

HARM REDUCTION: Safe Syringe Programs

Background

Caracole is a nonprofit located in Northside that provides **HIV prevention** services, medical **case management**, and **housing assistance** to community members living with HIV/AIDS. Caracole's mission centers around the practice of **harm reduction**, which is a public health approach aimed at mitigating negative health consequences associated with drug use while promoting the **rights, dignity, and respect** for people who use drugs.

Through Caracole's harm-reduction mission, the organization hosts weekly **safe syringe programs** (SSPs). These SSPs provide safe, controlled environments to distribute clean syringes, naloxone, wound care, and improve education on overdose prevention.



Identified Barriers to SSPs

- transportation
- availability
- awareness
- location
- stigma

Proposal:

Expand SSPs to limit the spread of HIV and hepatitis C and reduce overdose deaths in our community.



Why?

- Hamilton County remains a hotspot for high HIV and hepatitis C prevalence as well as overdose-related emergency department visits
- From 2023 to 2024, Hamilton County saw a 23% increase in new cases of HIV
- SSPs have been shown to effectively reduce disease transmission, yet their presence remains limited