



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Community Based STI Testing and Treatment

An Improved Collaboration between Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Programs

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Agenda

- Harm Reduction Program Overview
- Sexual Health Program Overview
- Program Collaboration, Field Delivered Treatment Plan
- Funding & Sustainability
- Questions



What is the Harm Reduction Program?

- An evidence-based approach that aims to reduce health and social harms associated with substance use through proven interventions.
- We work primarily with the unhoused population, providing harm reduction services such as:
 - Sterile injection equipment
 - Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips
 - Condoms, lubricants, and other safer sex items
 - Naloxone (Narcan®) distribution and training
 - Education and referrals
 - No cost rapid HIV, Hep C, and Syphilis testing

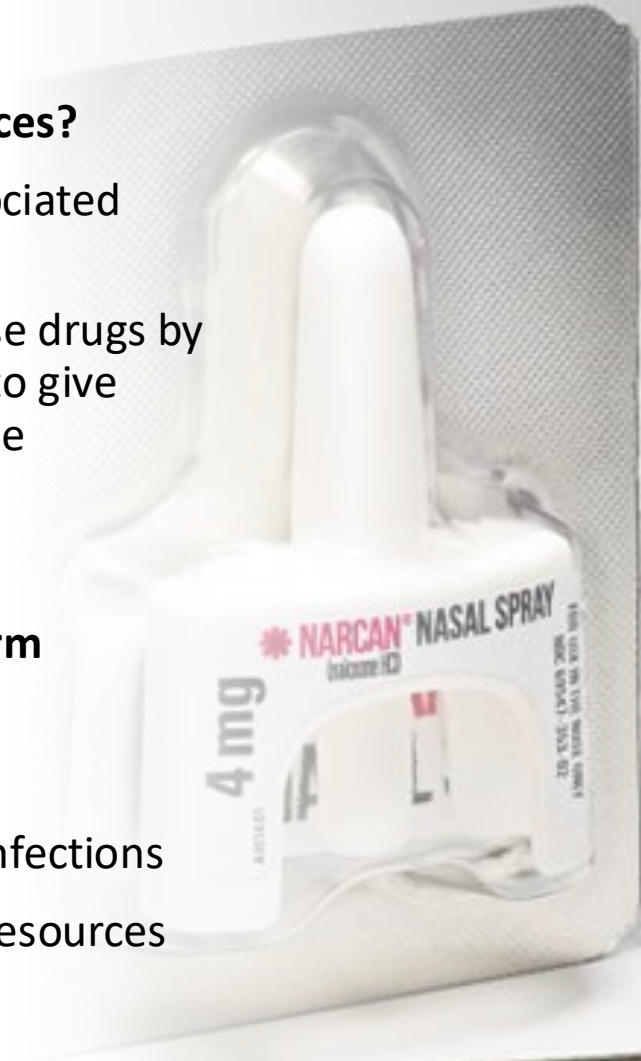
More About Harm Reduction

Why Provide Harm Reduction Services?

- Minimizes the consequences associated with substance use
- Provides dignity to people who use drugs by meeting them where they are at to give them non-judgmental care and the resources they need to be safer.

What are the goals of providing Harm Reduction Services?

- Prevent opioid related deaths
- Prevent HIV, Hep C, and Syphilis infections
- Provide referrals to services and resources





What does ACPH Harm Reduction do?

- Syringe exchange, safer smoking supplies, overdose prevention, drug testing strips
- STI/HIV/Hep C Testing and prevention
- Provide direct services to meet people where they are in the community!
- Build trust and connection in a non-clinical, judgement free, safe space.

Harm Reduction Program Data (Q1 2025)

- 339 total participants served*
 - 259 newly enrolled participants!
- 462 total encounters (SAP & testing)
- 35% identify as female
 - <1% identify as another gender
- 27% identify as Hispanic/Latine
- 36% identify as a race other than white (includes multiracial identification)
- 3/5 reported as homeless



Harm Reduction Program Impact (Q1 2025)

- 54 HIV tests
- 69 STI (GC/CT) and Syphilis tests
 - 5 identified as needing tx; 1 person needed both tx
- 26 HCV tests
- 1800 naloxone (Narcan®) kits distributed
- 7 Community Events attended
 - Community College of Aurora
 - CO Finest High School of Choice
 - Point in Time Count
 - HIV and Harm Reduction Advocacy Day





Harm Reduction Program Impact Continued (Q1 2025)

- 2380 pieces of glassware distributed
 - Most distributed since launching in January!
- 26,277 syringes distributed
- Roughly 6,300 syringes returned
 - Innovative ways to increase disposal
- Approximately 5785 Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips distributed!
- Variety of referrals included:
 - SUD treatment & sober living
 - Housing & emergency shelters
 - Domestic violence support



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New and Improved Harm Reduction Program Services for 2025!

