

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing: Building Capacity Through Community Behavioral Health Organizations to Prevent Overdose

Impact of Activities Undertaken in the First Project Year

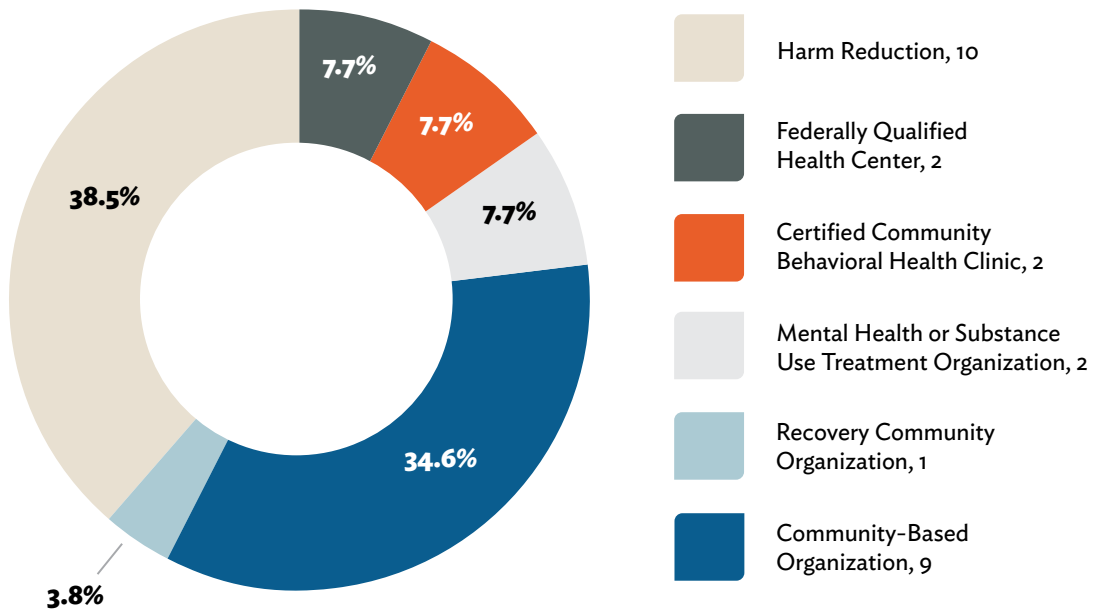
This document provides a summary profile of the 25 grantees and selected project activities detailed by Building Capacity Through Community Behavioral Health Organization to Prevent Overdose (Building Capacity) grantees. These activities demonstrate the impact of this grant on the provision of harm reduction supplies and services as well as providing support to people who use drugs (PWUD).

Figure 1 maps the location of the grantees by state. Figures 2 and 3 segment the grantees by self-reported organization type and type(s) of communities served by the grantees, respectively.

