

SHaRP Salons: Community Conversations on Harm Reduction Data

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR DATA?

2/29/2024



SHaRP: SUPPORTING HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

School of Medicine

UW Medicine

Introductions



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SHaRP Salons



Series of 3 community conversations to talk about some of harm reduction's common data issues, organized by SHaRP at UW and supported by NACCHO.

Today: How can we improve the quality of our data?

3/14: Sharing Data with Community and Participants

3/28: Asking Sensitive Questions

SSP Indicators Project Background

Started in 2023 with funding from CDC as part of the National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center (NHRTAC)

Aimed to develop community informed indicators that can be recommended to SSPs and harm reduction programs

As of December 2023, NACCHO and UW are no longer part of NHRTAC

SSP Indicators Project is continuing until July, 2024 under different CDC funding

Goals for Current Phase of SSP Indicators

1. Hold Salons to:

- Create space to discuss common data issues brought up by community
- Learn from each other and document creative solutions

2. Create implementation guide for indicators, coming out July 2024

SHaRP Team Values and Guiding Principles for Data

- Services first, data second
- Participant confidentiality (anonymity if possible)
- Minimize burden on programs and participants
- Only collect data that can be used to benefit people who use drugs and programs
- No one size fits all

Why does data quality matter?

- Respect for participants
- Respect for staff
- Recognition of limited resources

Why does data quality matter?

- Purpose of data is often to get a picture of what is going on
- Low quality data can lead to a low quality picture
- Hard to evaluate progress on goals or make decisions on programmatic changes if data is inaccurate, incomplete, or unusable

What do we mean by data quality?

Accurate

- *Data is valid and representative of the real-world situation we are trying to capture*

Complete

- *Data is consistent, complete, and as free as possible from errors*

Usable

- *Data is relevant and analyzable*



Obstacles to data quality

Either raise your hand and unmute, or enter into the chat:

What are obstacles you face to collecting high quality data at your SSP or harm reduction program?

Obstacles to Data Collection in Harm Reduction

Burdensome data collection mandated by funders/reporting entities

Collecting more data than is needed (e.g., demographic data at every encounter)

Collecting data that's not relevant to services

Services should come first, but that means data doesn't

Focus on participant privacy and security

Underresourced programs

Often working in nontraditional settings



Strategies to improve data quality

- Collect minimal data to focus on quality, not quantity
- Protect participant privacy and establish rapport
- Direct service staff and participant input into data systems
- Train staff
- Build robust data systems

Breakout groups

We'll be discussing strategies for how you've improved your data quality

20 minutes

Facilitated by SHaRP team members

Short shareback when we come back

Report back will be sent out next week



Share back

- Please share 2-3 major themes from the discussion

Upcoming SHaRP Salons

3/14: Sharing Data with Community and Participants

3/28: Asking Sensitive Questions

THANK YOU!



We appreciate your attendance,
participation, and contributions!

Report back from today will come
out next week



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