- Safer Smoking Supplies
- Pregnancy testing and education (and prenatal vitamins!)
- Increased connections with ACPH Sexual Health
- Integration of CureMD
- Community Clean-Ups with PALI Group
- Rapid STI Testing
- Public Health Kiosk Evaluation
- Volunteer Program



CHIP Priorities and Harm Reduction

- Access to Affordable Physical and Behavioral Care
 - Free STI/HIV/HCV testing
 - Referrals to other low-cost providers
 - Encourages Medicaid access
- Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food/Healthy Affordable Housing
 - Case management and referrals
- Social Connection
 - Provides a safe space for participants to interact and bring friends
 - Participant Advisory Leadership Initiative (PALI)
- Community Safety
 - When vulnerable people are provided with resources, our communities are safer
 - Syringe exchange reduces needles and other items in community spaces





What is the Sexual Health Program?

A clinical program that provides family planning and sexual health services regardless of age, gender, marital status, income, or proof of residence.

Services are low or no cost and provided based on a sliding scale, according to income level.

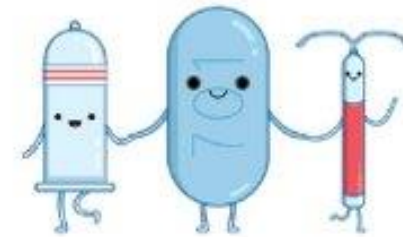
Services include:

- Annual health review
- Nexplanon and IUD inserts and removals
- Birth control supplies and counseling
- Emergency contraception
- Free condoms
- Testing for pregnancy
- Testing and treatment for common STIs
- Testing for HIV
- Community education and outreach
- Pelvic exam
- Cervical cancer screening (Pap or HPV testing)
- Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP) by referral
- Clinical breast exam
- Linkage to follow up services as needed

What does ACPH Sexual Health do?

- Clinical services in Altura Plaza and Englewood
 - Birth Control
 - STI Testing, Treatment and prevention
 - Cervical and breast cancer screening and Prevention
- Field Delivered Treatment for Syphilis
- STI testing and treatment at Arapahoe County Detention Center
- Sexual Health education in the community

let's talk about



sexual health

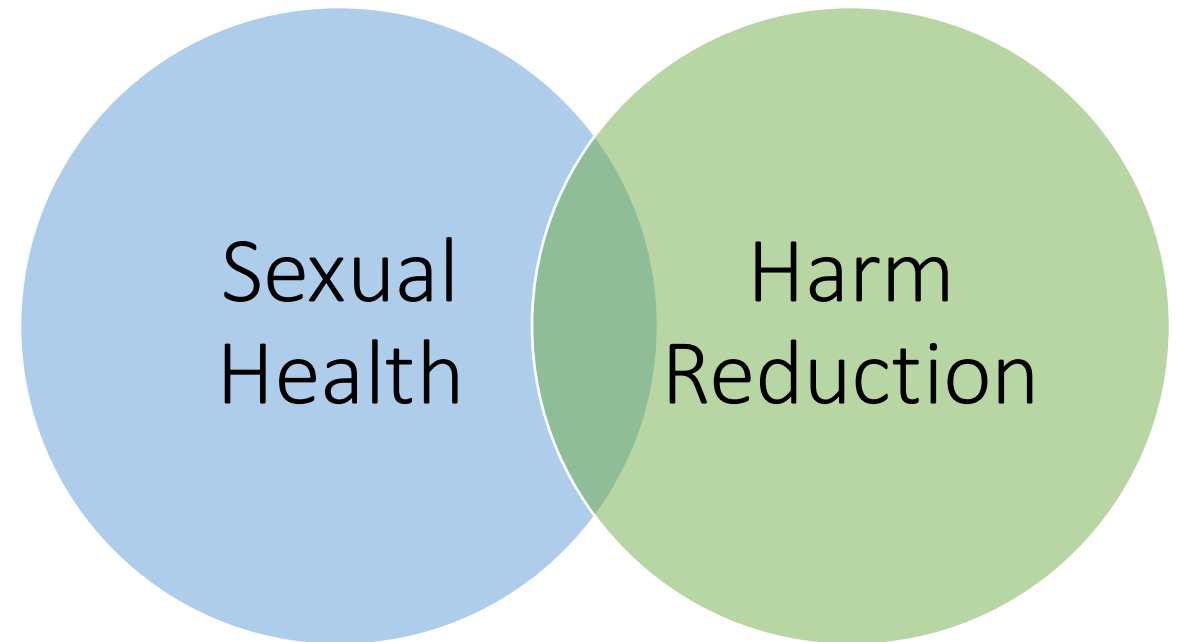
CHIP Priorities and Sexual Health

- Access to Affordable Physical and Behavioral Care
 - Low-cost services offered on a sliding scale
 - Referrals to other low-cost providers
 - Encourages Medicaid access
- Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food
 - WIC referral for pregnant women
 - Prenatal vitamins for pregnancy and pre-conception care
- Social Connection
 - Education on healthy relationships and consent
- Community Safety
 - Intimate Partner Violence assessment



Program Collaboration Opportunities

- Harm Reduction
 - Offers chlamydia/gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV and Hep C testing
 - High degree of trust in the community
 - Meets people in the community setting
 - Non-clinical – unable to provide treatment
- Sexual Health
 - Offers chlamydia/gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV and Hep C testing
 - Offers a broader range of services in clinic
 - Can offer clinical treatment and physical exam



What does Collaboration look like?

