

KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS! A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR **FIRST RESPONDERS**



This document is intended to inform **First Responders** about other key partners that provide **naloxone and harm reduction** services to individuals across the Commonwealth. These partners are great places to refer individuals that need access to additional services after interactions with first responders. First Responders should continue to utilize the [VACP First Responder Naloxone Program](#) for training and resources available to first responders.

LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICTS

Local Health Districts (LHDs) are public health entities aimed at the prevention of disease and the promotion of health. Most health districts are comprised of multiple local health departments that offer a variety of services and programs including, but not limited to Family Health Services, Environmental Health Services, Disease Surveillance, Investigation and Prevention, and Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Local Health Districts serve as a primary resource for no-cost naloxone access for individuals in their communities and can provide connections to testing and treatment for health concerns that are linked to drug use, including HIV and Hepatitis C. LHDs partner with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and other community partners to provide REVIVE! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education lay rescuer trainings to the local community. These lay rescuer trainings are not sufficient for law enforcement and other first responders, but first responders can refer citizens to their [local LHD](#) to seek training and naloxone access.

Scan the QR code to locate your local health district.



COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARDS

[Community Service Boards](#) (CSBs) are agencies that offer community mental health, developmental, and substance use disorder services to those with mental health or substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, or co-occurring disorders. CSBs act as community educators, organizers, and planners by assessing the needs of their communities, developing plans to meet those needs, and providing or contracting for services to meet those needs in the most accessible and integrated yet least restrictive settings possible. As part of their substance use disorder treatment and prevention efforts, CSBs offer training and naloxone access to clients and their surrounding communities.

Scan the QR code to find your local Virginia Community Services Boards.



COMPREHENSIVE HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

[Comprehensive Harm Reduction](#) (CHR) consists of strategies individuals can take to reduce the negative impact of drug use such as drug overdose, death, and/or transmission of **HIV, hepatitis C** or other infectious diseases. CHR Programs offer education and resources about harm reduction for individuals who are unable to or not ready to stop using drugs. CHR Programs may also be called syringe services or needle exchange, though not every CHR program may offer this service. Other services offered may include: the distribution of sterile and disposal of used hypodermic needles and syringes; naloxone for overdose reversal; education; peer support; referral to drug treatment; testing for HIV and hepatitis; linkage to medical care and support services.

Numerous scientific studies demonstrate that syringe exchange programs can play an important role in reducing HIV and viral hepatitis infection and advancing public safety, including the safety of law enforcement officials.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Syringe Exchange.



The Virginia Department of Health oversees **10** authorized comprehensive harm reduction sites across the Commonwealth that provide these services to individuals who use drugs. Though CHRs make up a small percentage of our eligible partners that receive no-cost naloxone from VDH, these CHRs are responsible for about 25% of the naloxone distributed throughout the state. CHRs primarily dispense naloxone and harm reduction test strips to their clients and clients' loved ones and friends. Harm reduction test strips are a low-cost method of helping prevent drug overdoses and reducing harm. Test strips can detect the presence of harmful illicit drugs (fentanyl, benzodiazepine, xylazine) in all different kinds of drugs (cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, etc.) and drug forms (pills, powder, and injectables), allowing users to take steps to reduce risk of overdose.

Scan the QR code to learn more about comprehensive harm reduction.

