



Standing in the Gap

GHHRC Mission

- The Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition (GHHRC) is dedicated to promoting the dignity and wellbeing of individuals and communities impacted by drug use. Through advocacy, training and service, GHHRC aims to ensure the availability, adequacy, accessibility and acceptability of services and resources that remediate the adverse consequences of drug use.

Basic Principles

- We are dedicated to serving the most vulnerable in our communities
- Basic principles of harm reduction “meet people where they are at”
- We are different things to different people depending on the level of their need

“WE GET IT”

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT:

- Substance Use / Abuse
- Treatment Options / Referrals
- HIV / HEP-C Screenings
- Shelter Referrals
- Syringe Exchange
- Narcan® / Naloxone
- & Much More

THE 557 DROP
BY GHHRC

Come In! Have A Seat! Relax!

(Office): 860-263-8720
Fax: 860-461-0242
www.GHHRC.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
557 Albany Ave, Hartford, CT 06112

GHHRC Programs/Services

- “557 The Drop” (Drop-in Center)
- 559 Meeting, Testing and Program space (DPH OSATx License pending)
- Mobile-1 Outreach Fleet
 - 1 RV (MAT resources)
 - 2 Outreach Vans
- 28 Grand Street (Resource Center / HQ)
 - Homeless Outreach
 - Cold Weather Shelter (Best Western Hotel)
 - Syringe Outreach Response Team (SORT)
- Rovers
 - Onboard all Mobile-1 vehicles
 - Low threshold access to harm reduction best practices
- Food/PPE Distribution
 - 500 lunches / week
 - Carter Cares Bulk food collaboration

Through all of these tools and points of engagement, at our core we are harm reduction by mission, vision and values.



Some of the services we offer are:

- Shelter/housing referrals
- Questions about substance use/abuse/Opioid Use Disorders
- Provide treatment referrals/transportation
- Syringe exchange
- Condoms/safe sex kits/lubricants
- Specialty condoms
“Magnum, Rough Ryder,
Non lubricated Flavors
- Safe crack use kits/ supplies
- Wound care and safe injection techniques
- HIV/HCV screenings
- Narcan/Naloxone
- Overdose prevention training
- Assistance obtaining Identification
- Syringe Outreach Response Team (SORT)

Meet the Team



Programs: “557 The Drop”

- September 2018: Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc. (GHHRC) has operated “557 The Drop”
- The Drop: a low-threshold drop-in center developed to engage and provide harm reduction services to at-risk individuals in Hartford



“557 The Drop” – Overview

- Our average Monday-Friday traffic at "The Drop" was running between 75-110 visits per day, and 35-50 on weekends
- Due to physical restrictions we are only able to accommodate approximately 25-35 people per day, primarily for exchanges

“557 The Drop” – Impact

- Aug-31-2018 - Aug-31-2019
 - 12,819 visits
 - 642 new intakes
 - 74 referrals resulting in admission and/or transportation to TX.
 - 3683 SSP transactions
 - 2119 Safer crack kits
 - 400+ Safer Sex kits/ 16k+ from open dispensers
 - 3489 uses of OPS bathroom
 - 440 Naloxone kits

“557 The Drop” – Safe Spaces

- Most importantly we are a “safe space” & overdose prevention site.
- We are not a “SIF,” as SIF’s are illegal
- Responding to reality that many public consumption spaces include businesses like McDonald’s, Burger King, Dunkin’ Donuts, Starbucks and your local library
 - These spaces are unsupervised and as a result have seen many unnecessary deaths occur in these and other locations











