



# Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

To: ADPC Members

From: The ADPC Harm Reduction Committee

Re: Committee Priorities for the 2026-2030 Comprehensive Plan

## Background/Mission of the Harm Reduction Committee

The ADPC Harm Reduction Committee collaborates closely with ADPC staff and other partners to prevent and reduce substance use disorder and related harms in Oregon. The ADPC Harm Reduction Committee aligns with the [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#). It defines harm reduction as a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing the negative consequences of substance use. The Harm Reduction Committee also recognizes harm reduction as a movement for social justice built on a belief in and respect for the rights of people who use drugs. The harm reduction policies, strategies, interventions, and practices supported by the ADPC Harm Reduction Committee will center on people with lived and living experiences of substance use, especially those from marginalized communities. In addition, actions taken to expand and support harm reduction interventions are to be acted upon with place in mind, recognizing the significant disparities in services between urban, suburban, and rural parts of the state. Lastly, the strategies, practices, and interventions supported will meet and engage people who are using substances where they are without coercion, judgment, stigma, racism, or discrimination.

## Comprehensive Plan Priorities

Expansion of promising and proven harm reduction strategies is critical to protect individual wellbeing, to save lives, and to positively impact the economic, public safety, and public health of communities. The Comprehensive Plan proposes to reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders, reduce substance use-related deaths, reduce the spread of both infections and

infectious disease, and reduce substance use-related disparities and inequities. The Harm Reduction Committee will focus on the following priorities, building upon priorities named in a [guidance memo](#) provided by the ADPC to the Governor and additional state leaders in fall 2023. In prioritizing these activities, the Harm Reduction Committee envisions expanding access to services and support to all Oregonians, regardless of demographics, geography, or desire for abstinence from substance use.

1. **Develop and fund a statewide strategy for the purchase and distribution of short-acting overdose reversal medications, such as naloxone, which will ensure access in rural areas and include education strategies to ensure proper administration and dosage during overdose emergencies.** Expanding access to short-acting overdose reversal drugs is critical to reducing overdose deaths. The Harm Reduction Committee will work with local, regional, and statewide leaders to ensure equitable, low-barrier access for organizations, individuals, and families throughout Oregon.
2. **Implement a statewide drug-checking strategy that is available at the state, regional, and community levels.** Individuals concerned about their personal safety should be able to access fast, real-time, reliable, and confidential checking supplies to reduce drug-related harm. Drug checking should be available through multiple community channels, ensuring safe, rapid access to reliable testing supplies to reduce the risk of infection, disease spread, overdose, and death among people who use drugs.

The Harm Reduction Committee's efforts will focus on:

1. Improved access to safe, rapid drug checking accessible by individuals in their communities.
2. A statewide network of mail-in and in-person drug-checking technology to provide improved public health surveillance and communications around potential risks in the drug supply.
3. Drug checking tools and supports to ensure any organization with the appropriate capabilities to support safe drug checking in their communities has the resources, tools, and training to do so.

3. **Expand access to safer use supplies to ensure comprehensive harm reduction services are available to all Oregonians by incentivizing existing programs to provide mobile services and encouraging community safety net providers (like FQHCs and health departments) to include safe supply services.** While supply access has improved in some cities and counties, significant barriers remain to accessing safer use supplies across the state. The Harm Reduction Committee will work to ensure there is “no wrong door” to accessing syringes and other safer use supplies across the health and social safety net system, accessible to all populations in need no matter where in Oregon they are located.
4. **Ensure cross-sector education, awareness, and infrastructure that promotes safer use programs, practices, and policies that welcome and support individuals who use drugs.** Regardless of substance use status or desire for abstinence, all Oregonians deserve access to health care, housing, and community support. The Harm Reduction Committee will work with partners to promote policies and practices that ensure people who use drugs have access to housing, health care, and other services. In addition, the Committee will work to ensure harm reduction providers and allied professionals, including peers, have expanded access to training and professional development on harm reduction practice and will explore emerging innovations such as safer use sites.

### **Outcomes Anticipated**

The Harm Reduction Committee believes that, when taken together, these priorities will reduce rates of infections and infectious disease, overdose, and death among people who use drugs while fostering community connection and support.