



Sonoran Prevention Works

# 2022 Annual Impact Report

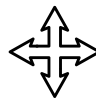
## Our Mission

# Building a healthy Arizona *with* people who use drugs

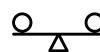
## Our Vision

An Arizona where justice, autonomy, & wellbeing are guaranteed for people who use drugs

## Our Values



Transformation



Equity



Collaboration



People Who Use Drugs Centered

# 5 year strategic goals

Solidify SPW's position as the go-to  
for harm reduction content expertise  
in Arizona

Expand the network of Harm  
Reduction Healthcare Providers

Build mechanisms and relationships  
for equitable community engagement  
and accountability

Create organizational climate that  
supports equity, retention, and  
authenticity

Establish harm-reduction centered  
data tools to more effectively serve  
PWUD and communicate our impact

## 2022 was a year of rebuilding and navigating a world changed by the ongoing COVID crisis.

In 2022, SPW supported Arizonans who use drugs in innovative & more effective ways. In our first full year since we legalized syringe service programs and fentanyl test strips, we increased our reach by X%, seeing our biggest expansion in \_\_\_\_ (county/program/supply) with % more X. We added new outreach sites in rural areas, and reached \_\_\_\_ people through our [Harm Reduction By Mail](#) program.

And the results of our work in previous years - that so many of you have directly supported - has made its mark: there was no significant increase in opioid deaths between 2020 and 2021 in Arizona. Nationally there was a [15% increase](#) in overdose deaths, but Arizona's rates [did not increase](#). While we'd like to see them

decrease and disappear, this is huge. So how did Arizona avoid an increase? Well, you were a big part of it.

A study published earlier this year showed that Arizona was the only state that had a sufficient number of naloxone doses out in the community to actually reduce fatal overdoses<sup>1</sup>. SPW is the largest distributor of community naloxone in the country, so we think we had something to do with it. But we can only do this with support from our volunteers who assemble X% of all of our naloxone kits, our partners who get our naloxone to their clients, our funders, and our staff who are embedded in multiple unique communities, pumping out naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and harm reduction strategies across the state.

**XX**

naloxone doses

**XX**

overdoses reversed

**XX**

trained

**XX**

kits distributed

**XX**

outreach encounters

### 2017-2022

XX naloxone doses | XX overdoses reversed | XX trained | XX kits distributed | XX outreach encounters

1. Irvine, Michael A, et al. "Estimating Naloxone Need in the USA across Fentanyl, Heroin, and Prescription Opioid Epidemics: A Modelling Study." The Lancet Public Health, vol. 7, no. 3, 10 Feb. 2022, [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2468-2667\(21\)00304-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2468-2667(21)00304-2).

There are a few departments within SPW and all of them work seamlessly together to ensure the people we work with are given the resources they need to stay healthy and thrive. Those departments are:

**Administrative:** This department includes our Human Resources, Finance, Development, and Operations staff and is the backbone of our agency. Without these roles none of the public facing work would get done.

**Outreach:** Centering people who use drugs is at the core of all the work we do, and that means meeting folks where they are at. From testing to street outreach to community events, you will find SPW staff out in Arizona talking to people and getting them the resources they need in order to stay healthy.

**Systems Change:** The Systems Change Department supports people who use drugs at the institutional level by offering training, education, and technical assistance for human service oriented organizations and the community at large. This department also works at the systemic level by engaging in local, organizational, and state advocacy for policies on behalf of people who use drugs.

Here's a more in depth look at the critical work our Outreach and Systems Change departments do:



## Outreach programs

**Syringe Service Program:** Thanks to our work writing and passing SB 1250 in the Arizona State Legislature last year, we were able to officially expand our syringe service programming (SSPs) throughout the state. Since then, we have opened SSPs in Yavapai and Yuma counties, as well as enhancing our work in Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Cochise, and Coconino counties. We continued to grow in Maricopa county by opening a new outreach site in collaboration with the city of Guadalupe and Pascua Yaqui Tribe. We also partnered with New Hope Behavioral Health Center to open a new SSP in east Mesa. SPW's Syringe Service Program has gone from an idea, to a decade-long fight to change the law, now to a reality where SSPs have been popping up across the state. They have more opportunities for funding and partnership, and most importantly do not have to hide the critically life-saving work that they do.