- Clinical support for non-clinical team members
 - Joint trainings and sharing of expertise
 - Harm Reduction trained SH staff on naloxone distribution and harm reduction supplies
 - Sexual health has provided training on STI/HIV/Hep C best practices
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Field Delivered Treatment for Syphilis



Promising Practice

In April, the Sexual Health Program was selected as a Promising Practice recipient by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for their work in ***Field Delivered Treatment for Syphilis***.

This was a collaborative application including Arapahoe and Pueblo counties.

Syphilis Field Delivered Treatment (FDT)

- Started in April 2024 by providing in-home syphilis treatment to patients with confirmed syphilis referred by CDPHE for missing a clinical treatment appointment in Metro Denver
 - Expanded in January 2025 to offer FDT to anyone referred for treatment and to initiate treatment for anyone with a positive rapid test in the Harm Reduction Program
- To date, we've treated 30 individuals and counting, including three pregnant patients.
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Field Delivered Treatment (FDT)

0 of the 24 clients referred to SH
from HR were treated for
Syphilis in 2024

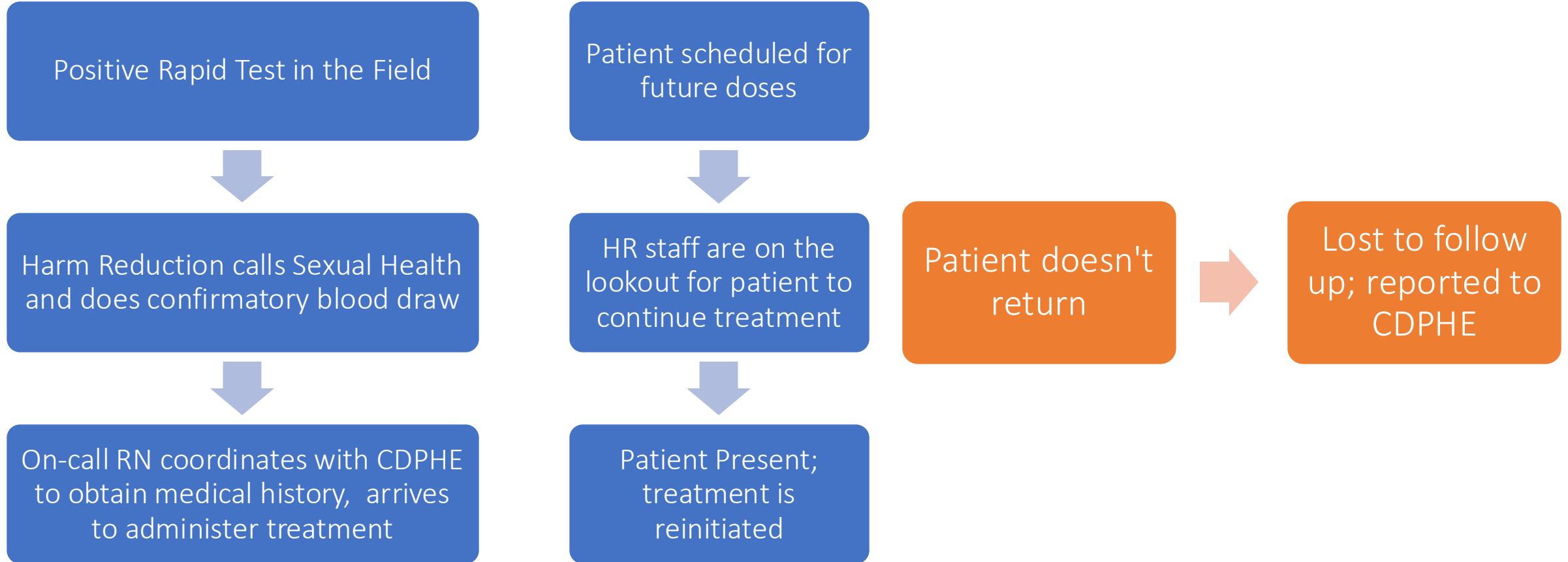
2024

2025

Of the 7 clients referred to SH
from HR in 2025 thus far:

- 4 completed treatment
- 1 currently in treatment
- 2 were lost to follow up but both
received 2 of 3 doses Long acting Bicilling

Rapid Response Syphilis FDT



Where are we going?

- Rapid chlamydia/gonorrhea testing and treatment!
- RN staffed with HR at mobile unit to provide immediate treatment for all STIs
- Expected launch May 2025!



Prevention Point mobile Harm Reduction at Aurora Pride 2024 at the Aurora Reservoir

Health Educator Destiny performing a test on HIV Testing Day 2024 in Prevention Point





Funding and Sustainability

- ▶ Getting creative with braided funding sources!
 - ▶ Opioid Resettlement funds from the county and state
 - ▶ CDC Strengthening STI Prevention and Control grant
 - ▶ Syphilis-specific funding from the state
 - ▶ Utilizing Title X clinical staff whenever possible





Questions?