Figure 1. Locations of grantees

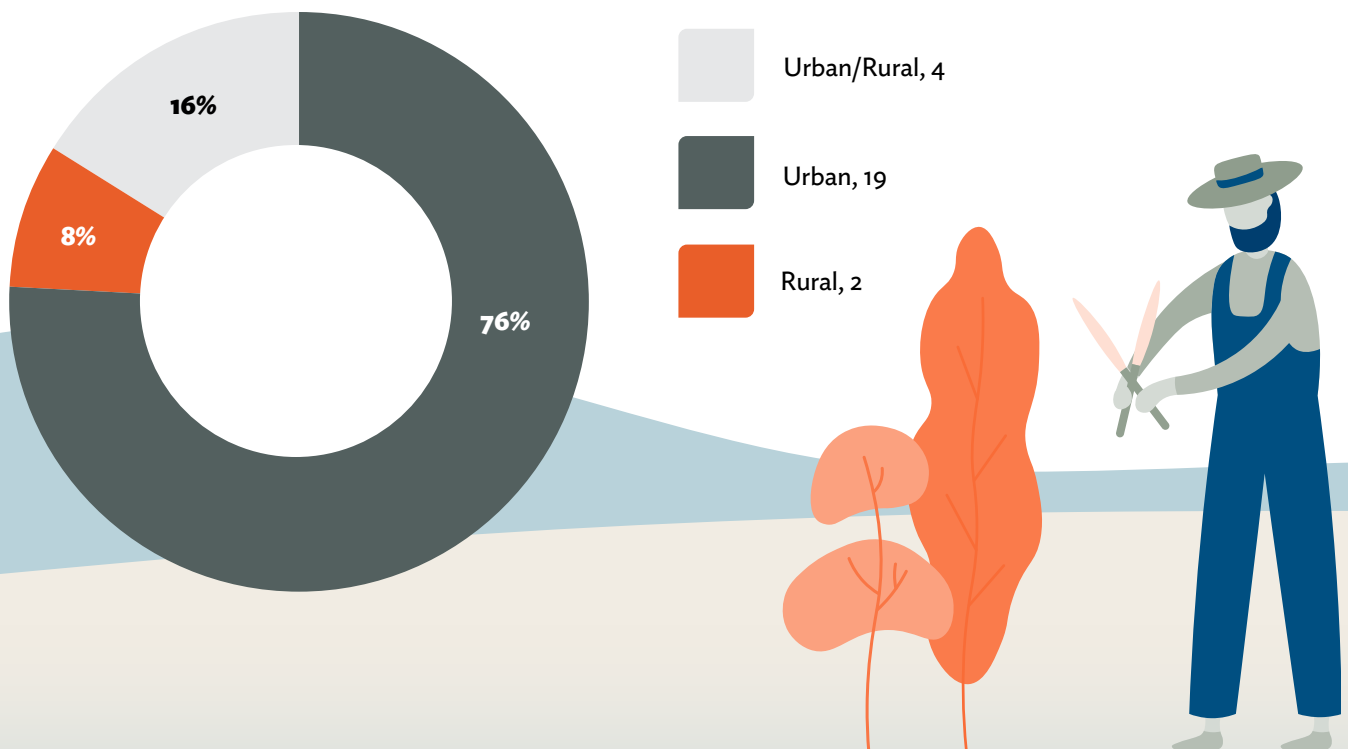


Figure 2. Organization types of grantees




Note that one organization is both a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Center.

Figure 3. Types of communities served by grantees



Provision of Harm Reduction Supplies and Services

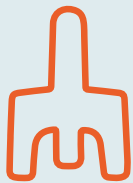
Grantees have considerably increased their provision and distribution of harm reduction supplies and services through grant-funded project activities. *Noteworthy examples cited by grantees include:


In October
2023 alone,
we distributed
over



34,000
Syringes

and helped
dispense



1,177
**Naloxone
Kits”**

— Bronx Movil



[Our program] provided 32 hours of drop-in services and supportive services per week to **2,952 unique clients**, with an average of **293 drop-in visits per week**. During street-based outreach and drop-in center hours, [we] distributed **695,559 sterile syringes** to people who use drugs.

We expanded our syringe collection during outreach shifts and community cleanups in [our region], collecting over

36,000 syringes.

Additionally, we distributed **3,866 wound care kits, 9,049 xylazine and fentanyl testing strips, 12,133 safer smoking kits** and **5,474 safer sniffing kits**. In partnership with [our county health department], **we provided wound care services to 53 clients.”**

— Charm City Care Connection





Through our first four community-based mobile exchange events, we held **25 visits and provided**



1,850

sterile syringes



33

safe smoking kits



142

drug testing strips



26

naloxone kits

We conducted **1,108 total mobile exchange visits during this time, serving 661 unique participants**. This allowed us to test the new processes that we had developed, and we were able to work out best practices for running mobile exchange operations.”

— *Equitas Health*



“[We] mailed out over

10,000

naloxone kits

with information about services available to PWUD and people in recovery over the course of the year.”