“557 The Drop” - Successes



“557 The Drop” Successes – Expanding to 559

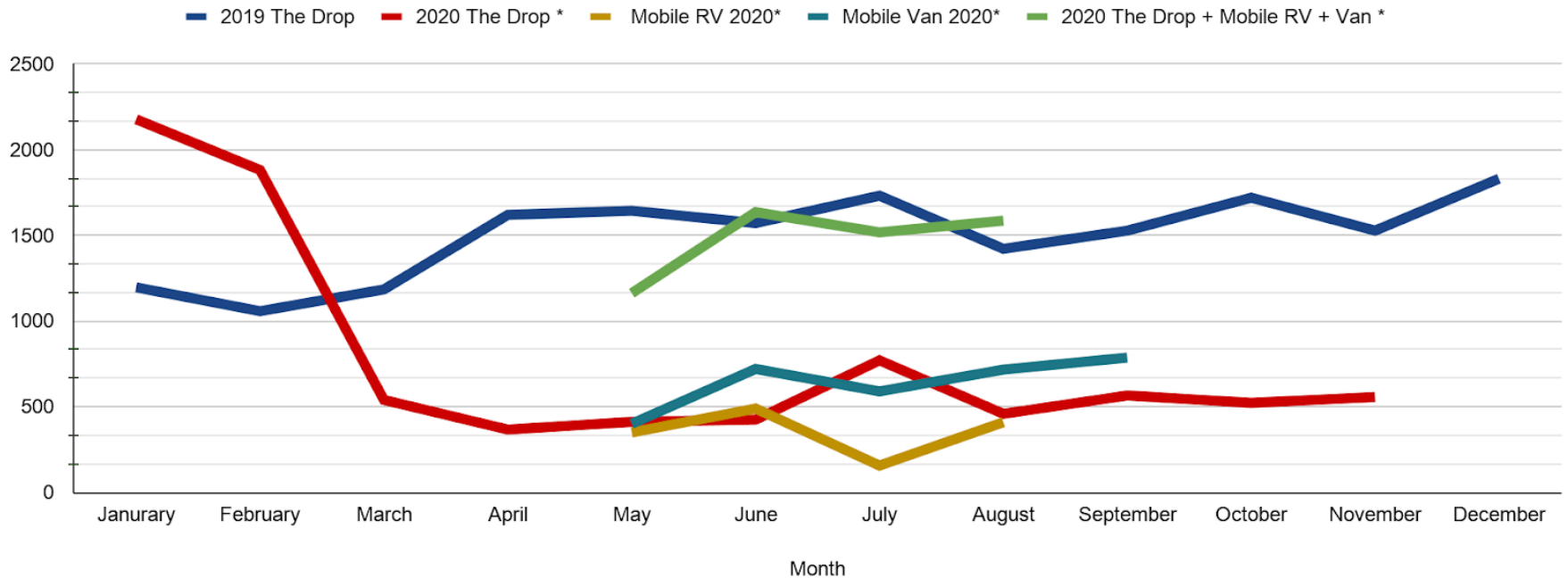


“557 The Drop” Successes – Expanding to 559



GHHRC by the Numbers

Greater Hartford Harm Reduction: Total Visits



COVID-19 Response – Evolving Service Delivery



GHHRC sought formal approval by the CT Department of Community and Economic Development as an organization that delivers "essential services" (Case No: 00007317)



While the premium on physical/social distancing has altered our services delivery significantly, there has been a notable increase in the demand for our services over the last several months

COVID-19 Response: A Changing Landscape

Since the onset of the pandemic and the resulting local restrictions, we have had to take “Standing in the Gap” to a whole new level.



Programs: Mobile-1



**QUESTIONS?
DIRECT
SERVICES.**

Mobile-1 RV:: 860-883-9587

Mobile-1 MV:: 860-778-6325

Mobile-1 MV2:: 860-913-6877

“We Get It”

- Substance Use / Abuse
- Referrals / Transportation
- Health Screenings
- Shelter Referrals
- Syringe Exchange
- Free Narcan® / Naloxone
- & Much More

Mobile-1 @ The Best Western



Mobile-1 @ Community Court



Mobile-1 Opening Hearts & Minds



Mobile-1 in the Community



Mobile-1 @ Night (Flags Up!)



Mobile-1 Non-Traditional Outreach



Programs: The Resource Center @ 28 Grand Street

- Recently added homeless street outreach programming
- Homelessness prevention partnership w/ South Park Inn, includes providing programming space, with plans to add Rapid Re-Housing component soon
- Weekly OEND (Overdose Education Naloxone Distribution) trainings to the public
- Rover distribution center
- Harm reduction supply depot

