

Harm Reduction in California

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OVERDOSE

HIV

HCV

STIs

Session Goals

Share Harm Reduction Framework so we're all on the same page about what harm reduction is and how it supports drug user health.

Explain CDPH's role in supporting local agencies that improve the health and safety of people who use drugs.

What is Harm Reduction?

An approach to working with people that aims to reduce the harm of a given activity.

Harm Reduction recognizes **that all people deserve care and dignity, regardless of whether or not they use drugs.**



Image: National Harm Reduction Coalition

CDPH's Mission:

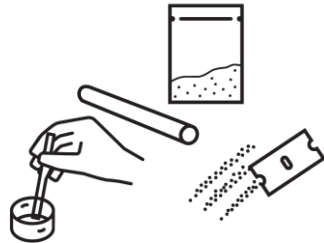
To advance the health and well-being of California's diverse people and communities.

❤️ This includes people who use drugs. ❤️

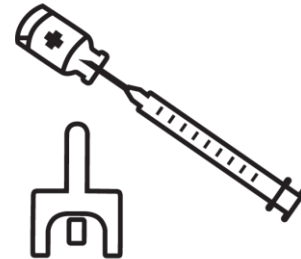
Harm Reduction in Action



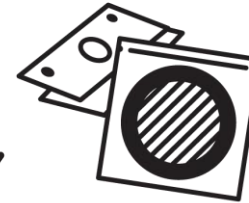
Syringe Access and Disposal



Safer Drug Use Supplies



Overdose Prevention



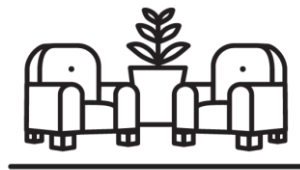
Safer Sex Materials



Medication for Opioid Use Disorder



Safer Consumption Services



Drop-in Centers



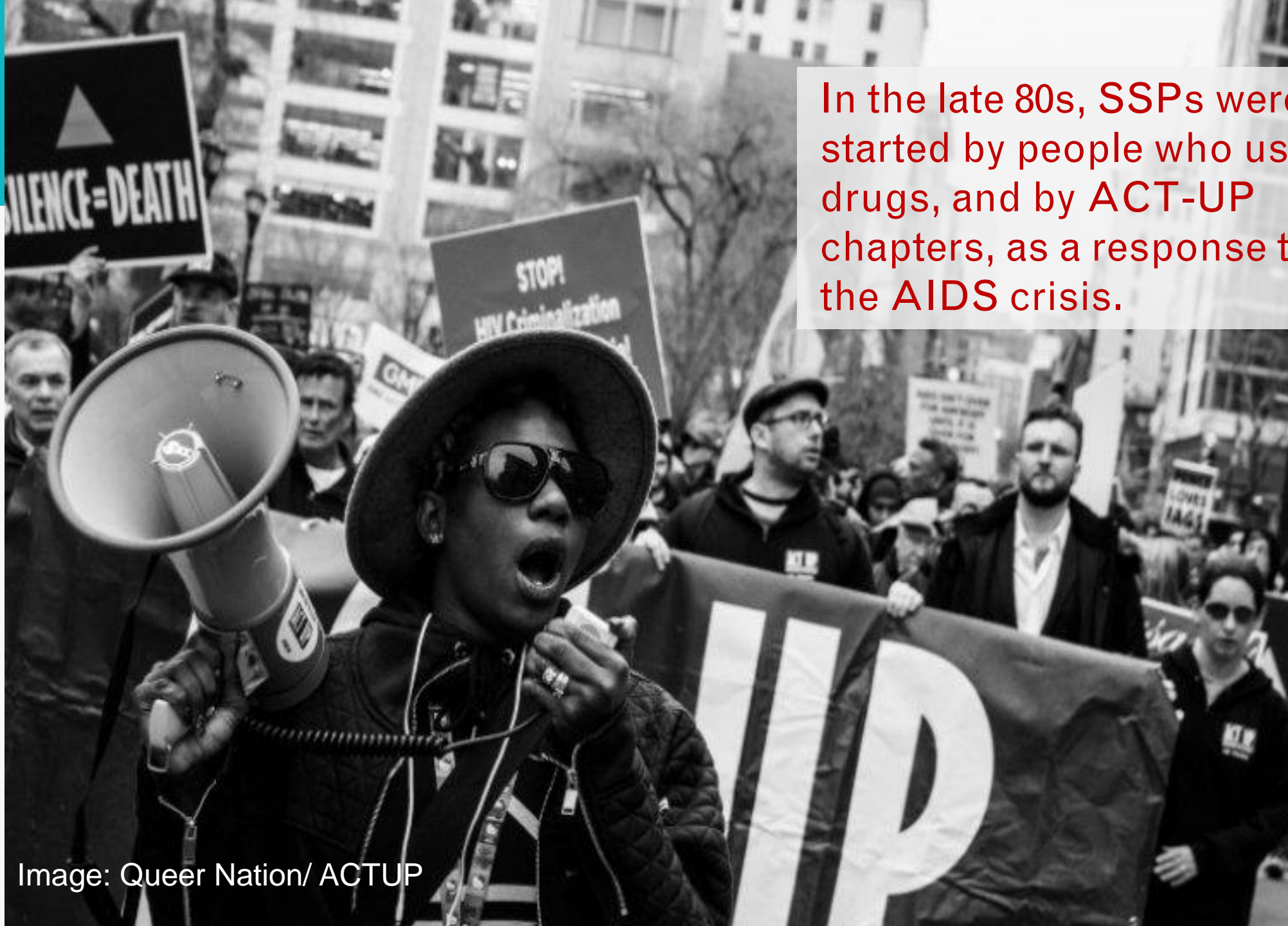
Housing First



Referrals

Public Health Impact of Syringe Services Programs (SSPs)