— *Florida Harm Reduction Collective*

“As a result of our services, we have seen a

23%

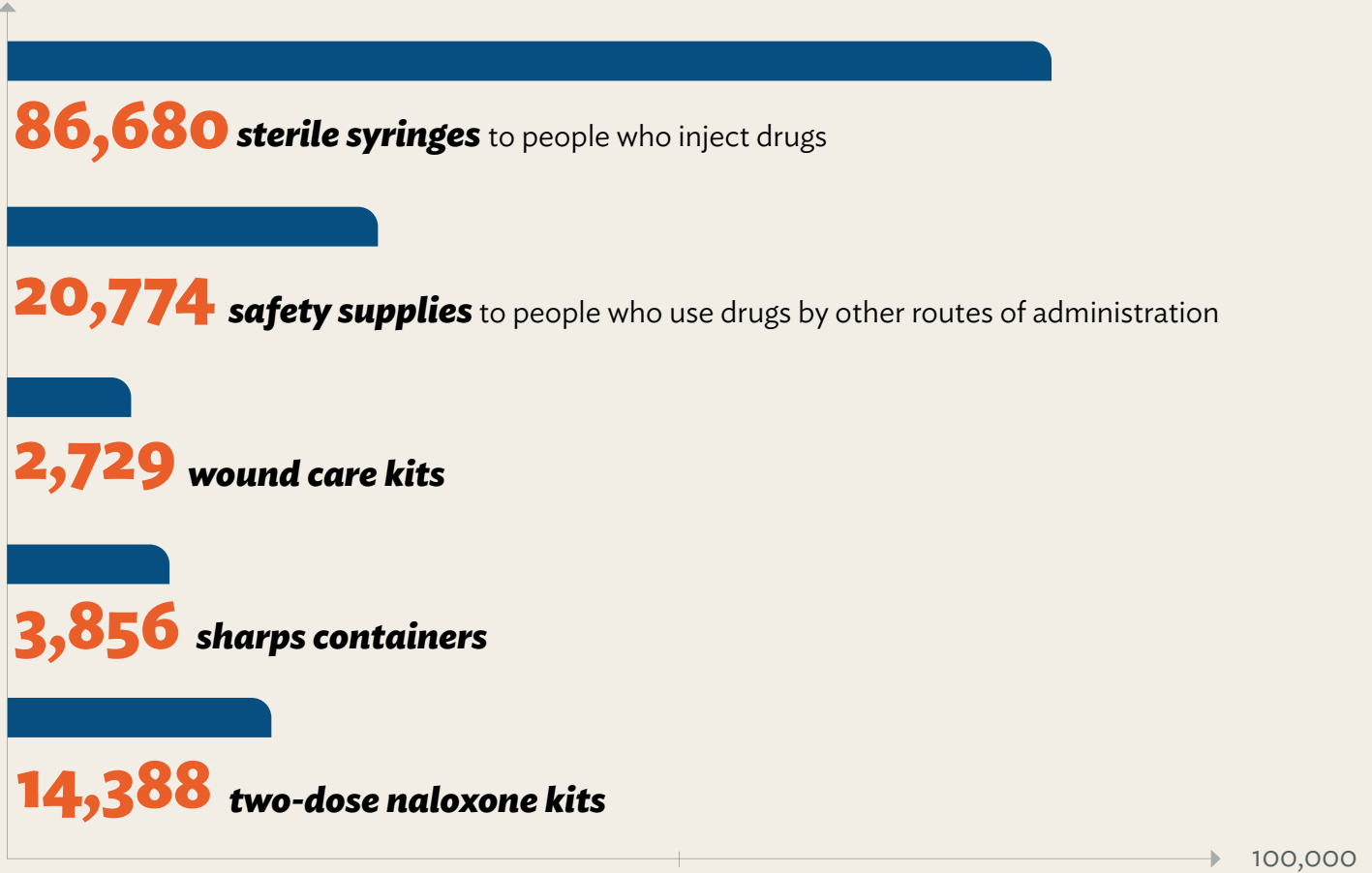
**decline in
quarterly fatal
overdoses**

in the areas we are present in and a marked decrease in self-reported, non-fatal overdoses. This is a direct result in both Narcan distribution but also safer using coaching delivered in harm reduction contexts.”

— *Project VIDA*



We distributed

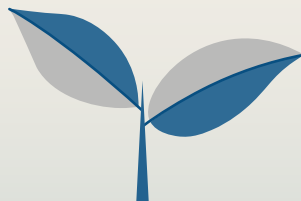


[We also made] **1,088 referrals** to MOUD [medication for opioid use disorder] treatment, non-MOUD SUD [substance use disorder] treatment or mental health treatment.”

— *Sonoran Prevention Works*



MOUD treatment



non-MOUD SUD



Mental Health treatment



[In calendar year 2023], we provided **108,115 syringes, 1,742 safer smoking bubble supplies, 4,531 safer smoking stem supplies, 850 safer snorting supplies** and **27,224 condoms** preventing the transmission of HIV/HCV and other sexually transmitted illnesses as well as skin and soft tissue injury and endocarditis.

We also gave out **1,165 wound care kits** to assist in the healing and prevention of infection, from simple abscesses to large concerning wounds that required a trusted connection to medical evaluation and interventions. We were able to provide numerous formal and informal trainings, distributed **16,294 doses of nasal naloxone, 28 injectable naloxone vials, 6,645 fentanyl test strips** and **195 xylazine test strips** and made over **720 overdose reversals reports** through our naloxone distribution.”