Programs: GHHRC Rover



Rover Ready

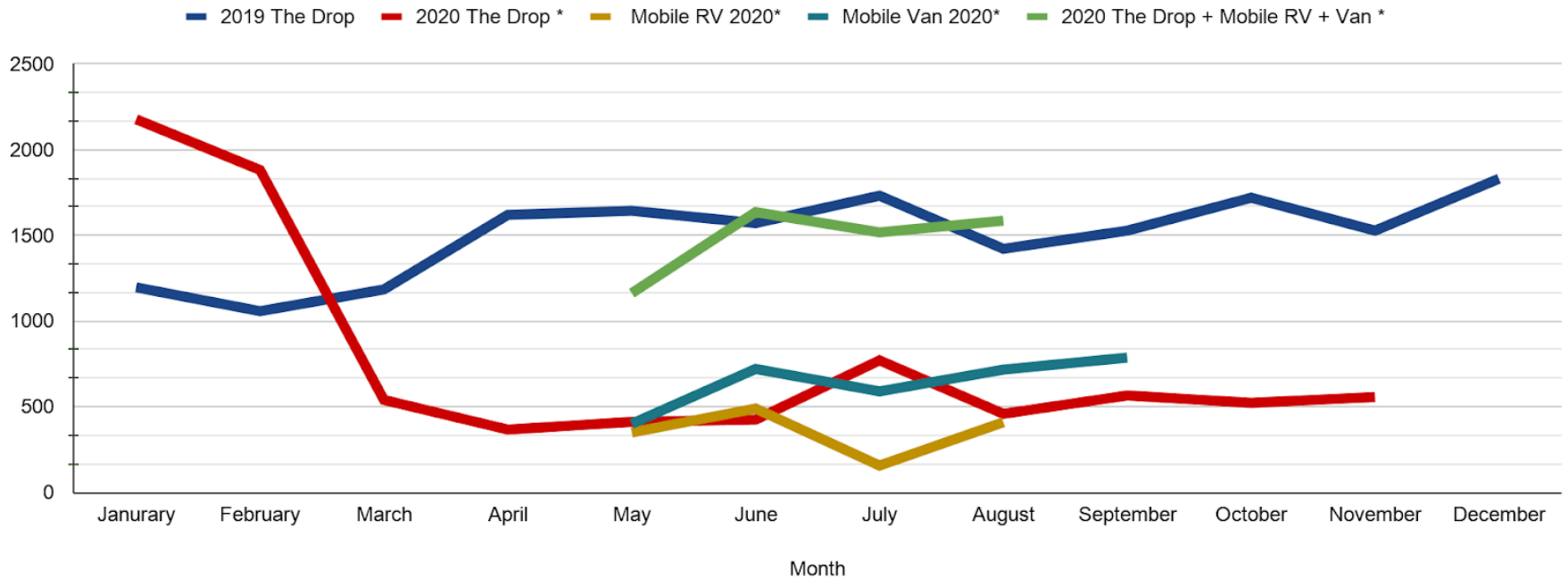


Rover in the Community



GHHRC by the Numbers

Greater Hartford Harm Reduction: Total Visits



Programs: Food Distribution



Food Distribution @ The Drop



COVID-19 Response – Educational Materials

BE AWARE THAT SOME EARLY SYMPTOMS OF WITHDRAWAL AND COVID-19 INFECTION ARE SIMILAR.

These include fever and muscle soreness. If symptoms include a persistent cough, it could be COVID-19

YOU ARE AT AN INCREASED RISK OF BECOMING SERIOUSLY ILL OR DYING:

(1) COVID-19 infection will worsen breathing impacts of opioids; (2) opioid withdrawal may worsen breathing difficulties; (3) smoking drugs, like crack or meth, makes breathing problems worse.

DIFFICULT TO INHALE:

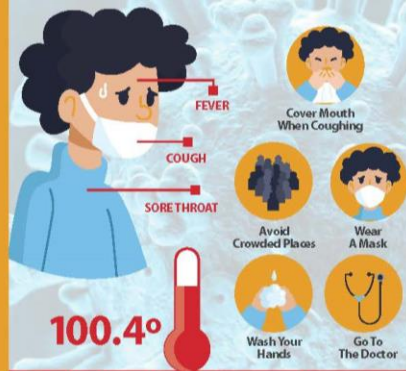
If you smoke drugs, like crack or meth, COVID-19 infection will make it more difficult to inhale smoke. Smoking drugs will worsen breathing problems.

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING SICK:

Avoid going to your local harm reduction and addictions programs - HAVE THEM DELIVER SUPPLIES TO YOU. Tell them you are sick so they can take steps to keep themselves safe.

