

## WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

Here at the Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, AHRC, we serve our clients using a “Harm Reduction” model.

The Harm Reduction philosophy is a non-judgmental approach that allows us to meet individuals “where they are” so we can help identify and REDUCE the HARM that accompanies their situations, such as substance use, injection drug use, sex work, and other marginalizing conditions. Using this approach, we accept and work with people “as they are,” allowing us to help people live healthier lives by tailoring specific risk-reduction plans based on an individual’s specific lifestyle, related (self-identified) risks, and reasonable (self-set) goals.

Where strict zero-tolerance approaches define the lack of abstinence as “failures,” Harm Reduction, defines any small step towards a healthier lifestyle as progress (i.e., getting tested for HIV and/or HCV, starting to use less drugs, starting to use prophylactics, or in some cases, abstaining completely).



Come by to meet our mascot  
“Prevention”

*“Needle exchange programs have been proven to reduce the transmission of blood-borne diseases. A number of studies conducted in the U.S. have shown needle exchange programs do not increase drug use. I understand that research has shown these programs, when implemented in the context of a comprehensive program that offers other services such as referral to counseling, healthcare, drug treatment, HIV/AIDS prevention, counseling and testing, are effective at connecting addicted users to drug treatment.”*

— Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and former Seattle Police Chief, 2009



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PREVENTION POINT  
PRECONTEMPLATION



HEALTHY OUTCOMES



SAFETY COUNTS



LINKAGE TO  
TREATMENT



LIFE LINKS



**A Prevention Intervention  
and Wellness Agency**

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

## OUR MISSION:

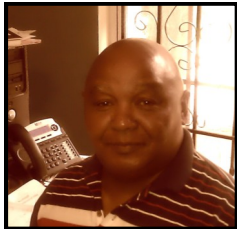
The Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc., AHRC, is a community-based wellness organization



committed to improving the overall health and wellbeing of marginalized individuals and communities. AHRC provides education and risk reduction programs through partnerships, to empower adults in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of: substance use, HIV/AIDS, STIs, Hepatitis viruses, and other communicable diseases.

## OUR VISION:

Our vision is to service individuals who require a higher level of care and follow-through with linkage to substance abuse treatment, and/or transitional facilities. AHRC provides clients with the tools for making safer choices in life through evidence-based interventions and prevention programs. Using a harm reduction approach, we build relationships with individuals who are vulnerable to



contracting and/or transmitting HIV/AIDS, STIs, Hepatitis viruses, and other blood-borne pathogens.

## SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- ⇒ Health Education and Support Groups
- ⇒ Substance Use Management Groups
- ⇒ Overdose Prevention
- ⇒ “Safety Counts” Intervention
- ⇒ Harm Reduction Training
- ⇒ HIV Counseling and Testing
- ⇒ Case Management (for HIV positive people and people just out of jail/prison)
- ⇒ Assessments for Substance Use Treatment, Referrals, and Placement
- ⇒ Linkage and referrals to other social service programs (medical, food, shelter/housing)
- ⇒ Hot Nutritious Meals
- ⇒ Hygiene Kits and Showers
- ⇒ Street Outreach Services (mobile unit)
- ⇒ Needle Exchange

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Join us on Facebook!



## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

- **VOLUNTEER** – Volunteers are always needed and welcomed at the AHRC center. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please contact us at the number on the back of this pamphlet.



- **DONATE** – Towels, clothing, food, and hygiene product donations as well as monetary donations are welcomed and appreciated. If you or someone you know would like to make a donation, please contact us.
- **SPREAD THE WORD** Please tell your friends about us. If you or anyone you know need any of our services or would like to get involved in improving our community, please contact us.