



# Implementing a Harm Reduction Supply Dispensing Machine Pilot Program

**WELCOME.**

We're glad  
you are here.



- All participants are in listen-only mode
- We encourage frequent use of the chat box to participate and ask questions
- Say hello now using the chat box to tell us your **name and organization**
- Please complete the three-question survey towards the end of the webinar. We value your feedback!





**INTERACT FOR HEALTH PROMOTES  
HEALTH EQUITY TO IMPROVE THE  
HEALTH OF ALL PEOPLE IN OUR REGION.**

**GRANTS**

**Education**

**Research**

**Policy**

**Engagement**

Grants

**EDUCATION**

Research

Policy

Engagement

Grants

Education

**RESEARCH**

Policy

Engagement

Grants

Education

Research

**POLICY**

Engagement

Grants

Education

Research

Policy

**ENGAGEMENT**

# REDUCING TOBACCO USE



# SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

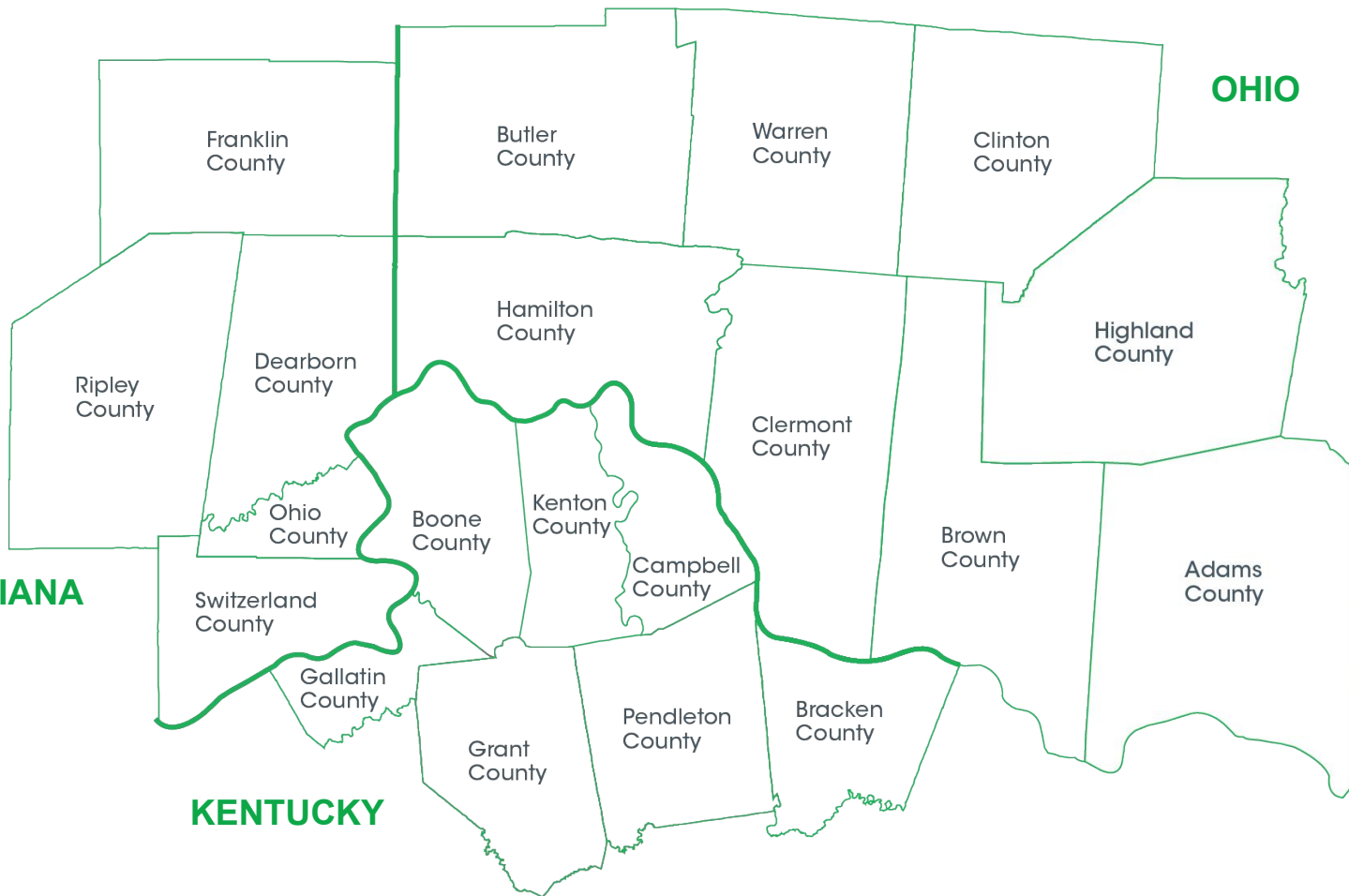


A photograph showing a woman with blonde hair and glasses placing her hand on the shoulder of a man in a blue shirt. The man is seen from the back/side. In the background, another woman is blurred. A large green diagonal shape is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC



INDIANA



OHIO

KENTUCKY



Sonya Carrico  
Senior Program Officer



Lisa Myers  
Program Officer



Michelle Lydenberg  
Research and  
Evaluation Officer

[www.interactforhealth.org](http://www.interactforhealth.org)



## Goal: Reverse the trend of overdoses and deaths from opioids



# Implementing a Harm Reduction Supply Dispensing Machine Pilot Program

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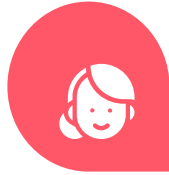
July 28, 2022





# Presenters

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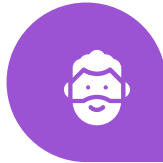
**Lisa Myers**

Program Officer  
Interact for Health



**Rob Goeller**

Prevention Supervisor  
Caracole, Inc.



**Daniel Arendt**

Assistant Professor  
University of Cincinnati



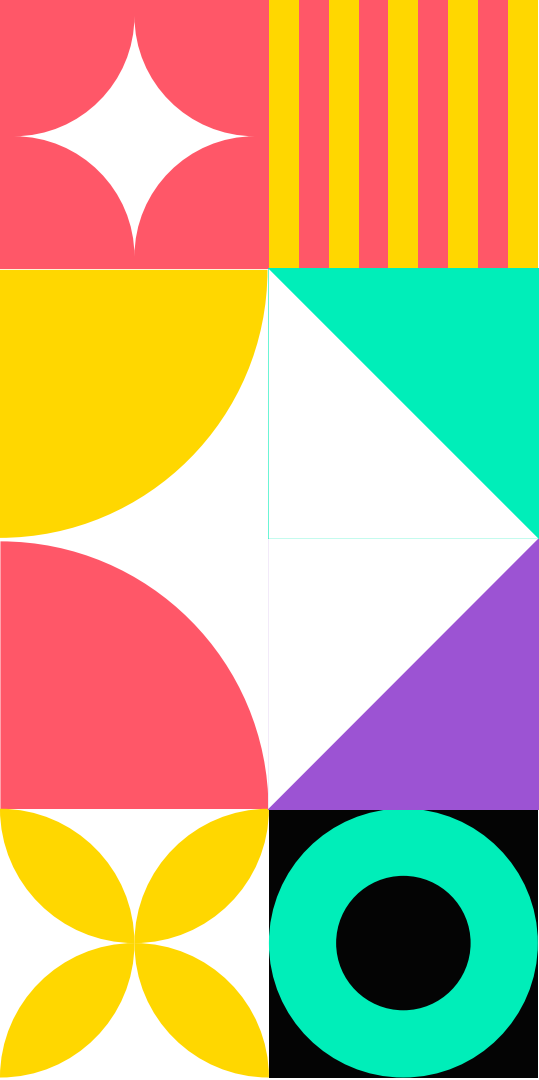
**Deanna Vietze**

Executive Director  
Brown County Board of MHAS



# Background

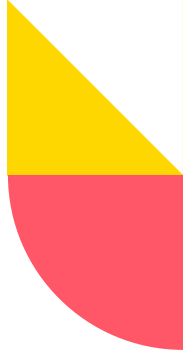
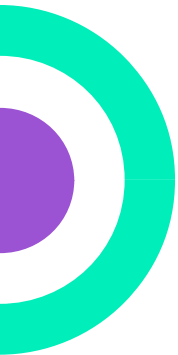
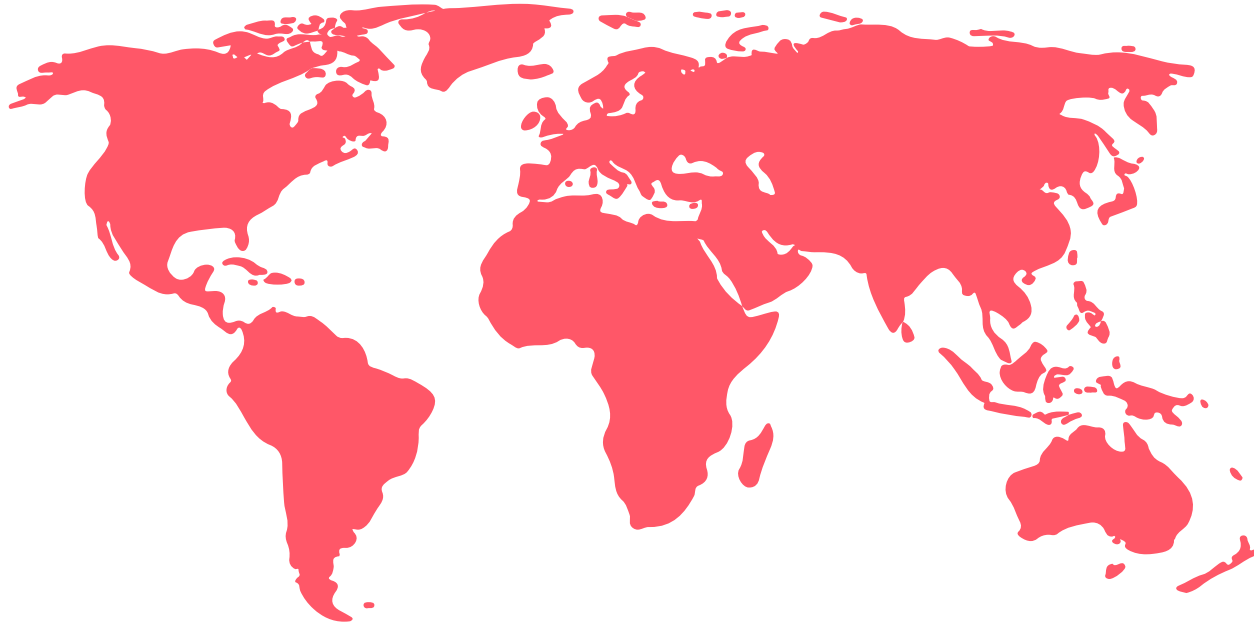




- **March 2020**
- **Learning Journey**



Harm Reduction Supply Dispensing Machines or Harm Reduction vending machines (HRVM) have been used in Europe (since 1992), Australia (1993), Puerto Rico (2009) and Nevada (2017). Nine European countries have HRVMs. Paris has more than 250. Puerto Rico's only machine was destroyed by Hurricane Maria in 2017. Nevada has eight machines in the Las Vegas area.