BE PREPARED FOR INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL:

Be ready to go through involuntary withdrawal. Your dealer might get sick or the drug supply might be disrupted. Try to be prepared by stocking up. Talk to a medical provider about starting methadone or buprenorphine. Make sure you have all the necessary medications, food, and drinks needed to help detox. Try to have protein-based and electrolyte drinks like Pedialyte or Ensure on hand.



GUIDANCE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE SUBSTANCES ON COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS)

People who use drugs often have weaker immune systems, respiratory (breathing) problems, and other conditions that place them at a higher risk of getting COVID-19 infection. Help everybody safe by following this advice.

You can reduce your risk for COVID-19 infection by staying at least six feet away from other people, coughing or sneezing into your arm, avoiding touching your face, and washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS

- ✓ Fever ✓ Cough ✓ Shortness of Breath
- ✓ Diarrhea ✓ Vomit ✓ Pneumonia

TRANSMISSION

- ✓ Contaminated Objects ✓ Air ✓ Humans

Sex Workers and Allies Network – (SWAN)

Call or Text: 475-441-4350

The Syringe Services Program at the Community Health Care Van/Mobile Services/Yale University

Call: (Rolo) 203-823-0743,
(Angel) 203-996-0162, or (Migdalia) 203-535-2081

For Full Listing of CT SSPs Visit

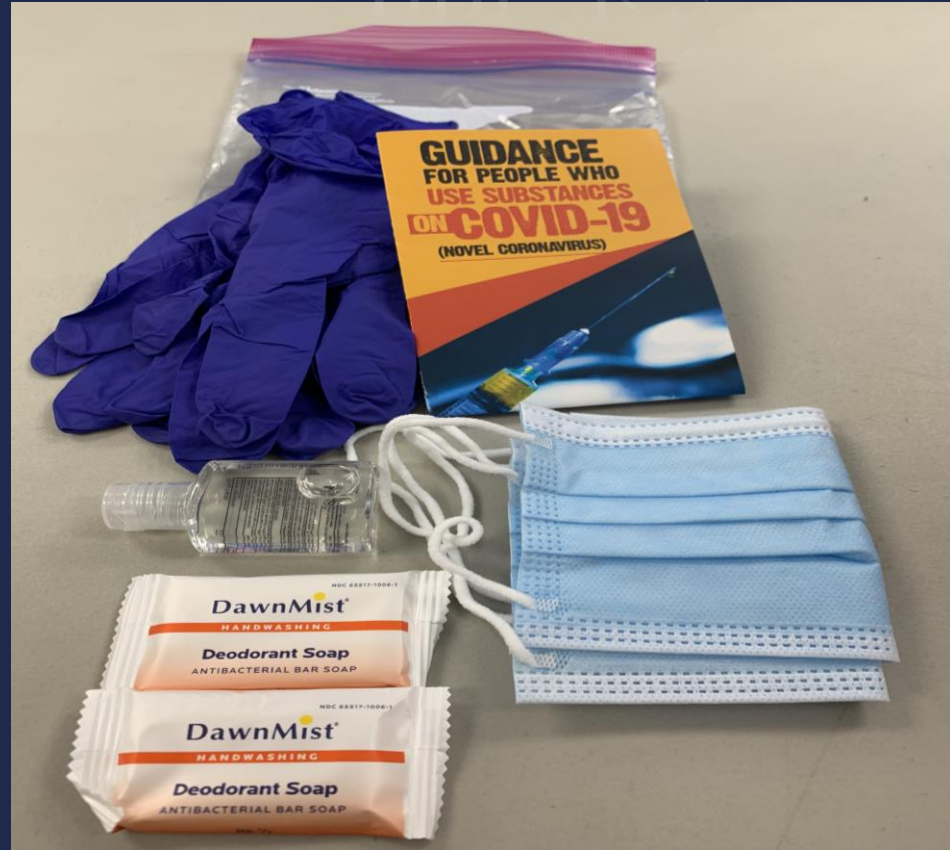
www.ghhrc.org | @GHHRC

For Additional Support and Services

Call or Visit: 860-263-8720 | Drop-In Site | Open 7 Days A Week
557 Albany Ave, Hartford, CT 06112 | 28 Grand St, Hartford, CT 06106



COVID-19 Response - PPE Kits



COVID-19 Response – Food Distribution



COVID-19 Response – SORT



COVID-19 Response – Cold Weather Shelter



Recommendations



Thank You!!