

HB4039 HOPE ACT



Holistic Overdose Prevention and Equity Act

LaPointe, Ford, Cassidy, Faver Dias, Jiménez, Mah

HB2392: Holistic Overdose Prevention and Equity (HOPE) Act **enhances harm reduction through coordination, funding, and systemic support.**

What is Harm Reduction?

- Harm reduction is a set of **practical strategies** and a philosophy aimed at **reducing** negative consequences associated with drug use.

Harm Reduction Infrastructure & Leadership

- Creates a **Harm Reduction Program Board** that works to improve and expand harm reduction efforts statewide.
- The Board includes legislators, public health officials, harm reduction experts, and individuals with lived and living experience.
- Establishes a **Chief Harm Reduction Officer** to lead the state's efforts to provide harm reduction services, reduce stigma and increasing dignity for people who use drugs by overseeing programming and funding in Illinois.

Place-Based Approach

- Expands harm reduction services in communities with the highest rates of overdoses and greatest unmet needs.

Harm Reduction Training & Education

- Directs organizations implementing harm reduction to partner with harm reduction subject matter experts for training and technical assistance.
- Provides opportunities for local government agencies to access education on harm reduction laws and protections.
- Directs healthcare professionals to complete harm reduction training for license renewal.

Overdose Prevention in Health Care Facilities

- Directs hospitals to offer medication for opioid use disorder treatment and naloxone to people experiencing substance use challenges.
- Directs hospitals to add fentanyl to urine drug screenings and report identified results to the state.

3,261 people died of opioid-related overdoses in Illinois in 2022, **an average of 272 deaths** a month.

Access to Care in Jails and Prisons

- Requires jails to make medications for substance disorders available to incarcerated individuals and ensure continued access upon release.
- Mandates the provision of and education about naloxone and referral to a harm reduction provider upon release.
- Requires jails and prisons to make naloxone readily available to all staff and incarcerated individuals.

Low-Barrier Housing

- Directs community based service providers to adopt a low-barrier housing approach, prioritizing stable housing before other needs.
- Prohibits community based service providers funded or regulated by the state from rejecting applicants or evicting residents solely for sobriety requirements or arrest/conviction histories.
- Prohibits operators or owners of housing from rejecting applicants or evicting residents solely because they are taking medication for opioid use disorder.

Harm Reduction Grant Funding

- Creates a mechanism for annual grants to harm reduction providers from the Department of Public Health for services including sterile supplies, overdose education, and HIV/hepatitis services.
- Grants to cover staff compensation, research, outreach, and capital expenses.
- Creates a service array that is accessible, non-discriminatory, and employs people with lived experience.

Barrier Reduction

- Prohibits home rule units from banning harm reduction activities solely due to service type.
- Prohibits municipalities from adopting zoning regulations for the sole purpose of blocking legal harm reduction services such as safe supplies/syringe access programs.