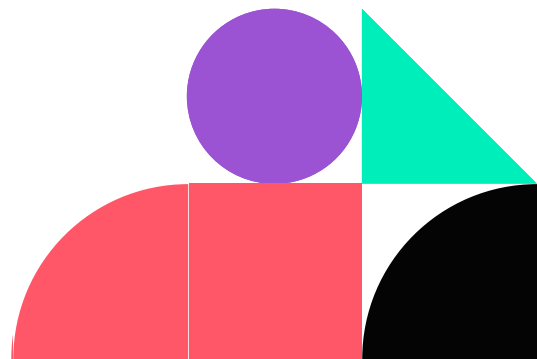


Research has found HRVMs to be a cost-effective intervention when used alone (such as in rural areas) or as a complement to fixed-site syringe service programs.

HRVMs do not cause adverse consequences in the community.



## RESEARCH



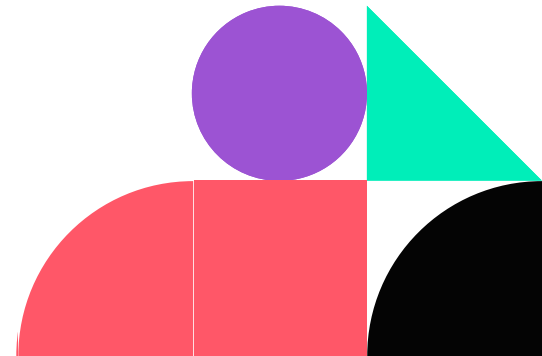
Compared to traditional syringe programs, HRVM users tend to:

- **be younger**
- **have a shorter history of injecting drugs**
- **less likely to have a blood-borne disease**
- **less likely to have utilized a harm reduction program or SSP in the past**
- **more likely to work or attend school**
- **express a greater desire for privacy**



**RESEARCH**

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# TRAC-B

## Las Vegas, Nevada

- Las Vegas program opened in 2017 (January opened SSP, April opened the dispensing machines)
- Incentivize in-person visits (\$5 gift card for returning sharps container)
- Provide information about treatment and recovery services with every kit dispensed
- Some of the machines were inaccessible during early days of the pandemic due to being inside facilities that were closed
- They were surprised how frequently people are using it, which demonstrated that there was a community need (Filling each machine 2x a week, each machine holds 72 kits)
- Built relationships to make the program successful (especially with law enforcement)
- They have had no issues with vandalism

# Community Conversations

Generating Awareness & Answering Questions

**State &  
Local  
Officials**



**Neighbors**



**Service  
Providers**



**Local Police  
Department**

**Current SSP  
Clients**

# Harm Reduction Supply Dispensing Machine Pilot Program

*Second Machine in the Nation*

Interact for Health awarded Caracole  
14 month grant

October 2020 to pilot the program

(2 months planning, 12 months implementation)





# **Rapid Expansion**

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**Indiana**



**New York City**



**Brown County, Ohio**



**Caracole has received  
hundreds of inquiries**





# Implementation

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# Budget

# Equipment Expenses

<b>Evoke 5 Outdoor Rated Machine</b>	<b>\$7,926.00</b>
<b>Custom Configuration</b>	<b>\$522</b>
<b>Vendnovation Controller Board</b>	<b>\$1,325</b>
<b>VF Display and Harness</b>	<b>\$185</b>
<b>Glass Graphics and Installation</b>	<b>\$275</b>
<b>Exterior Sharps Container Installation</b>	<b>\$60</b>
<b>Exterior Sharps Container</b>	<b>\$179.95</b>
<b>Inserts for Ext Sharps Container</b>	<b>\$108</b>
<b>Service Plan</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>\$520</b>

# Other Specifics

<b>Vendnovation Monthly Fee</b>	<b>\$540</b>
<b>Installation of Outlet w CAT 5</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$805</b>
<b>Cable Run</b>	<b>\$159</b>

**Total Other Expenses: \$2,704.00**



# Machine Placement

- 24/7 access
- Secluded
- Weather



# Marketing



# Narcan, Condoms and PPE Available In New Northside Vending Machine

HIV/AIDS service organization Caracole has installed the first "harm-reduction supply" vending machine in Ohio with items to help reduce overdose deaths and other drug-related health concerns.

BY MAIJA ZUMMO — MAR 11, 2021 2 PM



The new harm reduction supply vending machine is installed outside Caracole in Northside. PHOTO: PROVIDED BY CARACOLE

HEALTH

## 'Harm reduction' vending machine is stocked with free Narcan

BY ERIN KELLY | KENTUCKY  
PUBLISHED 6:57 AM ET JUL. 06, 2021

# Harm reduction supply machine helps those in need in Cincinnati

Caracole, an HIV/AIDS service organization in Cincinnati, applied for and received a grant to support a vending machine to dispense harm reduction supplies free to persons in need.



The harm reduction machine is available 24/7, attended by Suzanne Bachmeyer of Caracole in Cincinnati.

Aug. 4, 2021 | by Elliot Maras

## EMERGENT AND EXCITING WORK

**TOOLKIT:** Decriminalization of Sex Work and Sex Workers Social Media Toolkit — Support Women With a Vision and Sex Workers Advisory Committee in their campaign to share public education about the need to decriminalize sex work in Louisiana. The campaign continues and it's not too late to jump in — use the hashtag #DeepSouthDecrim to join the conversation on social media and explore this social media toolkit with talking points, social media graphics, and information about LA HB57.

**ON THE GROUND:** Cincinnati just got a brand new vending machine with safer sex, safer smoking and safer injection kits as well as naloxone thanks to regional HIV and AIDS service organization Caracole. Participants can call a number on the machine, talk to a trained Caracole staff member briefly and receive a personalized code. Harm reduction, on

men are leading Canada's safe supply movement — "When systems fail us, we are forced to create our own. In more from the women creating safety on the frontline of the overdose crisis in Canada.

ing on a safe supply program, I no longer feel withdrawals. I can have an honest conversation about my drug use and what's driving it with my doctor. I have time to focus on other things, like connecting to my Indigenous community and creativity. My drug use has become recreational and less problematic. I feel safer, more comfortable and empowered to advocate for folks everywhere to be able to access safe supply programs." — quote in Filter Magazine

"People use drugs for a variety of reasons, and not all drug use is problematic. Abstinence is not a goal for everyone." — Jessica Hales in Filter Magazine

**JURIS:** HCV Brief — In response to Governor Jay Inslee's directives, the Washington State Department of Health, State Authority, and members of the Hep C Free Washington Coordinating Committee are striving to eliminate HCV by 2030.

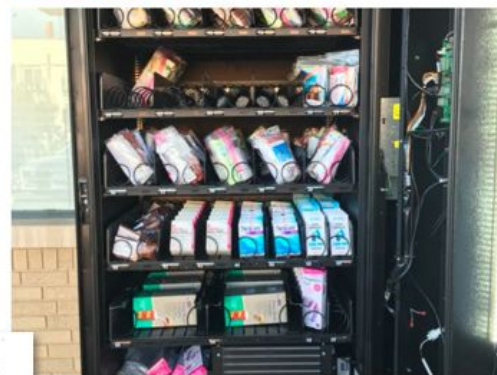
**WING:** Harm Reduction in Indigenous Communities — Friday, April 9th from 10 AM - 12 PM PDT. What does harm reduction look like in Indigenous communities? Harm reduction work is much more than syringe access programs, as tribal communities do not have access to syringe service programs. In this presentation we will explore what it is to do harm reduction in tribal communities, models of Indigenous harm reduction, and promising practices, moderated by Annette Hubbard.

# Ohio's first harm reduction vending machine helps promote safer sex, safer smoking, safer injection

Terry DeMio Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 10:06 p.m. ET Mar. 8, 2021 | Updated 8:33 a.m. ET Mar. 9, 2021

View Comments



Items for safer sex and drug use are offered in this new vending machine outside Caracole in Northside. The machine is the first of its kind in Ohio, available 24-7. Access is provided only through a personalized code provided by Caracole. The machine is among few across the nation. Provided.

