



PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORT

# DC Health

**PROGRAM:**

## Harm Reduction Vending Machines

---

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Harm Reduction Vending Machines initiative, developed by DC Health, aims to decrease the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and overdoses in Washington, DC. The program targets the most vulnerable populations by providing low-barrier access to harm reduction products, including Narcan, condoms, and fentanyl test strips, addressing the risk of transmission and overdose within the community.

---

**TARGET POPULATION:**

The program serves diverse and key population, ensuring that high-risk and underserved groups receive targeted interventions.

- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
  - Black/African American
  - Hispanic/Latinx
  - People who inject drugs
  - People living with HIV (PLWH)
  - Spanish Speakers
  - Women, youth, and aging population
  - Transgender and nonbinary individuals
- 

**KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND COLLABORATORS:**

- Community- Based Organizations (CBOs)
  - Local Health Department
  - Social Service Agencies
-

**PROGRAM DURATION:**

The Harm Reduction Vending Machines program has been running for 1-2 years, with plans for ongoing evaluation to adapt and meet the needs of target communities.

---

**PROGRAM GOALS AND KEY ACTIVITIES:**

The primary goal of the Harm Reduction Vending Machines program is to reduce non-fatal and fatal overdoses and decrease the spread of HIV/AIDS by ensuring low-barrier access to essential harm reduction products in high-need areas. Through partnerships with community organizations like Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc. (FMCS) and Honoring Individual Power and Strength (HIPS), DC Health has placed vending machines across multiple Wards, providing products that range from hygiene kits and wellness resources to critical overdose prevention tools like Narcan. The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) supplies Narcan and fentanyl test strips, while Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department (FEMS) hosts several Harm Reduction Vending Machines locations to maximize accessibility and ensure coverage throughout the district.

---

**PROGRAM CHALLENGES:**

The initiative faces challenges in reaching vulnerable populations with safe and accessible resources to prevent disease and overdoses. The harm reduction products within the vending machines directly address this need, but continuous monitoring of engagement is needed to refine placement and ensure these machines remain accessible and effective for the target community.

---

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:**

DC Health engaged Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc. (FMCS) and Honoring Individual Power and Strength (HIPS) as key community partners to deploy and manage Harm Reduction Vending Machines. These machines are designed to provide low-barrier access to lifesaving products, placing community needs at the forefront of their services. By attending quarterly consumer advisory board meetings, hosting community events, and coordinating focus groups, DC Health ensures continuous input from clients and the broader community.

---

**DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING:**

Currently, no client-level data is collected through this initiative.

---

**KEY METRICS AND OUTCOMES:**

The program's key indicator of success is over 55,000 harm reduction products distributed in FY24 alone. Also, over 14,000 machine transactions have occurred since program inception in April 2023, and specifically over 13,000 transactions have occurred in FY24.

---

**CONCLUSION:**

The Harm Reduction Vending Machines initiative by DC Health is a vital step toward reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence and overdose deaths within the District. By providing accessible, life-saving resources to those in need, the program addresses key health disparities while empowering community members with essential self-care products and support services. Continued expansion and assessment of this program will be crucial to its success in fostering a healthier, safer DC community.