



# Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana

## AALM.info

## HARM REDUCTION POLICY PAPER

October 3, 2023

### DRUG POLICY: HARM PREVENTION VS HARM REDUCTION – IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana provides information on the harms of marijuana to individuals and our country based on the science and on the premises of “No Use of Any Illegal Drugs” and “No Illegal Use of Legal Drugs.”

AALM supports Harm Prevention and opposes strategies that support ongoing drug use. We do not consider programs such as needle exchange and safe injection sites that allow for continued drug use to be effective in reducing harm.

Harm Reduction policies as promoted by the marijuana lobby have always been a deceitful scheme aimed at maintaining use of harmful illegal drugs.

**“We will use [medical marijuana] as a red herring to give marijuana a good name.”**

*- Keith Stroup, head of NORML  
to the Emory Wheel, 1979*

### HARM PREVENTION

Harm Prevention has the best potential for effectively and humanely addressing the drug problem and protecting individuals and the community from drug related harm.

In the past, Harm Prevention programs, policies and other strategies caused a positive change in public attitudes about illicit drugs, which resulted in significant decline in drug use, especially by youths. A social context in which drug use is not accepted is essential in decreasing drug use.

**Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between the perception of harm and drug use trends among young people.**

*- Monitoring the Future Surveys.*

Harm Prevention has a proven track record. During the Reagan Administration in the 1980s, our drug policy had a united and consistent voice about the dangers of marijuana and other illicit drugs. Parents, educators, business leaders, sports figures and other community leaders worked hand in hand with government at the local and national levels with strong anti-drug messages. They turned the tide against the use of harmful drugs that resulted in a significant decline in drug use across America at that time.

Harm Prevention supports sobriety standards in treatment and recovery and mandated treatment, where needed, as it is about the prevention of ongoing harmful drug use and the saving of lives.

The emergency use of Naxolone is a life-saving strategy for overdose cases. It does not support ongoing drug use. Anyone who overdoses should be referred to or mandated to go to treatment.

Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana is an all-volunteer IRS approved non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to providing information on the harms of marijuana to individuals and our Country based on the premise of No Use of Any Illegal Drug and No Illegal Use of Legal Drugs.

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## THE DEFINITION AND PRACTICE OF HARM REDUCTION HAS EVOLVED

**Harm Reduction is the direct descendent of the failed “responsible use” initiatives of 20 years ago and the result was record levels of drug use by young people, many of whom became the middle aged addicts of today.**

*-Robert Dupont, M.D.*

*Former Director of National Institute of Drug Abuse.*

With needle exchange legislation before the California legislature in 1989, prominent African American Congressman Charlie Rangel said to drug prevention advocates that needle exchange program would be the genocide of his people.

**An advocate for Harm Reduction claims it is an approach which aims to reduce the harm from drugs. He states the primary prevention approach to drug education ignores the fun, the pleasure of drug use. He claims it is important we understand quite clearly that drug use is purposeful. He states that drug use is fun for young people & drug use brings benefits to them. He asserts there are no good or bad drugs, just improper use and that rather than trying to stop drug use we should try and modify it to ensure safer and more responsible use.**

*- “Taking Drugs Seriously”, Julian Cohen*

**The National Harm Reduction Coalition (NHRC) is a national nonprofit promoting safe drug use. Skeptics argue harm reduction messaging has become increasingly dangerous, with billboards advising drug users to “do it with friends,” nonprofits handing out meth pipes attached to Valentine's cards, and more.**

***“Meth pipe valentines? Harm reduction advocates, critics at odds over best way to help drug users.”***

*- Hannah Ray Lambert*

*Fox News, June 30, 2023*

## MANDATORY TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION ARE NO LONGER PART OF HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Many harm reduction programs and housing programs no longer support sobriety standards.

**Amid towering, unoccupied office buildings, San Francisco's open air drug markets allow cartel-backed dealers to roam free, while a multi-million dollar industry of nonprofits such as the Drug Policy Alliance vocally reject treatment as a viable solution. It's no surprise that residents at the front lines are fed up with the results.**

***“Why harm reduction’ policies are causing more harm than good.”***

*- Jared Klickstein*

*NY POST, May 20, 2023*

Drug legalization advocates use harm reduction as drug use maintenance and so called “safe use” of harmful, illegal drugs.

The Drug Policy Alliance, founded by George Soros and Ethan Nadlemann of the Lindesmith Center, leading proponent of drug legalization, since 1990, has spent over \$300 million promoting the legalization of harmful drugs.