## An Ohio First: A Harm Reduction Supply Machine is helping to minimize sex & drug health risks

By KIM WESTFALL December 27, 2021 No Comments

Share Tweet Pinterest

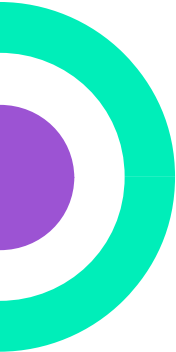




# Registration



# Enrollment and Re-Enrollment

- 
- 1) Survey
  - 2) Training/Education
  - 3) Vendnovation

# Items for dispensing

- Safer sex kits
- Safer smoking kits
- Safer injection kits
- Fentanyl test strips
- Naloxone
- Pregnancy tests
- PPE kits
- Sharps containers
- Band-aids
- Treatment and other community resources
- Disease prevention education

# Current Menu

 <p><b>Naloxone Injection</b></p> <p>press 40</p>	 <p><b>Naloxone Spray</b></p> <p>press 42</p>	
 <p><b>Safer Injection Kit</b> <i>does not include syringes</i></p> <p>press 10</p>	 <p><b>Safer Smoking Kit stem</b></p> <p>press 30</p>	 <p><b>Safer Smoking Kit bubble</b></p> <p>press 36</p>
 <p><b>Safer Sex Kit</b></p> <p>press 28</p>	 <p><b>Bandages multiple</b></p> <p>press 46</p>	 <p><b>Daily PPE Kit</b></p> <p>press 48</p>
 <p><b>Sharps Container</b></p> <p>press 50</p>	 <p><b>Pregnancy Test</b></p> <p>press 58</p>	<p><b>harm reduction saves lives</b></p>  <p><b>support not stigma</b></p>

# Supplies in kits

## Safer injection kits

- Bleach – \$.85
- Tourniquets – \$.60
- Cottons – \$.03
- Cookers – \$.65
- Alcohol pads – \$.20
- Fentanyl test strips – \$5.00
- Condoms and lube – \$.84
- IM Naloxone – \$2.26
- Pocket guide

## Safer smoking kits

- Pipe covers – \$1.20
- Lip balm – \$.53
- Fent test strips – \$5
- Condoms/lube – \$.84
- IM Naloxone – \$2.26
- Glass stem or bubbler – \$.42/\$1.30
- Lighter – \$1.43
- Pocket guide

## Safer sex kits

- Condoms and lube – \$.84
- External condom guide
- Business card

# Successes and challenges

## Successes

- Partnership with University of Cincinnati School of Pharmacy and Interact for Health allows us to collect data for analysis, service delivery best practices, and replication
- Pipes and other program/supply changes as a result of participant feedback
- TA for other communities who want to replicate service

## Challenges

- Inventory, ordering, assembling kits, and staff time
- Machine troubleshooting and usage
- Insurance
- Political constraints
- No incentive for returning syringes
- Community concerns about engagement
- Supply shortages

# **The Story So Far!** (as of 5/2/2022)



557 Unique Participants

**2,185 – Safer Smoking Kits**  
**1,029 – Safer Injection Kits**  
**470 – Safer Sex Kits**  
**3,360 – Naloxone Doses**  
(Includes IM & Nasal)

**922 – Bandages**  
**727 – PPE Kits**  
**703 – Sharps Containers**  
**407 – Pregnancy Tests**  
**16,070 – Fentanyl Test Strips**

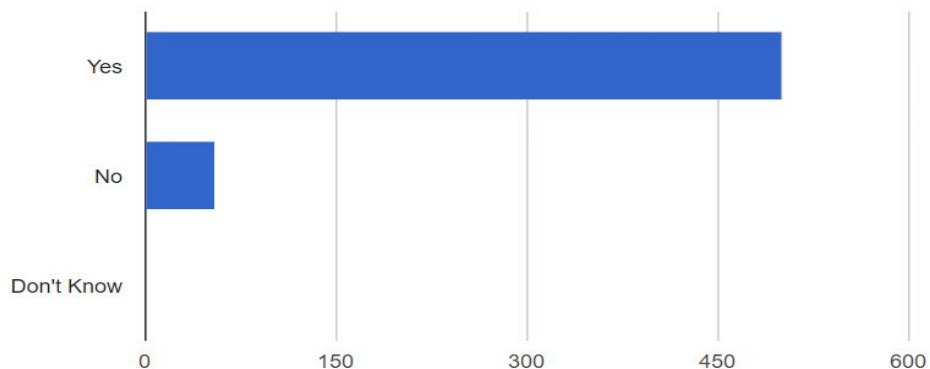
**So who are these participants?**

Population Demographics



# Have you utilized any other harm reduction services before this machine?

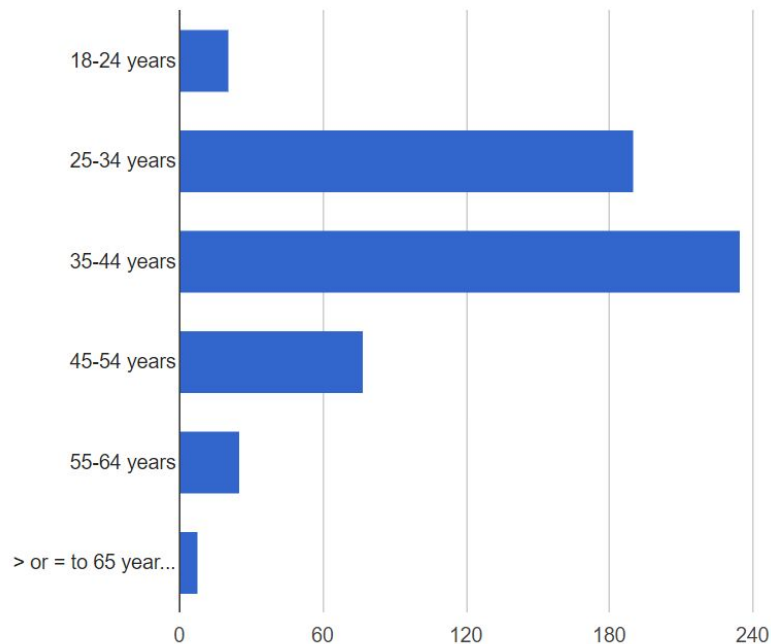
Counts/frequency: Yes (501, 90.1%), No (55, 9.9%), Don't Know (0, 0.0%)



**Nearly 10% had never used harm reduction services before**

# What is your age?

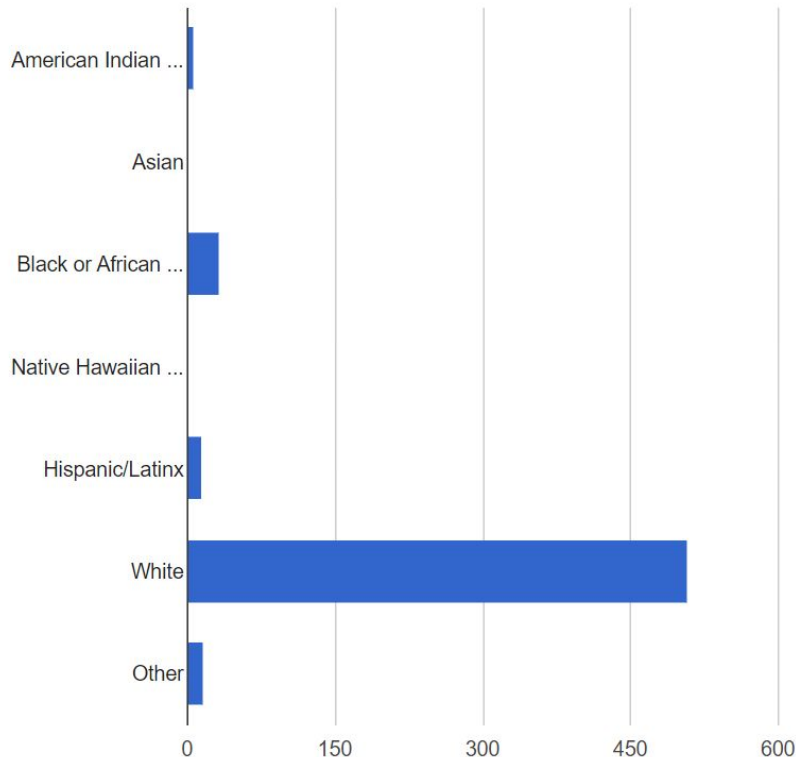
**Counts/frequency:** 18-24 years (21, 3.8%), 25-34 years (190, 34.2%), 35-44 years (235, 42.3%), 45-54 years (77, 13.8%), 55-64 years (25, 4.5%), > or = to 65 years of age (8, 1.4%)



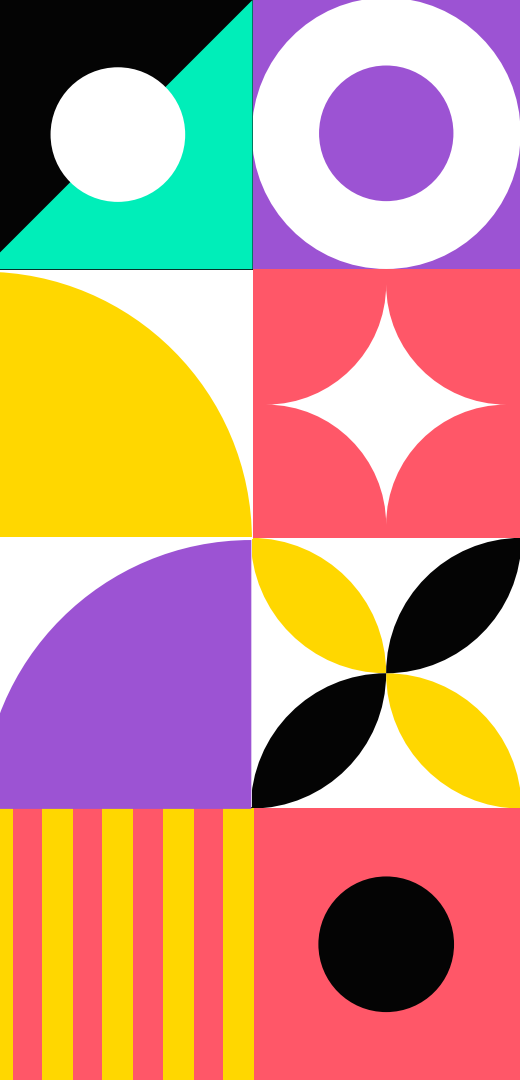
**Most clients  
(62%) were  
older than 35  
years of age**

# How would you describe yourself?

**Counts/frequency:** American Indian or Alaska Native (6, 1.1%), Asian (0, 0.0%), Black or African American (32, 5.8%), Native Hawaiian or other pacific islander (0, 0.0%), Hispanic/Latinx (15, 2.7%), White (508, 91.4%), Other (16, 2.9%)

