hotline is staffed by health professionals (doctors, nurses, and pharmacists) available 24 hours a day, every day of the year to provide free, private/confidential help: Call 1-800-624-2377 or [Chat Here](#).

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Healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses and pharmacists) provide telephone consultation for people seeking information about HIV/AIDS, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and other sexually transmitted infections (STI) including hepatitis. Callers receive information tailored to their needs; discussion about prevention, referrals for testing sites and other related services, counseling and testing locations, and information on treatment and adverse reactions to medications. The hotline is administered by the New Jersey Poison Control Center and funded by the New Jersey Department of Health, Division of HIV, STD, and TB services.

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Founded in 1954, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School is the oldest school of medicine in the state. Today it is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and graduates approximately 170 physicians a year. In addition to providing the MD degree, the school offers MD/PhD, MD/MPH and MD/MBA degrees through collaborations with other institutions of higher education. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care and community outreach, the medical school comprises 20 academic departments and works with several healthcare partners, including its principal teaching hospital, University Hospital. Its faculty consists of numerous world-renowned scientists and many of the region's "top doctors." Home to the nation's oldest student-run clinic, New Jersey Medical School hosts more than 50 centers and institutes, including the Public Health Research Institute Center, the Global Tuberculosis Institute and the Neurological Institute of New Jersey. For more information please visit: njms.rutgers.edu.

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