



Injury-Free
NC

2024

INJURY-FREE NC ACADEMY

HARM REDUCTION AS TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICE

MAY SESSION

MAY 7 & 8 (VIRTUAL)

AND

**MAY 16 & 17 (IN-PERSON)
HICKORY, NC**

JULY SESSION

JULY 9 & 10 (VIRTUAL)

AND

**JULY 18 & 19 (IN-PERSON)
GREENEVILLE, NC**

- OR -

Apply to attend the Academy here!

<https://go.unc.edu/Bb72Z>

In-person component subject to change based on public health guidance. Health and safety guidelines will be followed for any in-person gatherings.

WHAT IS THE INJURY-FREE NC ACADEMY?

The Injury-Free NC Academy, a collaboration between the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch and the University of North Carolina's Injury Prevention Research Center, is a training and program development resource for injury and violence prevention practitioners in North Carolina. Each cycle of the IFNC Academy focuses on a timely topic affecting North Carolinians.*

The 2024 IFNC Academy on Harm Reduction as Transformative Practice will focus on moving from theory to practice and implementing a variety of harm reduction programs to serve people who use drugs.

The purpose of this Academy is to work with community based organizations, local health departments, coalitions, and individuals who are planning or have taken steps to establish an overdose prevention or harm reduction program or want to learn about harm reduction principles and how to incorporate them into overdose prevention work.

*This year's Harm Reduction Academy is open to current members of the SHARP Network who are located outside of North Carolina. Please note that we will reserve at least half of the seats in the Academy for North Carolinians.

What is harm reduction?

Harm Reduction is a framework for reducing the negative consequences of drug use and promoting the health and dignity of people who use drugs that meets people where they are rather than making judgments about where they should be in terms of their personal health and lifestyle.

A harm reduction approach means understanding that people using drugs, even if they are not seeking treatment, should be given the care, resources, and information necessary to reduce health risks associated with drug use, and improve their general health and well-being. Harm reduction based programs provide helpful information and tools to people and empower them to use risk-reducing strategies.

Harm reduction programs do not have abstinence requirements for participants or use abstinence as a measure of success. Rather, programs operating with a harm reduction framework provide the tools and information needed to support people in making informed decisions about their own health and well-being.

Harm reductionists also recognize that issues like untreated mental health conditions, homelessness or insecure housing, involvement with the criminal legal system, inadequate employment, and other social determinants of health can exacerbate harms, including drug use, and that chaotic drug use cannot be effectively and sustainably addressed without also addressing other areas of health, wellness, and justice.

TIMELINE

JANUARY 5, 2024

Application Opens

Apply to Attend the Academy!

Applicants can choose which session they want to attend (May or July).

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND DECISIONS

JANUARY 26
APPLICATION CLOSES

FEBRUARY 9
SELECTED PARTICIPANTS
ARE NOTIFIED

FIRST ACADEMY SESSION

MAY 7 - 8 AND 16 - 17

MAY 7 - 8
HELD VIRTUALLY

AND

MAY 16 - 17
IN HICKORY, NC

SECOND ACADEMY SESSION

JULY 9 - 10 AND 18 - 19

JULY 9 - 10
HELD VIRTUALLY)

AND

JULY 18 - 19
IN GREENVILLE, NC

Academy Learning Objectives

- ▶ Present the history and philosophy of harm reduction and discuss what applying a harm reduction framework looks like in practice
- ▶ Describe how we can work to prevent harm for participants, our colleagues, and ourselves
- ▶ Acquire comprehensive practical skills and knowledge in harm reduction and the implementation of evidence-based overdose prevention program
- ▶ Examine the roles and intersections of drug-related stigma and social determinants of health, such as housing, poverty, lack of education and unequal access to health care, as underlying, contributing factors of health inequities.
- ▶ Gain an understanding of the history and intersections of drug use, harm reduction and safety considerations for those involved in sex work
- ▶ Identify tools to support and improve staff and program participant mental health and emotional wellbeing
- ▶ Apply the framework provided in this academy and strengthen skills through case studies and role playing
- ▶ Analyze the importance of centering lived experience in our work and how to do it meaningfully
- ▶ Describe current polysubstance use trends and harm reduction strategies related to a range of consumption methods (e.G. Snorting; smoking) and substances (e.G. Stimulants)
- ▶ Explain how stigma related to substance use is a major barrier to addressing the overdose crisis and identify strategies for addressing this stigma
- ▶ Understand how harm reduction, social justice, and equity intersect
- ▶ Analyze the current laws and policies impacting pwud and harm reduction services, identifying areas of concern as well as opportunities for advocacy

RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS:

- People with lived experience interested in providing/supporting SSP services
- Organizations with experience serving PWUD or other underserved populations (including AIDS service organizations)
- County Opioid Settlement Coordinators
- Healthcare providers, including primary care, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and pharmacists
- Community organizers/mobilizers
- Social service providers, including housing and employment support, reentry services, child and family welfare services, and recovery support
- First responders with experience or interest in working with PWUD, including emergency medical services, and fire departments
- Faith leaders with experience or interest in working with PWUD

READY TO APPLY?

Application opens
January 5, 2024

Apply soon—space is limited!

This is a free training opportunity. If accepted into the Academy, we will ask you to confirm your participation and commit to attending the full training to the best of your ability.

**Applications are due at
5pm on January 26, 2024**

Selected participants will be notified in mid-February.

APPLY HERE

Questions?

Contact us at HARMREDUCTIONACADEMY@UNC.EDU