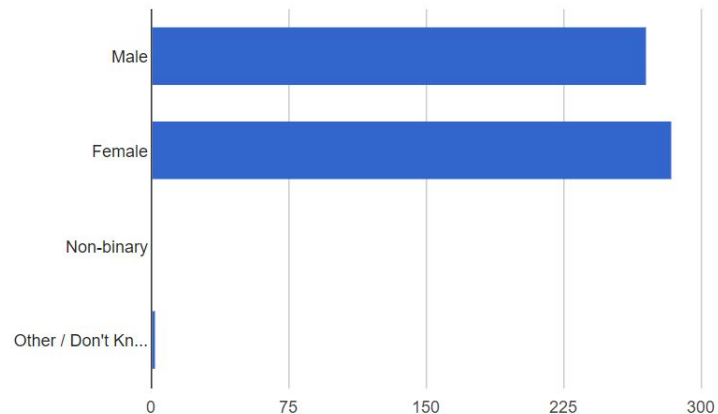


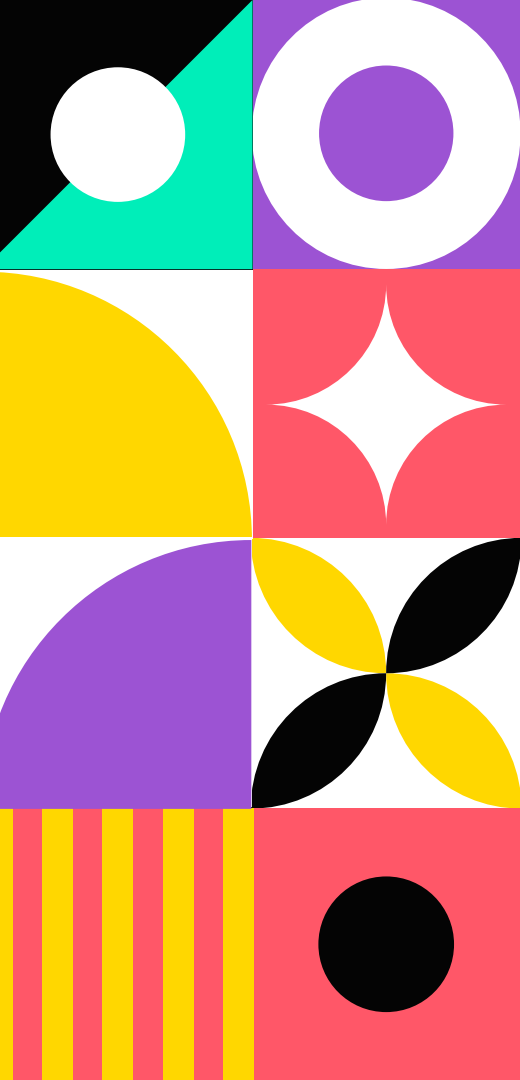
**Although not truly representative of the diversity of our community, this does represent an increase in diverse representation when compared to prior, in-person harm reduction services**



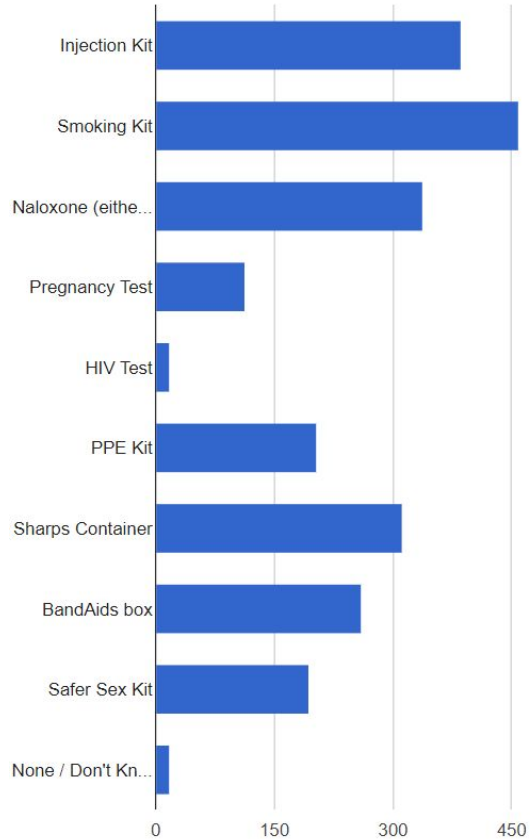
# Gender Identity

**Counts/frequency:** Male (270, 48.6%), Female (284, 51.1%), Non-binary (0, 0.0%), Other / Don't Know (2, 0.4%)

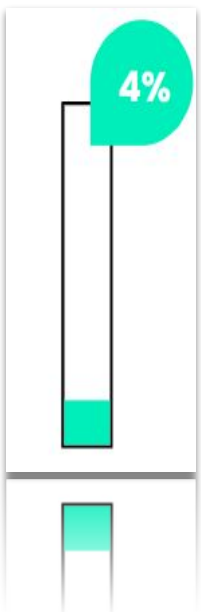




# What are you picking up today?

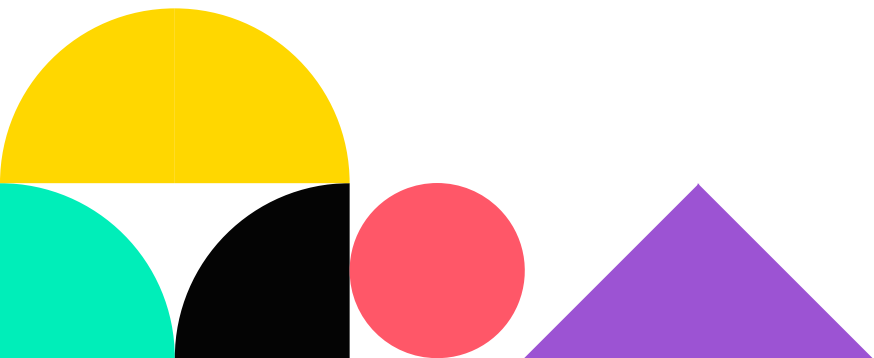


Product	Percent Receiving
Injection Kit (includes naloxone)	61%
Smoking Kit (includes naloxone)	72%
<b><u>Naloxone</u></b> (IM or IntraNasal)	<b><u>53%*</u></b>
Sharps Container	49%
Bandages	41%
PPE Kit	32%
Safer Sex Kit	31%
Pregnancy Test	18%
HIV Test	3%
Nothing / Don't Know	3%



**4%**

of Patients Requested & Received  
Naloxone Training

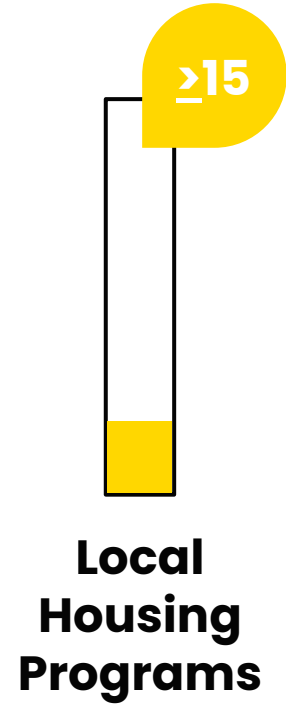
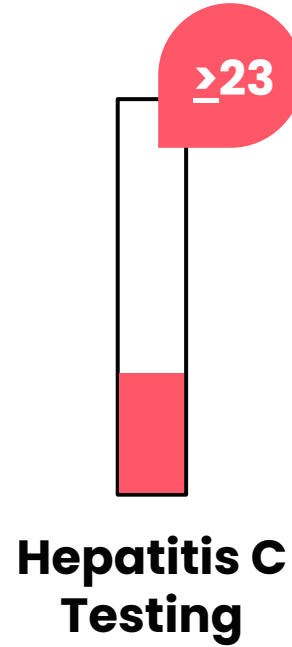
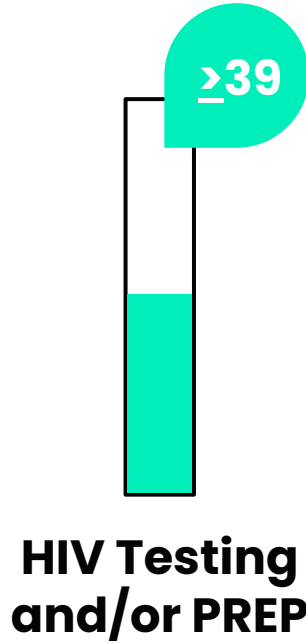


**7%**

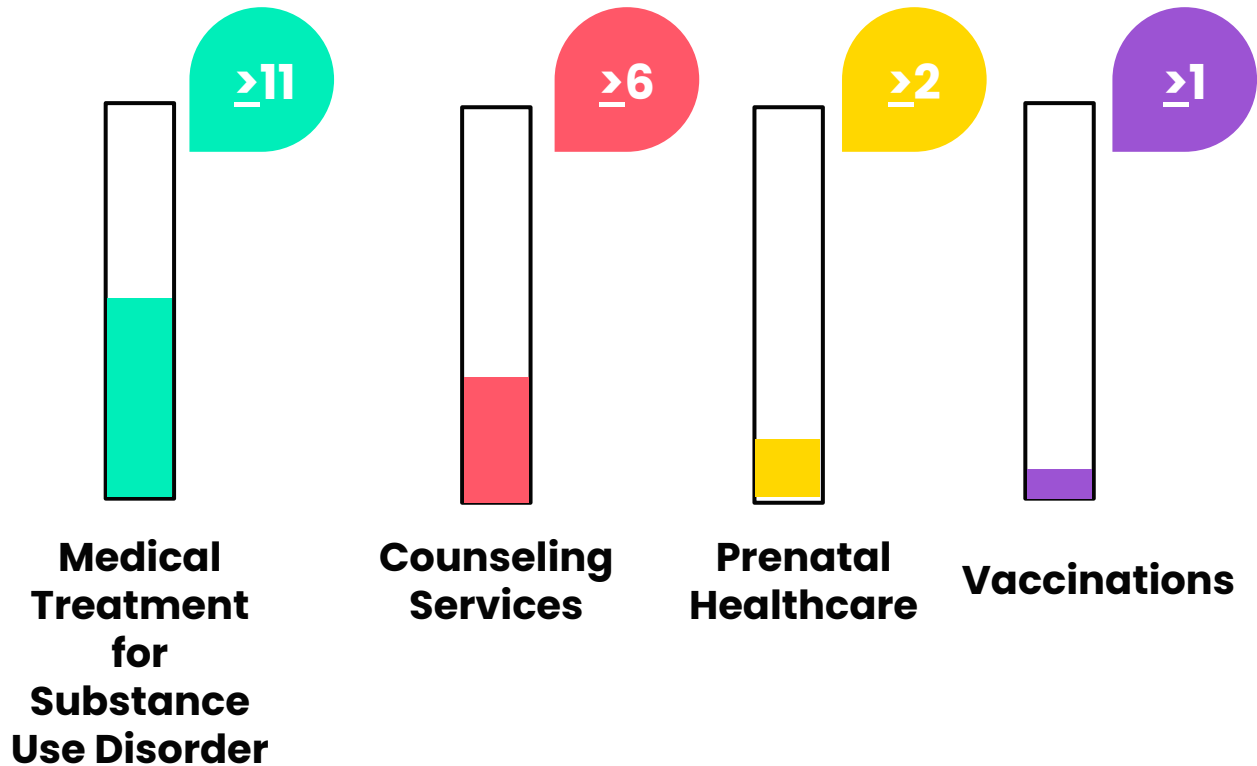
of Patients Requested & Received  
Fentanyl Test Strip Training