The Drug Policy Alliance supports harm reduction as a way to meet people where they are and to form connections give people with tools that reduce the risks of drug use - not to get people off drugs. DPA works to protect drug dealers from tough sentencing measures to reduce arrests and incarceration for people who sell drugs. <https://drugpolicy.org/>

## HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS ARE FAILING

Ricci Wynne, a drug abstinence advocate and former drug dealer, told a news reporter that the homeless in San Francisco “don’t need more syringes, they don’t need crack pipes, they don’t need tinfoil. They need abstinence - based treatment, they need to get clean, they need help to get back on the road to recovery,” said Wynne.

*“San Francisco addicts are in ‘a state of bondage’ by syringe programs, former drug user says.”*  
- Fox News January 2023

"We're normalizing addiction and really our focus is on handing out needles and foil. But recovery, I think, has to be the goal."

*“Voters Remorse: Blue state survey shows majority want to re-criminalize drugs: We made an enormous mistake.”*  
- Hannah Ray Lambert  
Fox News May 18, 2023

Harm Reduction should not be used as addiction maintenance. Harm reduction has been a disaster of inefficiency and has caused homelessness to skyrocket in California. Harm reduction policies allow for the free flow of hard drugs into housing units.

*-Andy Bales, former director of  
The Union Rescue Mission, in Los Angeles,  
the largest homeless shelter in the country.  
public@substack.com June 25, 2023*

In 2016, under Gov. Gavin Newsom, California adopted the Housing First program. It was aimed to get anyone experiencing homelessness into government-subsidized housing as quickly as possible, while also removing barriers to access the housing such as requirements for sobriety and no criminal background. However, San Diego County Supervisor Desmond said

“The state housing policy has backfired. If you had a loved one or family member that needed drug treatment or needed mental health treatment, would you send them to a facility that did not require programs or treatment? That’s exactly what the government is doing and that’s exactly what Housing First allows.”

*“Local leaders lambast California housing policy for homeless.”*  
- FOX 5 San Diego, June 2, 2023

The passing of California’s SB1380 in 2016 outlawed any sobriety or treatment requirements for homeless drug addicts receiving state-funded housing. As a result, nonprofits seeking access to the cash cow of public funding must push a Housing First ideology that rejects any form of abstinence-based treatment for homeless drug addicts.

*“Why harm reduction’ policies are causing more harm than good.”*  
- Jared Klickstein  
NY POST, May 20, 2023

Canada has adopted harm reduction. Change is needed, and yet the only change that authorities are keen to consider is providing more harm reduction - more injection sites, more and different drugs handed out, and less law enforcement. They’re doubling down on the same losing hand. Alberta, which in contrast has prioritized a range of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services, is seeing positive results in decreasing opioid-related fatalities. The colloquial definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over but expecting a different result. But with 27,000 deaths later and no end in sight, we need to stop the tragic insanity of harm reduction.

*“Let’s face it. Harm reduction has failed”*  
- The Hub June 14, 2022, Canada

## DRUG LEGALIZATION PROPONENTS HIJACKED THE TERM HARM REDUCTION

The term Harm Reduction has been hijacked by drug legalization advocates who are people and programs that allow for ongoing drug use under the guise of reducing harm are actually involved in Harm Promotion.

Harm Promotion supports the continued use of harmful drugs and is not aimed at attaining sobriety and long-term health.

This Harm Reduction - Harm Promotion campaign is an inhumane marketing scheme to keep people addicted to drugs.

Their mantra is "KEEP USING - DON'T DIE - JUST KEEP BUYING HARMFUL DRUGS"

HARM PREVENTION A BETTER SAFER DRUG  
POLICY APPROACH

"Stopping drug addiction and interdicting it is the better way to save lives than is normalizing drug use by handing out paraphernalia for drugs," the Mayor of Vista John Franklin said.  
***"Clean drug paraphernalia distribution sparks controversy in North County."***  
- Misha Dibono Fox 5 July 17, 2023

**"Harm Reduction" can be entry into health care and a step toward Recovery, which includes not only abstinence but also character development. But Harm Reduction can also be a dead end that justifies and perpetuates harmful and unhealthy drug use.**

- Dr. Robert Dupont  
former head of NIH and  
President of The Institute for  
Behavior and Health Inc.

**Typical harm reduction programs are not effective in getting people into treatment as they don't include the opportunity for mandated treatment. Civil commitment laws work in getting people into lifesaving treatment.**

- David G. Evans, Esq  
Compassionate Justice Position Statement,  
Americans Against Marijuana Legalization.  
[www.AALM.info](http://www.AALM.info)

**Harm Prevention is the most humane, most effective,  
most cost-effective approach to saving lives and to  
ultimately ending the drug abuse crisis.**



Visit us online at [www.aalm.info](http://www.aalm.info) for  
more information on this and other topics.