**Testing:** SPW tested more people than we've ever tested for HIV and hepatitis C in 2022. This was thanks in large part to our 17 volunteer testers. With the support of volunteer testers, SPW staff began performing our own confirmatory testing (blood draws instead of finger sticks), giving people more accurate information about their status. Hepatitis C is curable, HIV is treatable, and we know that awareness is the first step in receiving care. Our participation on the Hep Free AZ work group helped overturn AHCCCS' stigmatizing policies, so now anybody on AHCCCS can receive hepatitis C treatment, regardless of their current or past substance use.



Next year, we plan to run two private HIV/HCV testing spaces out of our new Sprinter van. Our retrofitted van will also assist our syringe services in 2023 and allow us to more efficiently and discreetly offer our resources to even more people.

**Peer Support:** Our Peer Support team did so much this year! This team - located in Coconino, Maricopa, Pima, Cochise, and remotely - focuses on meeting people where they are in life and working alongside them to set their own goals. We help folks access resources such as housing vouchers, IDs, legal support, and more. This year, we were able to support 73% more individuals than last year. We helped more participants receive medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), health care, and behavioral health services. We also started a peer support group for people who use drugs with our partners at New Hope to build community, share knowledge, and increase safety.

## Systems Change Department Programs

**Training and Education:** SPW's Training and Education program evolved a lot in 2022. We launched the first ever Harm Reduction Certification course in Arizona. This 16 hour long training combines evidence based approaches with knowledge derived from the lived experience of our staff and participants. The certification covers trends, the history of the drug war, harm reduction basics, program implementation, and more. This year, 81 healthcare & social service providers have been certified. The training team also has built our own specialized harm reduction centered Peer Support Academy which will be available online in 2023. Finally, we launched an on-demand webinar on overdose prevention & naloxone use, which reached 683 people in its first 8 months.

**Cochise:** In 2021, SPW launched a three-year long project to create multilevel change in Cochise county to support prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and overall well-being. Our Cochise county staff have led trainings, made connections with regional behavioral health centers, and Cochise College. Because of our efforts, and our partnership with Cochise Harm Reduction Project, we've been able to increase naloxone distribution in the county by 50%. We're currently retrofitting an RV so we can privately deliver resources, testing, and even basic health care to even the most rural parts of Cochise county.



**Systems Navigation:** Our Systems Navigation team specializes in outreach and peer support work with people who use drugs who may face additional barriers to getting the assistance they need. In 2022, this program focused on women, people caught up in the criminal punishment system, as well as partnering with tribal groups. We were able to start helping participants expunge their cannabis convictions in this program.

We started groups at Sojourner Center domestic violence center, and began work to develop groups with Navajo Nation Probation Services. In addition, we started working with Navajo Probation and Hopi Behavioral Health services to train their staff in harm reduction principles and overdose prevention.

**SPW deeply believes that all people, especially people who use drugs, deserve access to the physical resources they need to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.**

We give out a wide range of resources to help reduce a variety of potential harms that can be experienced by PWUD. Some of these supplies are intended to reduce risks directly associated with substance use. Other supplies help address the harms that come from the systemic violence, exclusion, and neglect that PWUD experience when trying to get their basic needs met. We group our resources into 2 main categories:

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### **Safer Use Supplies**

- Overdose Reversal Kits
- Safer Injections Kits
- Safer Smoking Kits
- Fentanyl Testing Kits
- Safe Disposal Containers

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### **Medical and Basic Living Supplies**

- Wound Care Kits
- Sick Kits
- Hygiene Kits
- Food Kits
- Safer Sex Supplies
- Menstrual Supplies
- Basic Living Resource



**In 2022, SPW distributed X resource kits across the state of Arizona.**

[chart]

XYZ% of our supplies were distributed through the following programs: % peer support, % testing, % SSPs, % org partners, % HRBM