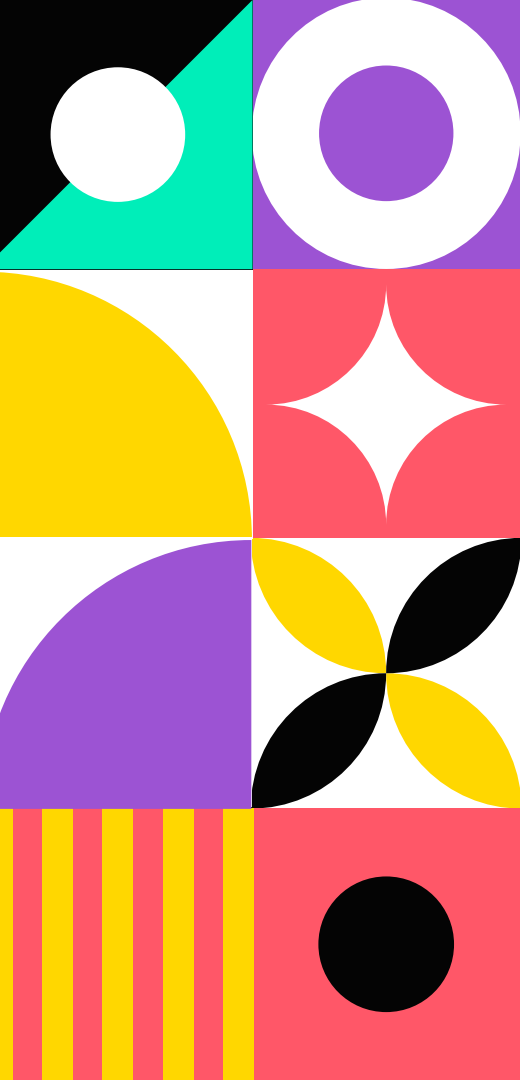


# Clients Referred to Services



# Clients Referred to Services

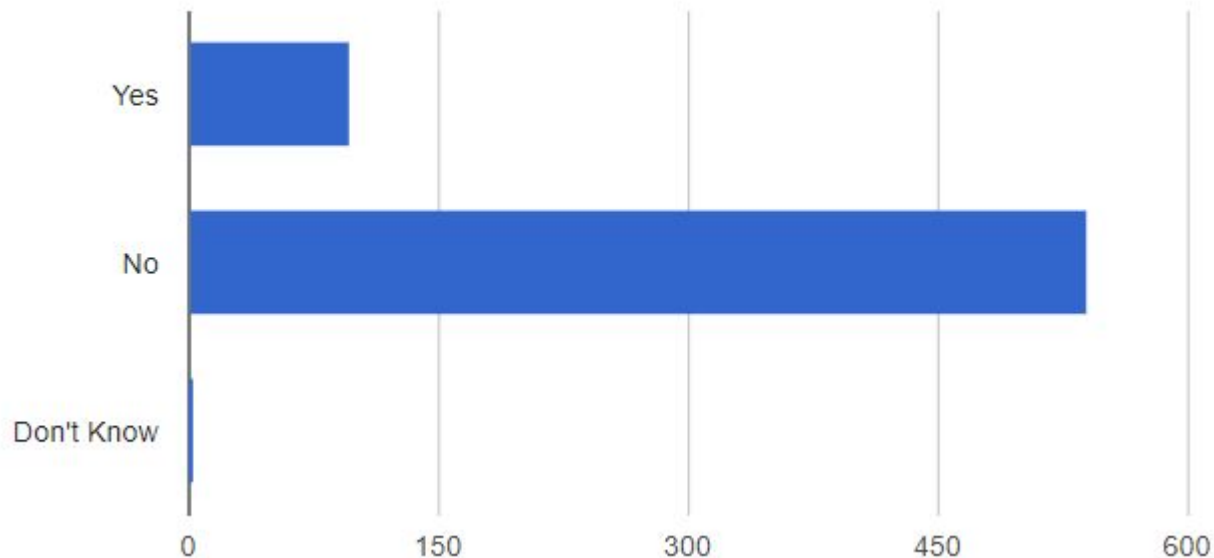


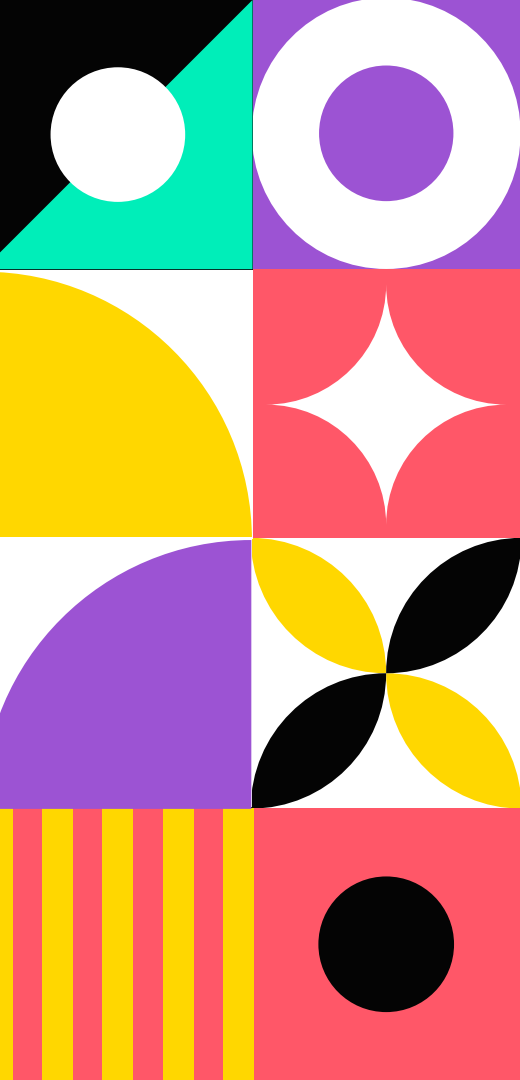


## Would you like us to follow up with you?

\*Requires Contact Info

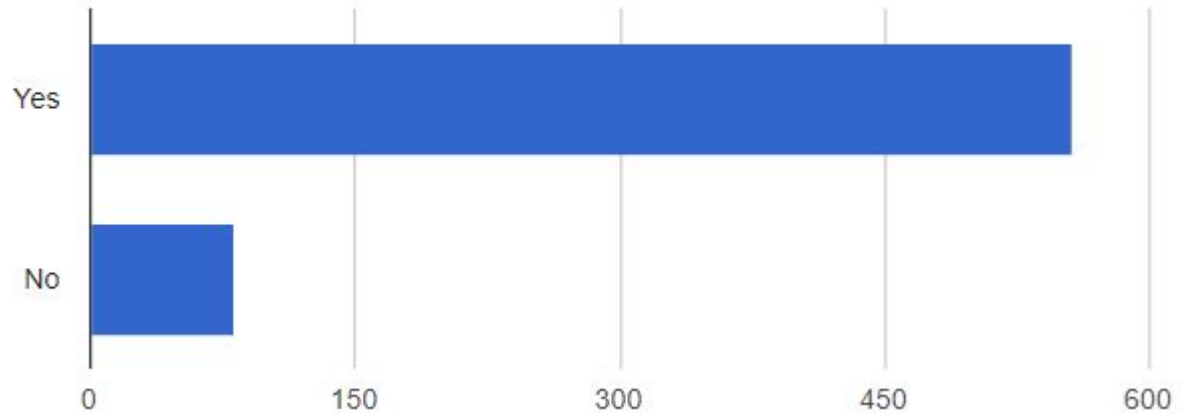
Counts/frequency: **Yes** (96, 15.0%), **No** (539, 84.5%), **Don't Know** (3, 0.5%)

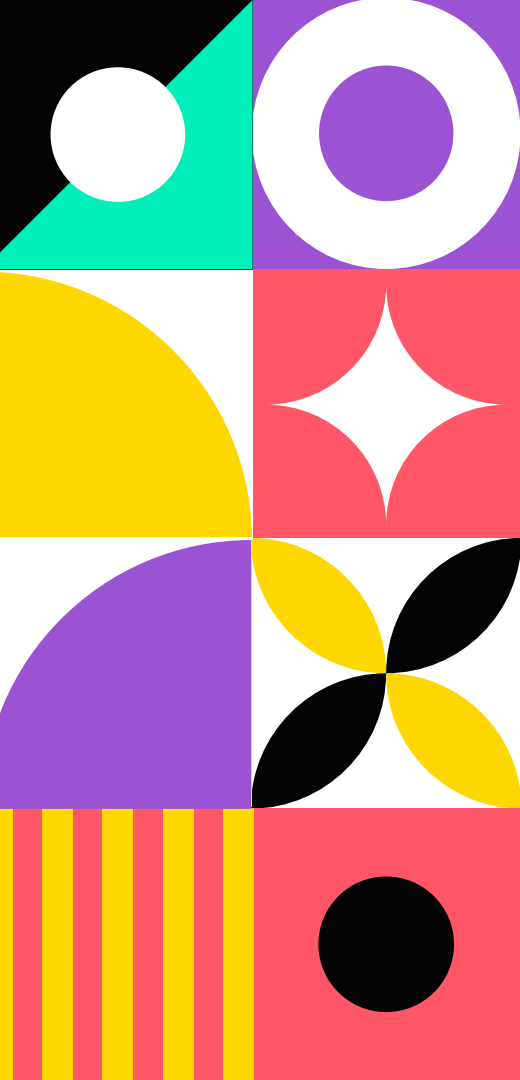




## Is this your first time using the machine?

Counts/frequency: Yes (557, 87.2%), No (82, 12.8%)