- Reduce incidence of fatal overdose
 - Naloxone training and distribution
- Reduce transmission of infection and disease
 - Blood-borne viruses (HCV, HIV, etc.) via sterile injection and smoking supplies (and sometimes testing & linkage)
 - Sexually transmitted infections via safer sex supplies (condoms, lube, etc.)
 - Bacterial infections via distribution of hygiene supplies
- Facilitate better health decisions and outcomes
 - Smoking vs. injecting
 - Wound care and medical treatment
 - Linkage to services (food, shelter, treatment, mental and medical health care)
 - Reduction in unwanted pregnancy via safer sex supplies



In the late 80s, SSPs were started by people who use drugs, and by ACT-UP chapters, as a response to the AIDS crisis.

Syringe Services Programs in California

Currently:

- ▶ 75+ SSPs in California
- ▶ Adding programs in more traditionally conservative areas
- ▶ Increased opposition as housing crisis/ visible homelessness in CA worsens

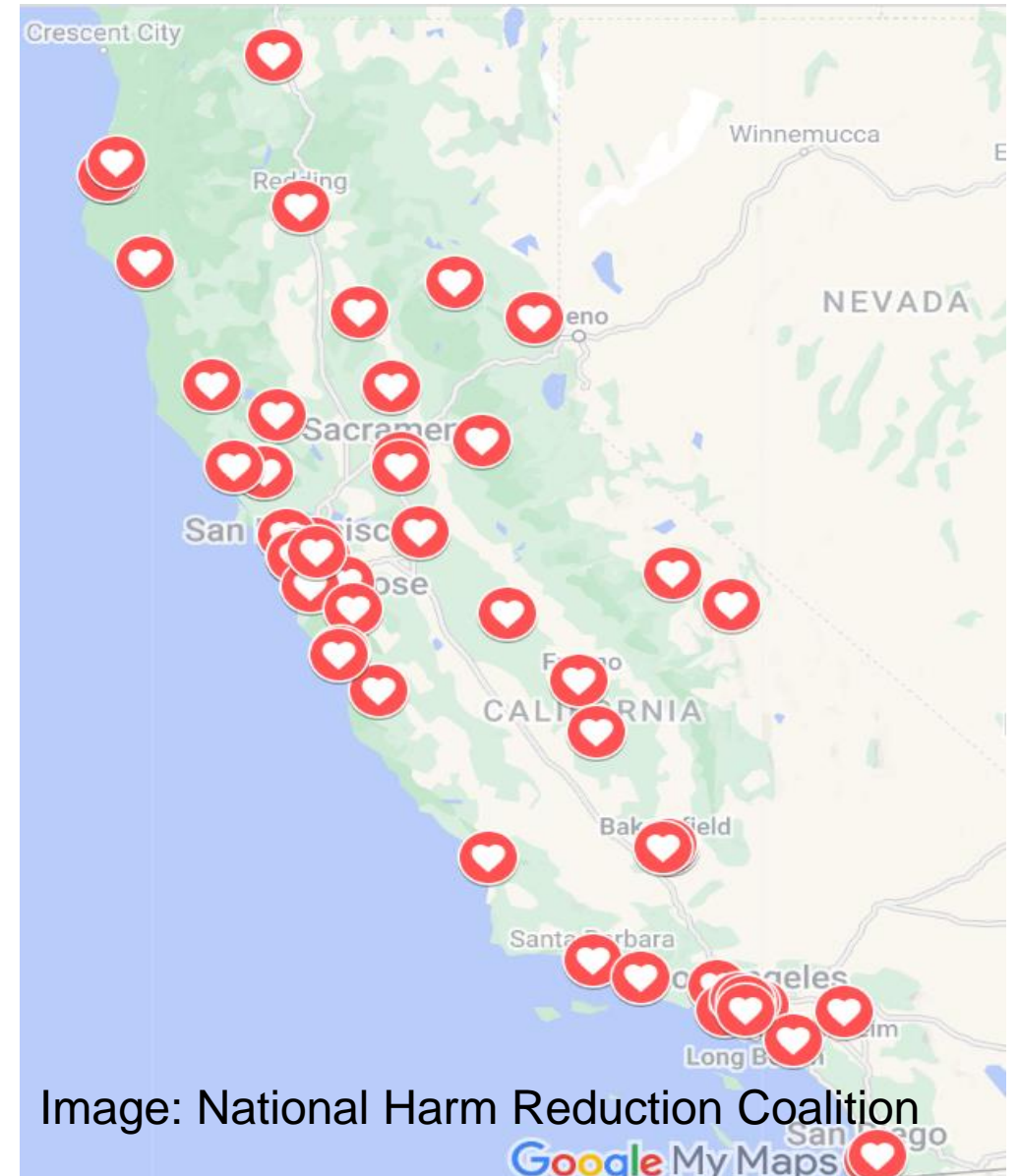


Image: National Harm Reduction Coalition

CDPH Provides California's SSPs with:

- Supplies via Harm Reduction Supply Clearinghouse
- Authorization for some programs
- Technical assistance
- Funds for staffing via California Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Initiative



Image: San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Questions?

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Image credit: DAP Health