— SOOAR



[We] supported, within the allowable expenses, the provision of safe use supplies to



11,758

unique clients

during this reporting period.”

— *The Aliveness Project*



The project has served greater than

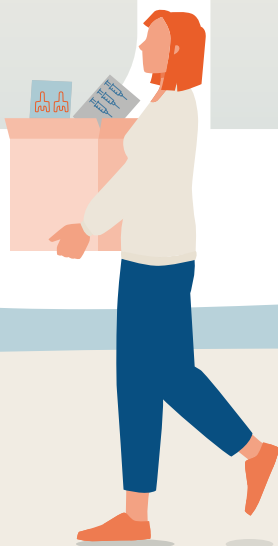


1,000

individuals,

with the most frequent types of services provided being overdose prevention, overdose education and naloxone training.”

— *VIP Community Services*



Assisting PWUD

The following are examples of how grantees assisted PWUD through grant-funded project activities.



[We completed]

868

mental health services referrals.

The high number of mental health services referrals demonstrates the project's effectiveness in identifying and addressing the mental health needs of participants, facilitating access to appropriate care and support."

— *Bridging Hope*



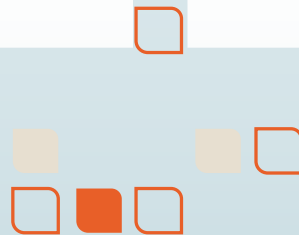
Case management services supported more than

1,700

people

over the grant period, linking clients to health care, substance use treatment, housing, pharmacies and necessary identification documents."

— *Charm City Care Connection*



Carlos [name changed] **was utilizing harm reduction** while deciding whether or not he was going to treatment. After a few weeks of contemplation, he decided to go to treatment. **Our Peer Recovery Coach driver used skills learned to help the client look at his life differently.** [Carlos] then graduated from treatment and is now going to a transitional support services (TSS) program and **is excited about the next steps in his journey.**"

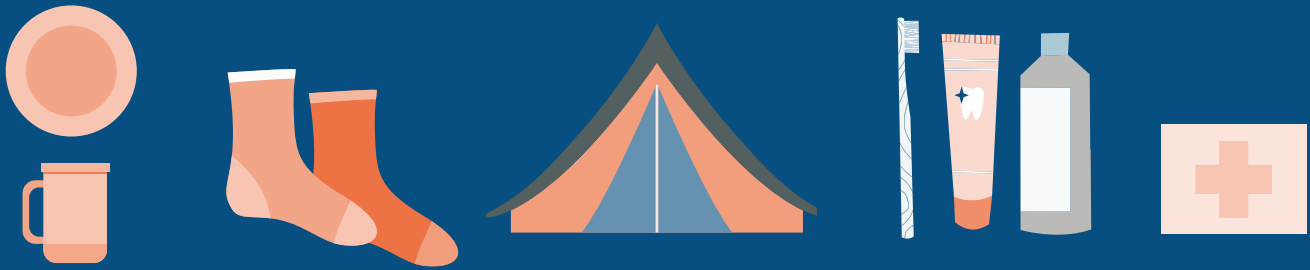
— *Gandara*

Out of the **398 individuals** that were contacted, we were able to maintain an **82% follow-up rate at 30 days and an 87% follow-up rate at 90 days.** Individuals were all connected with material aid such as sleeping bags, tents, food, clothing, solar showers, hygiene kits and first aid kits.”

— Project VIDA

We began to **work with an economist** who was able to show that [for] those returning to work, **for every dollar spent, there is a threefold benefit to the community.** This shows that harm reduction has a net economic benefit to the communities in which they operate.”

— Project VIDA



We distributed **3,067 hygiene kits** and **1,150 items useful for outdoor living**, such as **socks and sleeping bags.**”

— Sonoran Prevention Works

[In calendar year 2023], we provided **1,653 general hygiene kits** and **1,101 menstrual hygiene kits** to participants to reduce infections and ensure dignity for those who may not have access to resources such as running water or stable housing. ... We were [also] able to provide support to **511 known community members not registered to our program, 27 registered participants and 1,640 secondary distributions through 122 encounters.**”

— SOOAR

*Unallowable expenses were not purchased with grant funds.