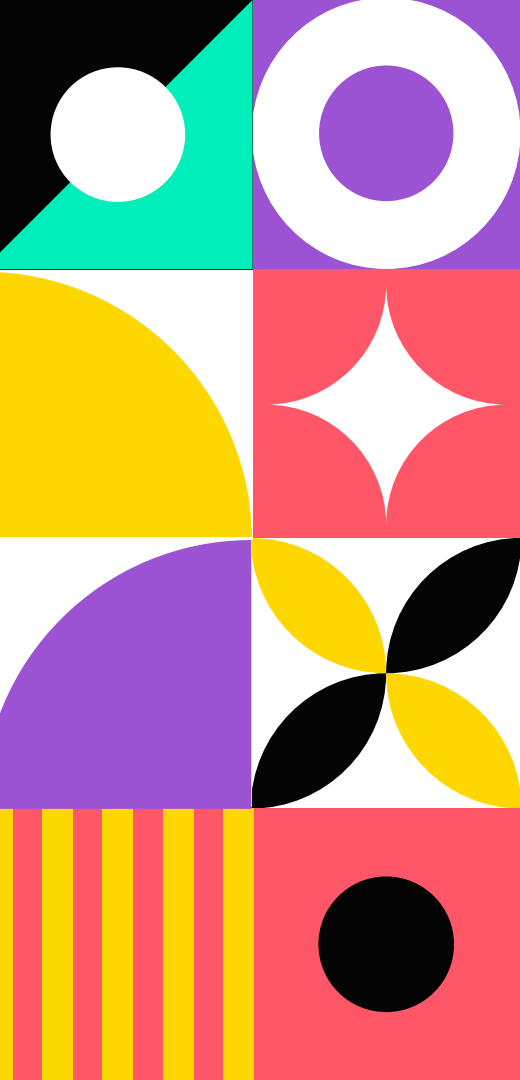




# Impact of Naloxone

For clients using the machine & completing the survey multiple times (n=82)

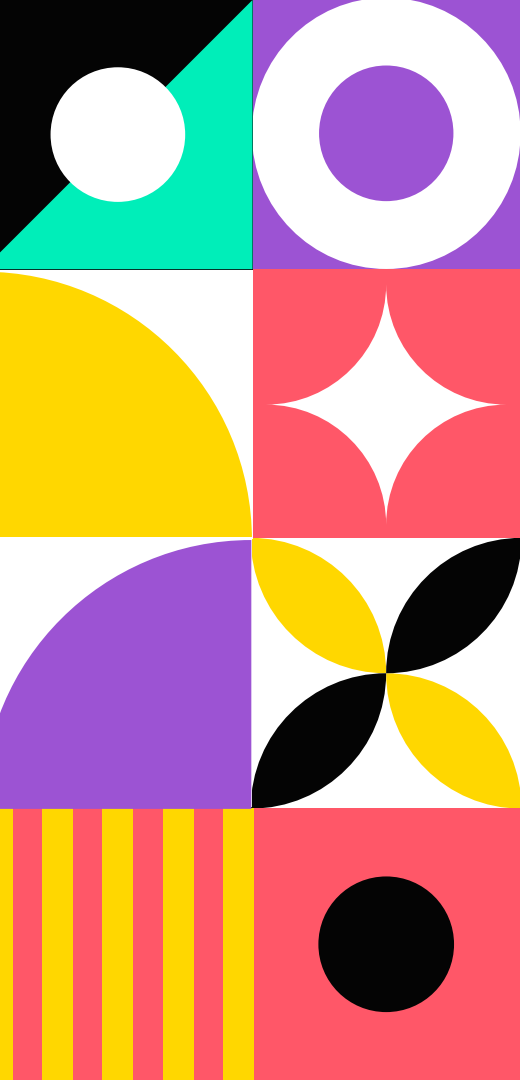
<b>85%</b> (n= 70)	Received Naloxone from the machine
<b>73%</b> (n= 51)	Of those who received naloxone from the machine, later used the naloxone to reverse an overdose, either for themselves or for someone else.
<b>195</b>	Naloxone administrations



# Impact of Fentanyl Test Strips

For clients using the machine & completing the survey multiple times (n=82)

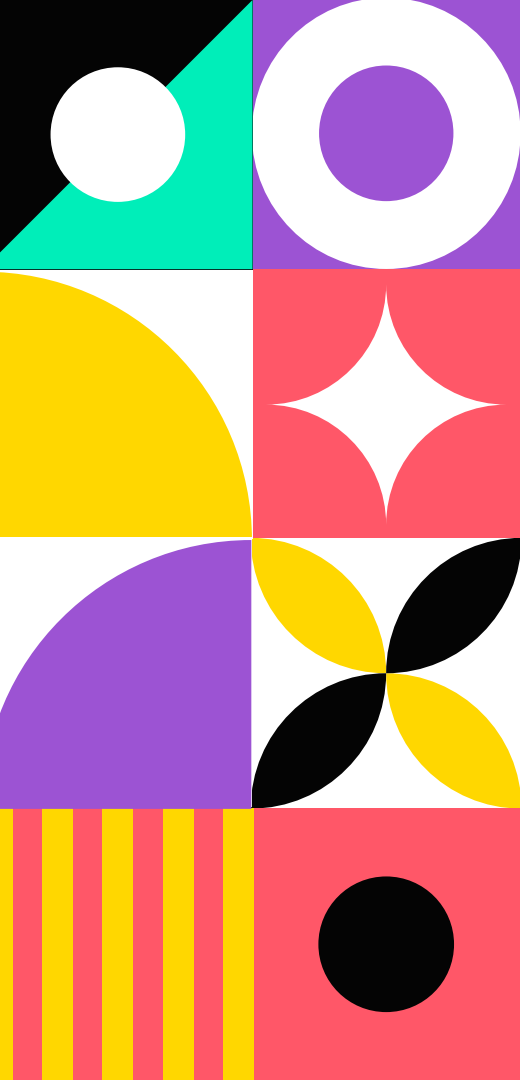
<b>74%</b> (n= 61)	Received Fentanyl Test Strips from the machine
<b>69%</b> (n= 42)	Of those who received fentanyl test strips from the machine, later detected fentanyl within their drug supply.
<b>74%</b> (n= 31)	Of those who detected fentanyl within their drug supply used that information and decided to throw away their supply or use a lower dose.
<b>85%</b>	Of the times that fentanyl was detected, the users either threw away the supply or used a lower dose.



# Impact of Pregnancy Tests

For clients using the machine & completing the survey multiple times (n=82)

<b>35%</b> (n= 29)	Received A Pregnancy Test from the machine
<b>24%</b> (n=7)	Of those who received a pregnancy test from the machine, detected a pregnancy
<b>29%</b> (n=2)	Of those who detected a pregnancy required a referral to prenatal healthcare services



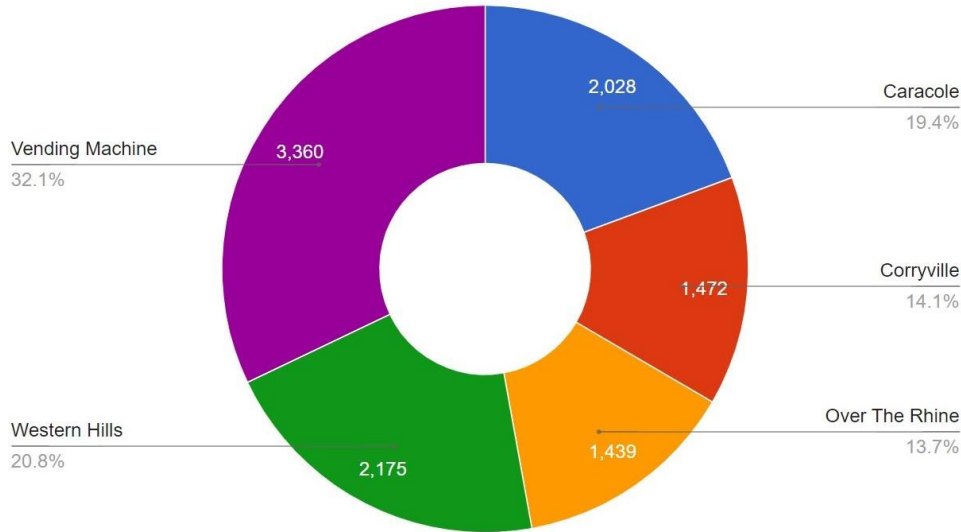
# Impact of HIV Tests (appointment scheduling)

For clients using the machine & completing the survey multiple times (n=82)

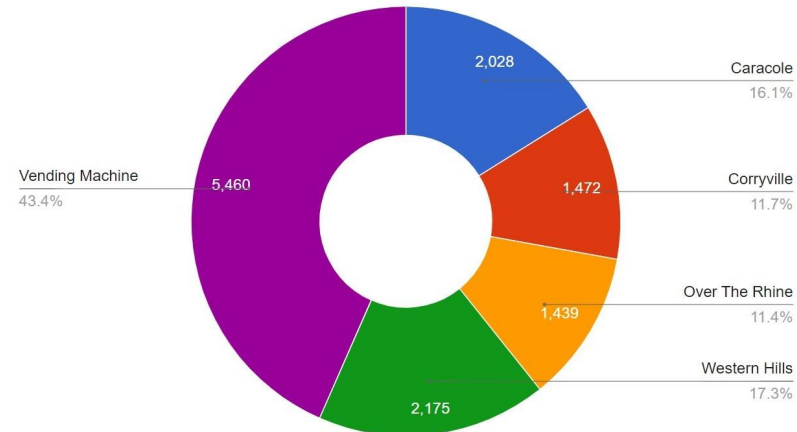
<b>9%</b> (n= 7)	Received an HIV test due to the machine
<b>100%</b> (n=7)	Of those who received an HIV test from the machine, were HIV Negative

# Leading the way in Naloxone Distribution

Naloxone Doses Distributed Within Hamilton County (3/1/21 - 3/1/22)



