

# **NORTH CAROLINA HARM REDUCTION COALITION (NCHRC)**

## *Protecting the Public's Health Since 2004*



*NCHRC provides life-saving services to the people of NC made vulnerable by HIV, hepatitis, STIs and overdose.*

### **THE ISSUES**

- There are over 1,100 fatal overdoses a year in North Carolina (NC), making them the state's second leading cause of injury death. Many deaths can be prevented through public education on overdose recognition and response, encouraging people to call 911 if an overdose occurs, and increasing access to naloxone—a medication that reverses opiate overdose.
- NC has an estimated 25,000 people who inject drugs (PWID) in urban areas. PWID can be exposed to HIV and viral hepatitis if they share syringes and other injection equipment. Contracting one of these diseases reduces the infected person's overall health and can lead to high costs for taxpayers and society.
- If PWID are afraid of being arrested for carrying syringes, they are less likely to tell law enforcement officers (LEOs) that they have them. This can lead to LEOs being accidentally stuck by a potentially infected syringe. One study estimated that 33% of police suffer needlesticks and 28% receive multiple sticks in their career. In NC, according to a NCHRC study among 80 law enforcement departments, LEOs have a 10% chance of getting stuck by a syringe or other sharp paraphernalia in their first 10 years of service.
- NC has over 35,000 people currently living with HIV/AIDS. Each case can cost up to \$600,000 in medical costs.
- There are 150,000 documented cases of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) in NC. The World Hepatitis Alliance estimated that as many as 1 in 12 people worldwide are infected with the hepatitis B (HBV) or HCV.
- Over 183,400 active crack users reside in NC. Sharing crack pipes can lead to viral hepatitis infection, which costs between \$100,000 and \$430,000 to treat.

### **NCHRC WORKING FOR YOU**

#### **-Overdose Prevention Advocacy:**

NCHRC successfully advocated for SB20, the "911 Good Samaritan/Naloxone Access" bill, effective 4/9/2013 and worked with Georgia advocates to successfully pass HB965, the "Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law," effective 4/24/2014. Under the new laws, people who experience an overdose and people who seek help for that person cannot be prosecuted for possession of small amounts of certain drugs, paraphernalia, or for underage drinking if LEOs arrive at the scene as a result of them seeking help. These laws allow for easier access and use of the opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone, also known as Narcan. The purpose of SB20 and HB965 is to help reduce overdose deaths in NC and GA and to emphasize saving lives, not making arrests, should an overdose occur.

#### **-Syringe Decriminalization Advocacy:**

NCHRC successfully advocated for HB850, "Needle-Stick Prevention/ Tell Law Officer" bill, effective 12/1/2013. Under the new law, people who alert an officer to the presence of syringes or other sharp objects on their person or premises, prior to search, the person cannot be charged or prosecuted for possession of such items. The immunity does not extend to drugs or other paraphernalia (e.g., cottons, baggies). The purpose of HB850 is to help protect LEOs from accidental needle-stick injury and improper disposal of used sharp objects in public spaces such as parks. According to one study syringe decriminalization leads to a 66% decrease in LEO needle-sticks and reduces the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis.

#### **-Media Advocacy:**

NCHRC successfully advocates for media coverage of harm reduction issues. We average over 300 media stories a year and have been featured in the Wall Street Journal, FOX, CNN, NBC, Slate and the Huff Post.

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### **IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW HARM REDUCTION LAWS**

**Implementation of SB20, HB965 and HB850:** NCHRC educates and raises awareness about SB20, HB965 and HB850 to LEOs, PWID, and the public through grassroots media campaigns, coalition building, community education, resource development, and outreach. We offer free, in-house training and informational materials to individuals and organizations interested in helping to raise awareness about the laws.

**Overdose Prevention Services:** NCHRC visits neighborhoods with the highest overdose incidence, community groups, methadone clinics and jails, and provides free, in-house overdose prevention training and dispenses the "Overdose Rescue Kits," which includes the life-saving drug naloxone. NCHRC's "Overdose Rescue Kits" saved the lives of 176 people between 8/1/2013 and 11/10/2014.

### **ADDITIONAL NCHRC SERVICES**

**Law Enforcement Advocacy and Services:** NCHRC provides free trainings to LEOs on needle-stick prevention, overdose recognition and response, how to start naloxone programs and working with PWID, people who use prescription pills not as prescribed and people engaged in sex work.

**Harm Reduction Outreach, Education and Services:** NCHRC provides public health education to help at-risk populations avoid drug overdose deaths, the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STI). Some of our services include free naloxone access, public health workshops, support and education groups for drug users and transgender people, risk-reduction counseling and referrals to drug treatment centers for community members, PWID, and sex workers.

**Resource Development:** NCHRC creates resources (e.g., brochures, law enforcement operations orders, policies, program overviews, service provider information, literature reviews, etc.) for the community. The focus of these resources is to reduce the spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and drug overdoses in vulnerable populations and also to raise awareness of the new laws, SB20 and HB850.

## **NORTH CAROLINA HARM REDUCTION COALITION**

<b><i>Staffing, Key Consultants and Leadership</i></b>	<b><i>Contact Information</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Board President:</i> Corey Davis, MSPH, JD</li> <li>-<i>Executive Director:</i> Robert Childs, MPH</li> <li>-<i>Advocacy and Communications Coordinator:</i> Tessie Castillo, BA</li> <li>-<i>Harm Reduction Medical and Advocacy Coordinator:</i> Leilani Attilo, MPH, BSN, RN</li> <li>-<i>Medical Director:</i> Logan Graddy, MD</li> <li>-<i>Law Enforcement Safety Advocate:</i> Detective Sergeant Ronald Martin</li> <li>-<i>Transgender Services Consultant:</i> Loftin Wilson</li> <li>-<i>Outreach Consultant:</i> Louise Vincent, MPH</li> <li>-<i>Outreach Consultant:</i> Steve "Mannie" Manning</li> <li>-<i>Outreach Consultant:</i> Steven Daniels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Email:</i> Robert.bb.childs@gmail.com</li> <li><i>Telephone:</i> (336) 543-8050</li> <li><i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.nchrc.org">http://www.nchrc.org</a></li> <li><i>Facebook:</i> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/nchrc-fb">http://tinyurl.com/nchrc-fb</a></li> <li><i>Vimeo:</i> <a href="https://vimeo.com/user6734193">https://vimeo.com/user6734193</a></li> <li><i>Twitter:</i> @NCharmreduction</li> <li><i>Huff Post Blog:</i> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/NCHRC-HP">http://tinyurl.com/NCHRC-HP</a></li> <li><i>Key Service Locations:</i></li> <li>-<i>Asheville (Southern US and Western NC Operations and Administration)</i></li> <li>-<i>Durham (Central and Eastern NC Operations and Legislative Affairs)</i></li> </ul>