



# Housing Ohio *conference*

## **Intersection of Harm Reduction and Housing First**

Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1

**Advocacy**

**Race  
Equity**

**Youth  
Housing  
Initiative**



**OHIO**  
Balance of State  
Continuum of Care



**COHHIO**  
Coalition on Homelessness  
and Housing in Ohio



**COHHIO**  
Training and  
Technical Assistance



**COHHIO**  
Homeless Management  
Information System

**Housing Ohio**  
*conference*

**SOAR  
Ohio**

**Fair Housing  
& Tenant  
Information**



**Healthy Beginnings**  
At Home

PRESENTED BY PROJECT MAYDAY

# HARM REDUCTION

IN WEST VIRGINIA



 [MAYDAYX.NET](https://MAYDAYX.NET)

 [MAYDAYX@PROTON.ME](mailto:MAYDAYX@PROTON.ME)



# WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

Harm reduction refers to policies, programs and practices that aim to minimize the negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws.

Harm reduction is grounded in justice and human rights. It focuses on positive change and on working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that people stop using drugs as a precondition of support.



# THE WAR ON DRUGS IN WEST VIRGINIA

2011

OxyContin and Opana have been reformulated and no longer available like before. Heroin has become the drug of choice for many not able to access real pain pills. IV drug use begins to rise in WV in addition to overdoses, HIV and HCV rates.

2015

Fentanyl is now introduced into the drug supply and overdoses skyrocket. There is still minimal harm reduction access in the state - only a few programs exist and only two provide needs-based services.

2018

Legislation to regulate opioid prescribing even more goes into effect. Also in 2018, the SSP in Charleston is shut down due to political backlash and lack of support. Harm reduction is put on the chopping block from here on out.

2021

SB 334 is passed in the state legislature which strongly regulates SSPs making it difficult for them to remain open. The state lost over half of its SSPs due to the regulations.



# DRUG USE IN WEST VIRGINIA

- Trends
- HIV/hep C
- Overdose



# TRENDS IN WV

Methamphetamine related deaths have risen from 36 in 2015 to 578 in 2021. Methamphetamine with fentanyl related deaths have increased from 6 in 2015 to 411 in 2021.

There were 7, 279 fatal drug poisonings and overdoses from 2015 - 2021 in WV.

There were 6 new HIV diagnoses in 2015 and 94 new diagnoses in 2022 among IDU.

There were 63 new hepatitis C diagnoses in 2015 and 85 new diagnoses in 2022.