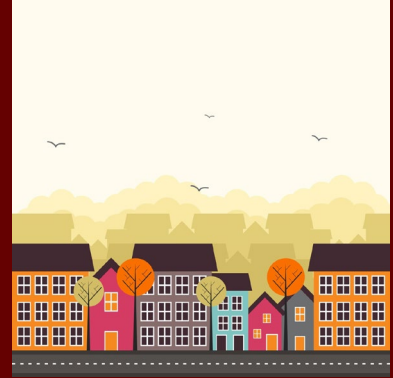


Risk Mitigation: Keeping Communities Healthy



Risk mitigation basics

- People practice risk mitigation every day to keep themselves safe. Wearing seatbelts and helmets, driving the speed limit, and exercising are everyday examples of risk mitigation.
- Risk mitigation is a public health approach that engages directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdoses and the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C.
- Risk mitigation programs can include a range of services. Some of the most well-known services are syringe service programs (SSPs) and naloxone distribution.

Just the facts

SSPs teach basic health care to people who use drugs. They do **not** enable, condone, or endorse drug use.

Naloxone is given out for free at SSPs to prevent fatal overdoses. SSPs do not contribute to overdose deaths.

SSPs allow people to safely get rid of used syringes to prevent needles from becoming litter.

Naloxone is extremely safe and effective and saves lives. Even if it is given to someone who is not overdosing, it will not harm them.

Benefits of risk mitigation programs



Distribute naloxone and provide health care supplies to prevent fatal overdoses and diseases.



Refer people to mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and medical care.



Offer HIV, hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment.



Provide law enforcement with the tools they need to respond to certain calls.

Questions? Contact our Public Health Outreach and Response Team at: DHSDPHPHResponseTeams@dhs.wi.gov