In 2022, we expanded and enhanced our Harm Reduction by Mail program to help get these resources directly to people across the state. We distributed

[chart]

- # of supplies to # of unique individuals across # of cities and towns in AZ
- # of people were reached for the first time
- # new areas were reached for the first time

Because we distribute such a large amount of supplies across the state, in November of 2022 SPW moved into an office/warehouse space. This change will help us strengthen our inventory systems to ensure that these resources are moving quickly and efficiently into the hands of PWUD through direct distribution. Our resource kits are essential to help people mitigate many potential harms. Still, we know that hygiene kits are not an adequate substitute for a home; wound care kits cannot take the place of a hospital. These are immediate solutions to broad and complex issues, which must be addressed at the mezzo and macro levels if we want to see meaningful, sustainable change.

## Volunteers

SPW's Volunteer Program has continued to grow and flourish in 2022.

- Total Unique Volunteers (% increase from last year)
- Total Hours (% increase from last year)
- Total Kits Assembled (% increase from last year)
- Total Tests Conducted (% increase from last year)



## Volunteer of the year: *Rick Michels*

Rick joined SPW in November of 2021. As a Public Health Master's student at NAU, Rick completed an internship with SPW, supporting outreach in Coconino county and developing data analysis tools to enhance our testing program across the state. In 2022, they spent 158 hours volunteering with SPW doing: direct outreach, inventory support, coordinating kit-making efforts in the region, data analysis, and more! Rick is caring, compassionate, and a dedicated harm reductionist. They love SPW's approach to meeting people where they are at, and helping folks in a compassionate and non-judgemental way. We have leaned on them throughout the year - whether we need help reorganizing a storage unit or if we need to problem-solve complicated issues with data-reporting, Rick always showed up to help. Their efforts overall have made SPW stronger, both where they live in Coconino county, and within our testing program across the state. We are so grateful for their support and are proud to name them Volunteer of the Year!



## Honorable Mentions

### **Top Tester:** Tori Damore

Tori is our longest-term and most experienced volunteer tester. She has been testing with us since Jan 2022 and has conducted 96 rapid tests from June - Dec. Tori also helped develop a Volunteer Tester Training facilitation guide so we can continue to train volunteer testers across the state.

### **Top Outreach Volunteer:** Oscar Estrella

Oscar started volunteering with us in June, and in only 6 months he has spent 123 hours directly connecting with PWUD through outreach in Yuma, one of our newest sites to host a syringe service program.

### **Top Kit Maker:** Peter Rizzo

In 2022, Peter helped in the direct assembly of over 4000 harm reduction kits with SPW, often hosting kit making parties that introduce more people to our work.

### **Other Staff Nominations:**

Special mention to these awesome volunteers who got the attention of our staff for their dedication to harm reduction! Karenth Garcia; Saul Favila; Genevieve Roberts; Lucas Nowel; Lee-Ann Dunton; Erin Roper; Tricia Hanks; Lucy Beckner



Since 2017, our naloxone distribution has saved over 22,000 lives, but we can't do this harm reduction work alone.

Since 2017, our naloxone distribution has saved over 22,000 lives, but we can't do this harm reduction work alone. As the War on Drugs continues to rage and evolve, so too must our response.

In 2022 we supported our programs with grants, contracts, and XX fundraising from our generous supporters. From local businesses to individual donors across Arizona, we continue to be supported by our incredible and caring community, and it means so much to us.

With your support, we raised over \$180,000 in 2022, a 78% increase over 2021, but short of our goal of \$325,000. Our goal for fundraising in 2023 is \$[ ]

Do you care about the health and safety of people who use drugs? You can be a part of building a healthier Arizona with people who use drugs by [becoming an SPW volunteer](#). We value the insight that comes from lived experience with substance use, and do not require background checks, drug tests, or abstinence to get involved. We can't wait to work with you!



