

Harm Reduction Vending Machines Will Save Lives in Maricopa County

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The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (the Alliance) announces the availability of harm reduction vending machines at two Community Health Centers (CHCs) within Maricopa County. Valle del Sol and Terros Health have recently made available to the public vending machines with *free* lifesaving products to address the opioid crisis and reduce drug overdoses.

The Alliance recognizes the urgent need for proactive measures to reduce the harm caused by the opioid epidemic and to improve the health and wellbeing of diverse, underserved communities. This innovative initiative is aimed at enhancing public health and safety by increasing the public's access to harm reduction tools, which promotes community wellbeing and ultimately supports lifesaving efforts in the community.

These state-of-the-art harm reduction vending machines are strategically placed within these CHCs and designed to address the urgent and diverse needs of the local communities. The vending machines offer a range of items aimed at promoting safer practices and preventing the harmful consequences of substance use disorders and overdoses.

Lifesaving items available in the harm reduction vending machines include:

- **Narcan (Naloxone Nasal Spray):** Narcan is an FDA-approved medication that rapidly reverses opioid overdose. Via the vending machines, it will be readily available to individuals who may find themselves in a position to administer lifesaving aid to someone that is overdosing on opioids.
- **Fentanyl Testing Strips:** In response to the increasing prevalence of fentanyl in illicit drugs, the vending machines offer testing strips to help users detect the presence of fentanyl and make informed decisions about consumption.
- **Xylazine Testing Strips:** These testing strips are designed to detect the presence of Xylazine, a veterinary sedative increasingly found as a dangerous contaminant in street drugs.

"The introduction of these harm reduction vending machines represents a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to enhance public health and safety within Maricopa

County," said Jessica Yanow, President & CEO for the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers. "By making these crucial harm reduction tools easily accessible, we aim to empower individuals, families, and communities to take proactive measures in the face of substance use."

We encourage community members, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to join in making more harm reduction vending machines available to create safer, healthier communities for all.

The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (the Alliance) is the Primary Care Association for the State of Arizona. The Alliance provides training and technical assistance to Arizona's Community Health Centers (CHCs) in support of their mission to deliver comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services to all Arizonans. The Alliance represents Arizona's CHCs who serve low-income, vulnerable, and underserved patients in rural and urban communities across the state. Arizona's CHCs serve 817,000 patients annually, which represents over 10% of Arizona's population. CHCs provide primary care services including medical, dental, behavioral health, substance use disorder, and pharmacy.

Harm Reduction Vending Machines located at:

Terros Health
3864 N. 27th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85017

**Terros Health-
HIV/STI Services**
333 E. Indian School Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Valle del Sol
1209 S. 1st Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85003

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