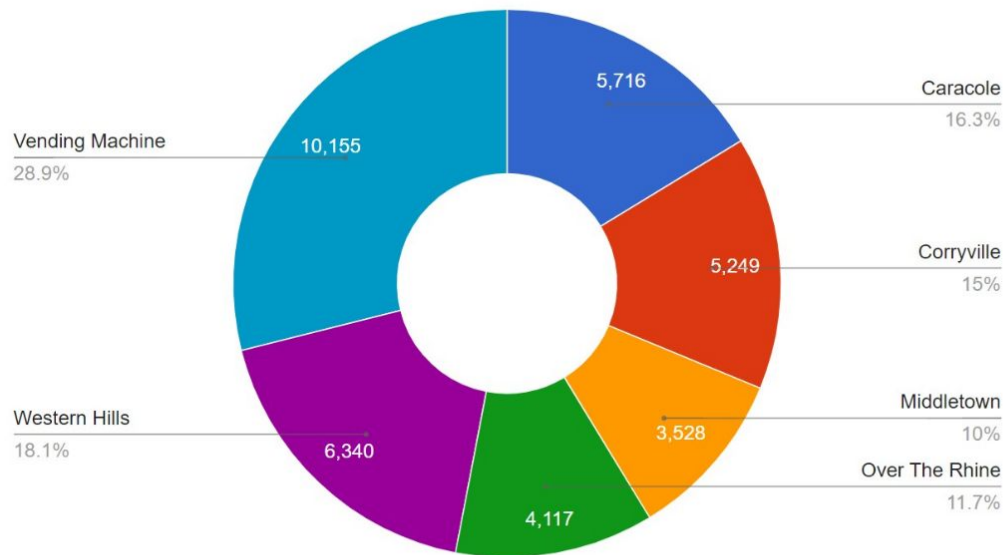
Naloxone Doses Distributed Within Hamilton County (3/1/21 - 3/1/22) \* If there was no IM naloxone shortage



*Data from Hamilton County Public Health  
Department Syringe Services Program Report*

# Leading the way in Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution

Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed Within Hamilton County (3/1/21 - 3/1/22)




*Data from Hamilton County Public Health  
Department Syringe Services Program Report*



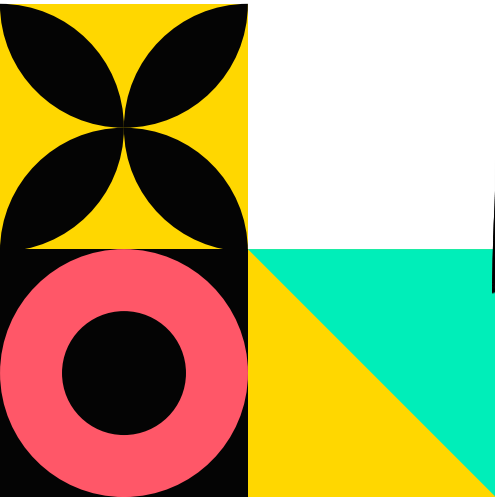
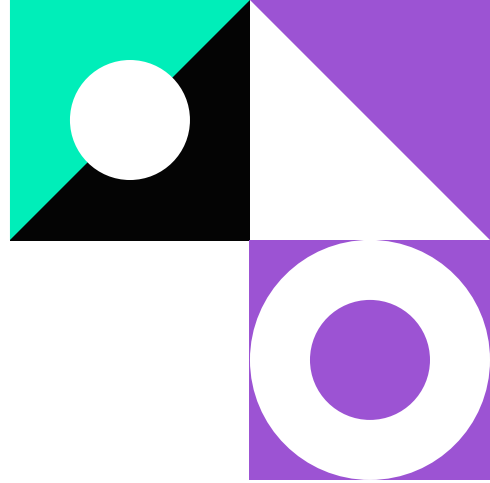
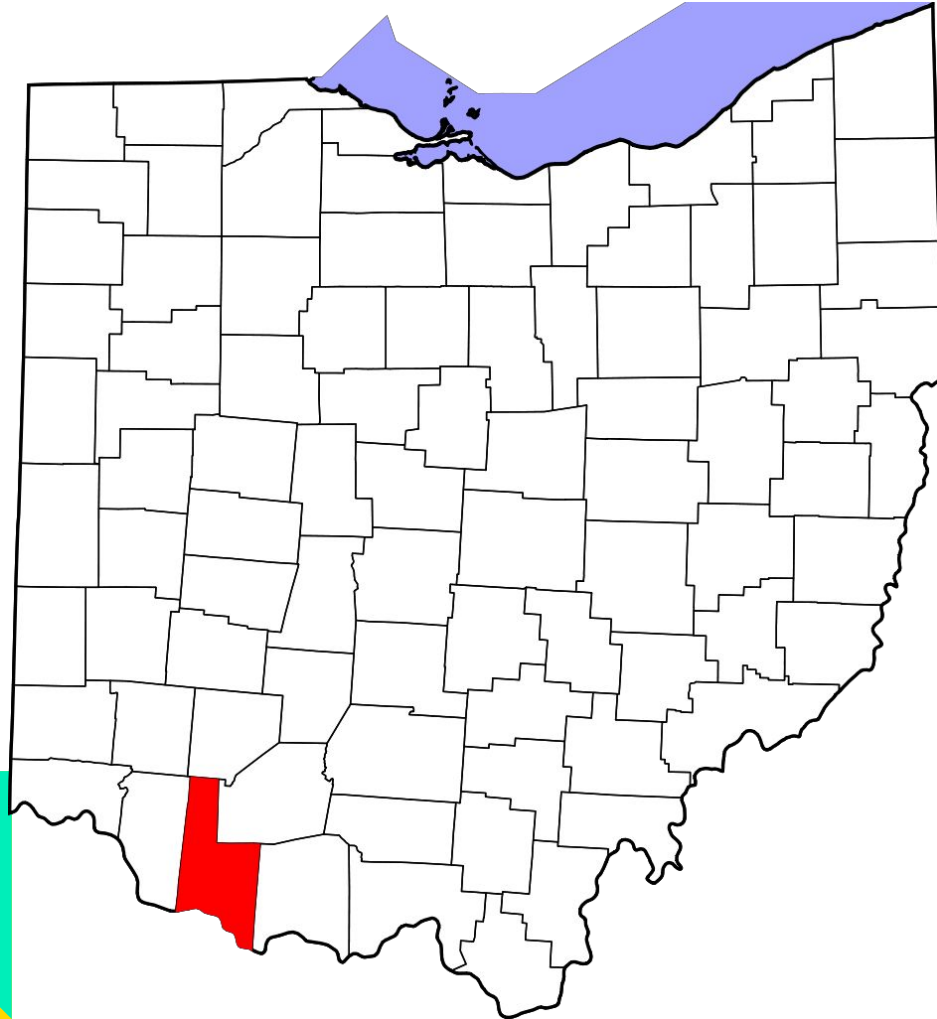
# **Implementation in Brown County, Ohio**



# Demographics

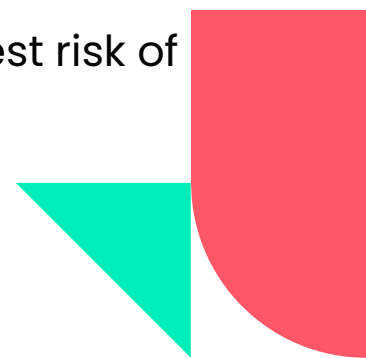
- Brown County population 43,018
  - Southwestern Ohio on border of Kentucky
  - 492 square miles
  - Rural
  - No public transportation
  - Appalachian culture
- 

# BROWN COUNTY





# Precipitating Factors

- Harm Reduction/Needle Exchange Program for 5 years
  - Transportation concerns for participants
  - Limited access points for Narcan
  - Continuously in top 10 for unintentional death by overdose
  - STIGMA
  - Identified by the CDC in the top 5% of US counties at highest risk of a HIV and or Hepatitis C outbreak.
- 

## Most Vulnerable Counties

The CDC has identified 220 counties at risk of outbreaks of HIV and/or hepatitis C as a result of the opioid epidemic. These represent only the top 5% of counties in the nation based on 6 factors assessed. Health officials responsible for these counties should be particularly sensitive to ensure targeted, evidence-based interventions and services are available. The article abstract is available [here](#).

Adams County	National Rank: 51
Pike County	National Rank: 72
Jackson County	National Rank: 111
Meigs County	National Rank: 123
Brown County	National Rank: 127
Scioto County	National Rank: 136
Vinton County	National Rank: 146
Gallia County	National Rank: 155
Athens County	National Rank: 173
Clinton County	National Rank: 190
Highland County	National Rank: 196

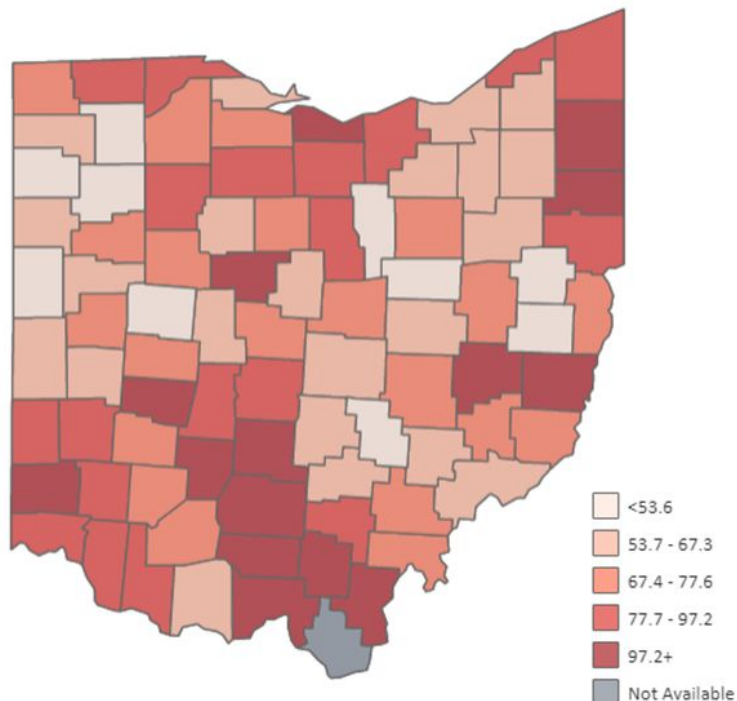
## Vulnerable County Rank



## An abstract geometric composition featuring a variety of shapes and colors. In the top left, there is a solid cyan square. Below it is a solid red circle. To the right of the red circle is a large, thick purple ring. Further right is a yellow, elongated, teardrop-like shape. In the bottom left, there is a black U-shaped element with a cyan interior. To its right is a red quarter-circle. At the bottom center is a red ring. To the right of the red ring are two purple shapes: a semi-circle and a full circle. A yellow triangle is visible in the bottom left corner.



