

Saving and Changing the Lives of People Affected by the Opioid Epidemic

LIVE.LONG.DC., the Mayor’s plan to address the opioid epidemic, mobilizes the community to fight the epidemic with strong interagency coordination and community input and a range of direct services and supports for individuals dealing with substance use disorders.

Our goal is to reduce opioid use, misuse and related deaths to save lives.

Key District Responses:

- Rapid and Easy Access to Care
- Aggressive Overdose Surveillance
- Harm Reduction Services
- Treatment and Recovery
- Prevention and Education

Rapid and Easy Access to Care

- Opioid use disorder treatment available in every Ward.
- **Eliminated the \$1 copay** for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in 2020, allowing people to get medications to treat opioid use disorder free of charge.
 - More than 2,000 residents are managing this chronic, relapsing disease with MAT.
- Added specialized services for youth, pregnant and parenting women, **LGBTQ+** individuals, and residents in DC Jail.
- 24/7 crisis care and 24/7 access to care in hospitals, clinics, and DC Jail.



Aggressive Overdose Surveillance



- The ability to determine what drugs are in the drug supply.
- Real-time surveillance to deploy teams to areas where spikes in overdoses occur.

Harm Reduction Services

- **5,267 suspected overdoses reversed with naloxone, saving thousands of lives.**
- Fentanyl test strips are available free of charge at community-based organizations and in vending machines throughout the city.
- New Stabilization Center at 35 K Street, NE launched in October 2023.
- Four mobile and site-based syringe service programs that provide clean needles to prevent infection and disease transmission and clean up used supplies.



- **Made naloxone available in all DC public schools** and 71% of charter schools, and to shelters and residents who are unhoused.

What Is Harm Reduction?

Harm reduction is a proactive approach that includes services to reduce negative health outcomes associated with substance use. These human-centered services are available and accessible within the community.

Harm Reduction Vending Machines

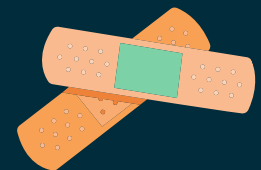
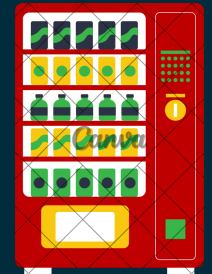
The District has **7 harm reduction vending machines** offering anonymous and free access to:

- naloxone
- fentanyl test strips
- wound care kits
- hygiene kits



Vending Machine Locations

- Fire Station Engine #7
1101 Half St. SW
- Fire Station Engine #2
500 F ST. NW
- Fire Station: Engine #33
101 Atlantic St. SE
- Fire Station: Engine #27
4260 Minnesota Ave. NE
- Whitman-Walker Max Robinson Center
1201 Sycamore Dr. SE
- Bread for the City
1525 7th St. NW
- HIPS
906 H Street NW



Treatment and Recovery



- Certified treatment providers are available in every Ward from **33 community-based providers.**
- Assessment and referral services

can be obtained from any DBH-certified provider and the Assessment and Referral Center (ARC).

- For more information, please visit dbh.dc.gov.
- Supported Employment to help people with substance use disorders obtain and retain gainful employment.
- Geomapping of treatment provider locations to visually show residents where they can seek care based on their location.
- Peer services and supports from individuals with lived experience.
- **Recovery housing provided for 500 individuals annually.**
- HIV testing and referral to care.
- Increased availability of the community response team that provides assessment, outreach, and referrals to care.



Prevention and Education

- Increased outreach through **40 community partners and faith-based organizations.**
- Targeted social marketing campaigns including:
 - “Be Ready”: naloxone distribution
 - “Hope”: engaging people who use in treatment
 - “Pause and Play”: youth drug education campaign
 - “My Recovery DC”: personal stories of recovery and connections to peer support
- Youth Ambassadors in four Prevention Centers serving all 8 Wards to provide drug education and raise awareness of treatment and support resources available.



Current Focus and Priorities

- Conducting **intensive outreach** to engage individuals who experience a nonfatal overdose in care.
- Targeted outreach to **raise awareness of the dangers of using alone** since 66% of those who had a fatal overdose in 2022 died in their homes or the home of a friend.
- Developing new youth drug education fentanyl awareness campaigns.
- Expand the availability of treatment and recovery housing and supports for youth.
- Increasing 24/7 availability of services on demand.
- Targeting occupations at high risk of overdose including construction workers, nightlife workers and healthcare professionals.
- Distributing naloxone to private businesses and universities.



Quick Start Guide to Getting Services

- Text “LiveLongDC” to 888-811 for naloxone, test strips, or service locations.
- For crisis mental health or substance use services, call 988.
- For connections to care, call the Access HelpLine at 1-888-7WEHELP or 1-888-793-4357.
- For clean-up of drug paraphernalia or syringe services, email syringe.cleanup@dc.gov
- Visit dbhtraininginstitute.networkofcare4learning.org to access a free, online naloxone training module.
- Email naloxone@dc.gov with training requests for groups of five or more, led by a certified naloxone trainer.
- Visit the District’s Stabilization Center, which provides immediate 24/7 care in a safe environment for people with substance use disorders. The new facility at 35 K Street NE offers emergency intervention, typically lasting 24-72 hours. To learn more, call 202-839-3500 or visit dbh.dc.gov.