



Position Statement on Harm Reduction Strategies for Substance Use Disorders including Overdose Prevention Sites and Fentanyl Test Strips

1. The American College of Physicians supports evidence-based harm reduction strategies to prevent overdose, reduce transmission of infectious diseases, encourage safe use protocols, and connect people who use drugs to medical care and substance use disorder treatment.
2. ACP supports federal funding for syringe support programs, including to purchase syringes/needles. Syringe support programs should be enabled to provide a range of services, including testing for infectious diseases and other conditions, drug education materials and checking supplies, naloxone distribution, and referrals to medical, behavioral health, and SUD treatment.
3. ACP recommends the decriminalization of drug checking supplies and syringe support program equipment, including fentanyl test strips and syringes/needles.
4. ACP supports pilot testing of overdose prevention sites (OPS) in high-need areas. OPS should be staffed and supervised by trained, qualified health professionals, and should provide a range of services, including naloxone, health and safety education, sterile supplies, screening, and referrals and/or treatment for infectious diseases, medical, and behavioral health care, including substance use disorders.
 - a. ACP recommends that legal barriers to OPS implementation be lifted to protect OPS operators from prosecution. Physicians and other health care professionals should be protected from professional sanction, such as loss of license or prescribing privileges, based solely on OPS participation.
 - b. OPS stakeholders should engage people who use drugs and other members of the community about the potential benefits of OPS to ensure buy-in.
 - c. Pilot OPS should be evaluated to determine effects on overdose morbidity and mortality, infectious disease control, safe use protocols, and public safety, and other outcomes.