## Emergency Department Visits for Suspected Drug Overdose Rates per 10,000 ED Visits by Year

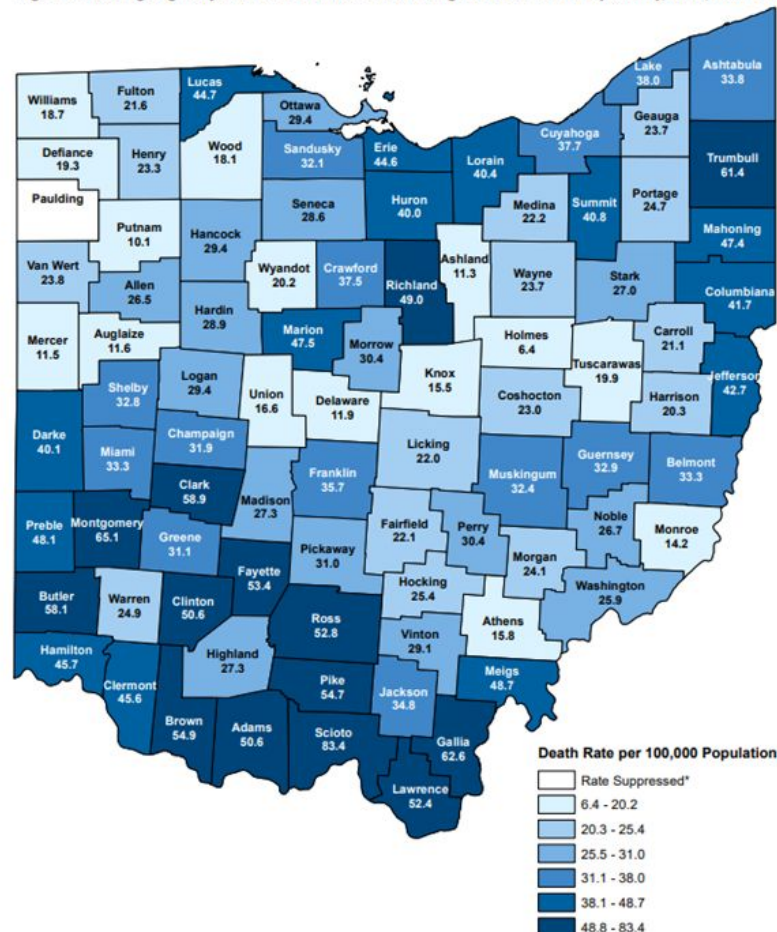


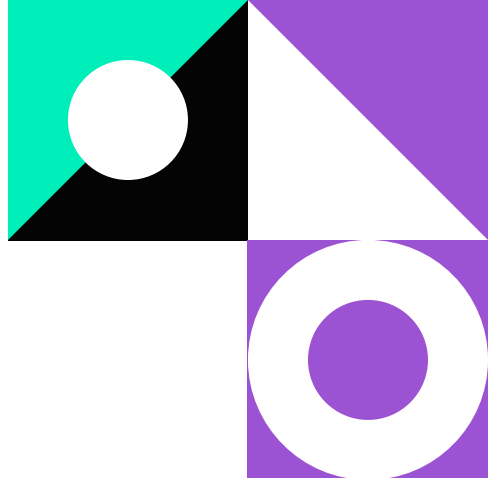
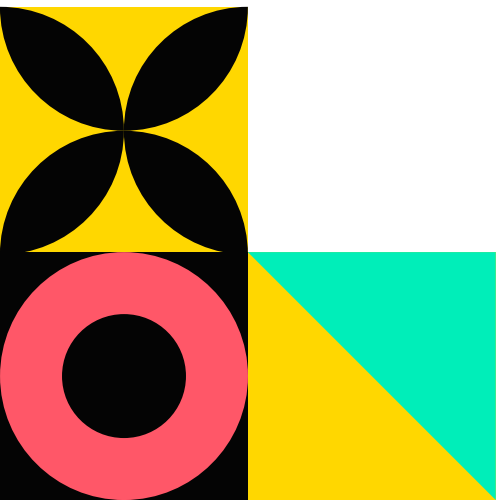
Select Year of Interest

2020

## Demographics: County

Figure 15. Average Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by County, Ohio, 2015-2020





# Items for Dispensing

- Safe sex kits
- Fentanyl test strips
- Naloxone
- Pregnancy tests
- PPE kits
- Hygiene Kits
- Sharps containers
- First Aid kits
- Treatment, harm reduction & community resources

# SELECTION MENU





# The Story So Far!

(2-1-22 to 6-30-2022)

	Registrations	Total # items vended	Narcan kits vended
February	4	0	0
March	9	29	12
April	7	42	11
May	8	90	17
June	2	45	9



Of the 30 registered participants  
18 have made at least one visit  
to the machine

**66 – Narcan Doses**

**19 – Fentanyl Test Strips**

**16 – Large sharps container**

**17 – First aid kits**

**10 – Safer Sex Kits**

**13 – PPE Kits**

**4 – Small sharps container**

**6 – Pregnancy Tests**

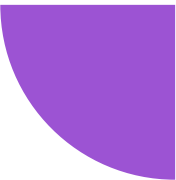
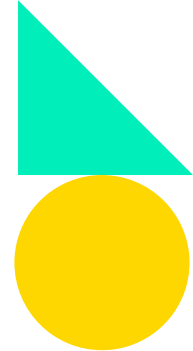
**11 – Hygiene kits**

## Successes

- Leveraging existing relationship with Interact for Health fostered introduction to Caracole and UC to make replication of machine easy
- Positive reaction from community
- Strengthened community partnerships

## Challenges

- Connection issues
- Machine troubleshooting and usage
- Advertising
- Training individuals on machine usage
- Registration process (no utilization of phone registration)





# What we've learned so far...



Folks prefer to  
register face  
to face

Not seeing a wide spread in  
times machine is being visited

Community has been  
supportive – no pushback

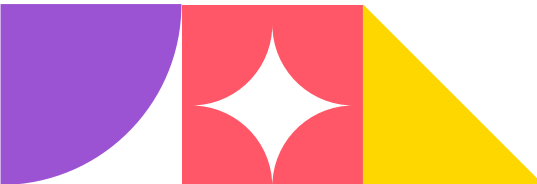
Set up and  
trouble shooting  
takes longer than  
expected

Developing a big enough pool  
of staff/partners to register  
participants and getting “buy  
in” across the board

Participant appreciation  
has been positive

Participants do not want  
follow up (need for  
anonymity)

Folks can be slow to  
access the machine



# Questions?

**Lisa Myers**

[lmyers@interactforhealth.org](mailto:lmyers@interactforhealth.org)

INTERACT  
FOR HEALTH

**Rob Goeller**

[rgoeller@caracole.org](mailto:rgoeller@caracole.org)

 caracole

**Dan Arendt**

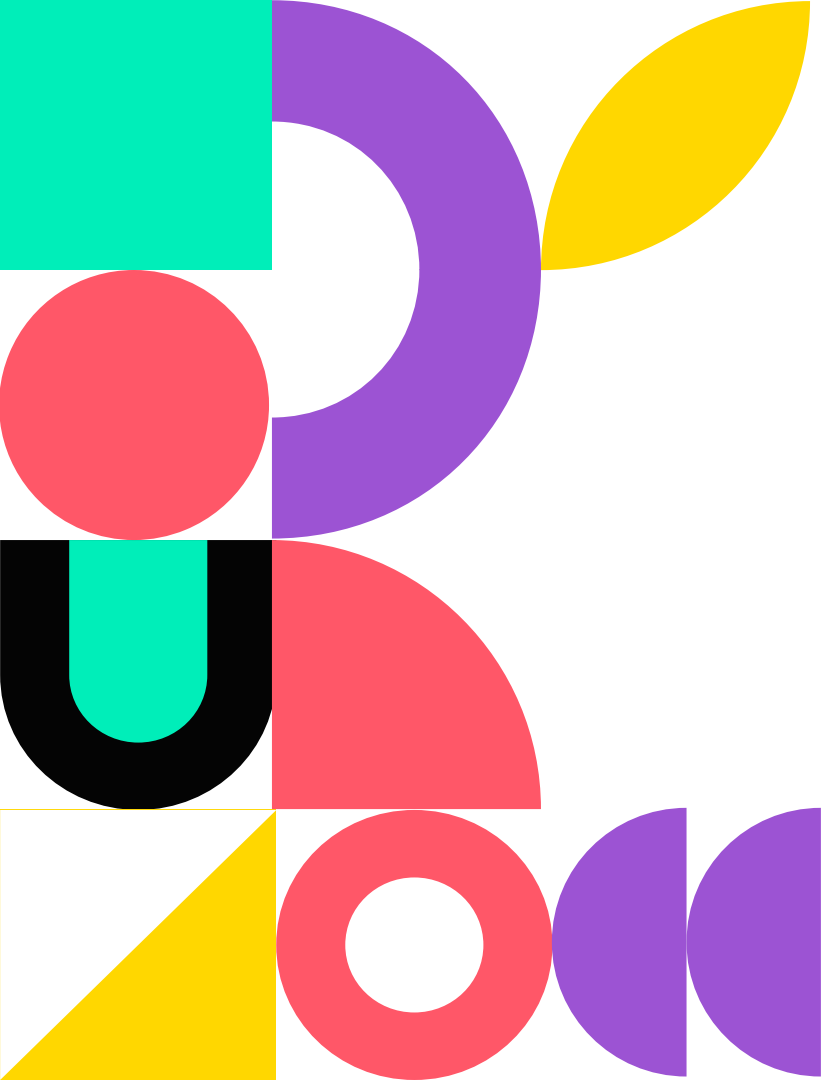
[arendtdl@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:arendtdl@ucmail.uc.edu)

University of  
CINCINNATI

**Deanna Vietze**

[dvietze@bcmhas.org](mailto:dvietze@bcmhas.org)

 **Brown County**  
Board of Mental Health & Addiction Services



# THANK YOU!

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