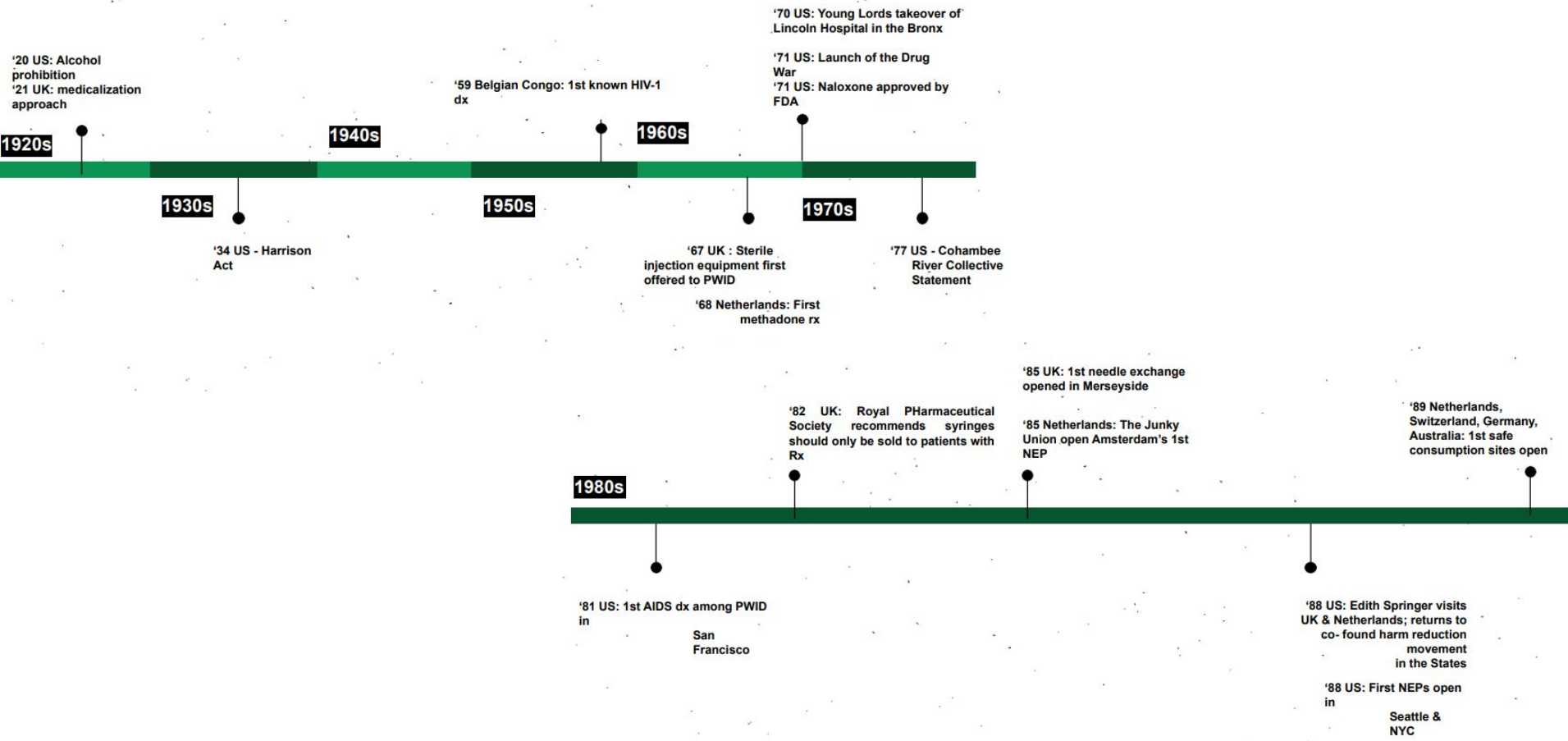


SUPPLIES FOR SAFER USE

For overdose & Infectious Disease prevention

Melissa Cross, RN & Malia Lewis, MSW

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HARM REDUCTION



HARM REDUCTION 101 - PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION⁽¹⁾

Accepts, for better or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them

Drug use happens

Understands drug use as a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe use to total abstinence, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others

Drug use is complex

Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being – not necessarily cessation of all drug use – as the criteria for successful interventions and policies

Quality of life,
health & well-being

Calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing attendant harm

Non-judgemental & Non-coercive

HARM REDUCTION 101 - PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION₍₂₎

Ensures that people who use drugs and those with a history of drug use routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them

Nothing about us, without us

Affirms people who use drugs (PWUD) themselves as the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use and seeks to empower PWUD to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use

Empower autonomy to reduce harm

Recognize trauma & social inequality

Recognizes that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination, and other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm

Real harm & danger with drug use

Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger that can be associated with illicit drug use

LANGUAGE & STIGMA

- People using substances, people who use drugs (PWUD), people who inject drugs (PWID)
- Person in recovery, person in remission
- Negative or positive UA results
- Intoxicated, altered perception of reality
- Protective behaviours, trauma response
- Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), treatment
- Tolerance, dependence, craving, compulsion

ANATOMY OF AN SSP



BENEFITS OF DISTRIBUTION

- Information on Safer Drug Use
- Free sterile syringe service programs
- Free safer smoking supplies
- Sterile injection and smoking equipment
- Overdose prevention and reversal (naloxone)
- Community drug checking
- Medical waste disposal

CO-LOCATED SERVICES

- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- Contingency Management for Stimulant Use Disorder
- Testing for HIV, HCV and other STIs
- Sexual and reproductive health supplies
- Basic wound care and oral antibiotics
- Routine vaccinations
- Basic needs for food and nutrition

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Harm reduction comes from community for community
- Harm reduction directly benefits the health of the community.
- Harm reduction is a decades old approach.
- Each supply we provide has a purpose.

WE LOVE QUESTIONS!

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