



Injury-Free
NC

2023

INJURY-FREE NC ACADEMY

HARM REDUCTION AS TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICE

APRIL/MAY ACADEMY

APRIL 25 - 26 (VIRTUAL)

&

**MAY 4 - 5 (IN-PERSON)
ALBERMARLE, NC**

- OR -

JUNE ACADEMY

JUNE 13 - 14 (VIRTUAL)

&

**JUNE 22 - 23 (IN-PERSON)
ASHEVILLE, NC**

Apply to attend the Academy here!

https://ncivpb.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cDf68gFol0FsjNs

In-person component subject to change based on public health guidance. Health and safety guidelines will be followed for any in-person gatherings. Final in-person locations will be confirmed by March 2023.

WHAT IS THE **INJURY-FREE NC ACADEMY?**

The Injury-Free NC Academy, a collaboration between the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch and the University of North Carolina's Injury Prevention Research Center, is a training and program development resource for injury and violence prevention practitioners in North Carolina. Each cycle of the IFNC Academy focuses on a timely topic affecting North Carolinians.

The 2023 IFNC Academy on Harm Reduction as Transformative Practice will focus on moving from theory to practice and implementing a variety of harm reduction programs to serve people who use drugs.

The purpose of this Academy is to work with community based organizations, local health departments, coalitions, and individuals who want to learn about harm reduction principles and how to incorporate them into overdose prevention work.

What is harm reduction?

A harm reduction approach means understanding that people using drugs, even if they are not seeking treatment, should be given the care, resources, and information necessary to reduce health risks associated with drug use, and improve their general health and well-being.

Harm reduction is a framework for promoting the health and dignity of people who use drugs that meets people where they are rather than making judgements about where they should be in terms of their personal health and lifestyle.

Harm reduction programs do not have abstinence requirements for participants or use abstinence as a measure of success in one's recovery. Rather, programs operating with a harm reduction framework consider a person's happiness, stability, and overall well-being as metrics to gauge successful recovery.

Harm reductionists also recognize that issues like untreated mental health conditions, homelessness/insecure housing, involvement with the criminal justice system, inadequate employment, and other social determinants of health can exacerbate harms, including drug use, and that chaotic drug use cannot be effectively and sustainably addressed without also addressing other areas of health, wellness, and justice.

TIMELINE

JANUARY 11, 2023

Apply to Attend the Academy

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND DECISIONS

10 **FEBRUARY 10**
APPLICATION CLOSES

17 **FEBRUARY 17**
SELECTED PARTICIPANTS
NOTIFIED

APRIL/MAY ACADEMY

25&26 **APRIL 25 & 26**
SESSION 1 (VIRTUAL)

4&5 **MAY 4 & 5**
SESSION 1 (IN-PERSON)

JUNE ACADEMY

13&14 **JUNE 13 & 14**
SESSION 2 (VIRTUAL)

22&23 **JUNE 22 & 23**
SESSION 2 (IN-PERSON)

Academy Learning Objectives

The Academy is intended to be an interactive and discussion based learning space grounded in equity and focused on building a community of individuals interested in overdose prevention.

The learning objectives for this Harm Reduction Academy include:

- Present the history and philosophy of harm reduction
- Discuss what applying a harm reduction framework looks like in practice
- Examine current housing practices for people who use drugs
- Gain an understanding of sex-work centered harm reduction
- Identify tools to support mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Analyze the importance of equitably centering lived experience in our work
- Describe current polysubstance use trends and related harm reduction strategies
- Identify strategies for addressing the stigma related to substance use

READY TO APPLY?

Application opens
January 11, 2023

Apply soon—space is limited!

This is a free training opportunity. If accepted into the Academy, we will ask you to confirm your participation and commit to attending the full training to the best of your ability.

**Applications are due at
5pm on February 10, 2023**

Selected participants will be notified in mid-February.

APPLY VIA ONLINE FORM [HERE](#)

Questions?

Contact Shamira Wright at shamiraw@unc.edu