Want to be a consistent support to SPW and people who use drugs? Along with volunteering, joining our group of monthly donors or our “Fight Club” is a fantastic way to show your support. For only \$5 a month you can join our group of dedicated and passionate supporters. Our Fight Club members are eligible for yearly rewards and exclusive invitations to our Supporter Appreciation Parties too. It's a win - win for both you and SPW! [Join today.](#)



## Due to additional investments during the COVID pandemic, SPW was able to expand its programs and staffing in 2022.

We brought on more staff than ever before, with extra focus on hiring operations staff to better support our frontline employees, resulting in a total team of XX people. We brought on our first Syringe Service Program Specialists in Yavapai, Yuma, and Cochise counties, as well as our first ever Systems Navigation Specialists.

Since 2019, SPW has committed to building an organization rooted in racial justice from the inside to the out. Find out what numbers/achievements BS wants to share, particularly related to staff hiring/support/training.

As an organization that has always been led by, for, and with people who use drugs, we took further steps toward institutionalizing that truth. We started our first “Lived

Experience Caucus” among the staff to capture the unique experiences that our staff share with our participants. This caucus is focused on enhancing internal structures, policies, and plans to better support people who use drugs who engage with SPW at all levels.

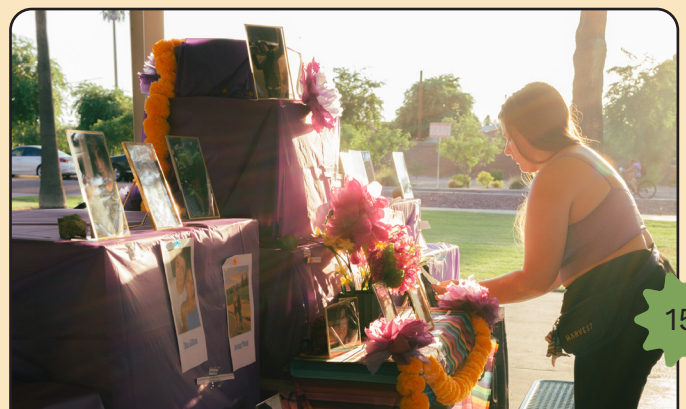
Our staff learned a lot about leadership and how to build a stronger organization this year through XYZ. Through that growth, we encouraged our staff to form a work group identifying what they want in SPW’s Board of Directors beyond just typical fiscal & legal oversight. Over half of our staff participated in this work group, and have made significant suggestions for how the SPW board can best support SPW. Keep an eye out for our new board member application to open up in the first few months of 2023!



## International Overdose Awareness Day is on August 31st every year.

It's a day to spread awareness about overdose, but most importantly to commemorate those who are no longer with us. Last year, we celebrated our lost loved ones' lives in Mesa, Flagstaff, Tucson, and Sierra Vista. We offered a space with music, food, healing activities and we had beautiful altars that displayed our lost loved ones and lit a candle for them. Keep some space on your calendar for this annual event in 2023!

We also hosted a very insightful online conversation in tandem with our in-person events. We invited experts from across the country, including Margaret Bordeaux from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Yarelix Estrada from New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Teresa Springer from Wellness Services Inc in Flint, Michigan to discuss the Social Determinants of Overdose. Hosted by our own Kayla Kurti and joined by our Karen Broman, we discussed how Covid-19, the drug supply, and stigma, among many other factors, affect people who use drugs.



# Looking ahead to 2023

There is still so much to be done to ensure that people who use drugs in Arizona are healthy, cared for, and live with dignity. We are looking forward to working with you again this year to continue to create a healthy Arizona.

Thank you to all those who continue to support our mission:

[Logos]

Huge shout-out to the SPW Fight Club, who give sustained donations to SPW on a monthly or yearly basis:

|                    |                     |                        |                 |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Adam Dalton        | Cornerstone Mission | Jose Echeverria Vega   | Mallika Sen     |
| Aimee Moll         | Project LLC         | Joseph Palomino        | Mary Page       |
| Alicia Slattery    | Diane Beck          | Joshua Springer        | Maya Azzi       |
| Amy Kelly          | Doug Patmore        | Karen Broman           | Megan Good      |
| Amy Stewart        | Eula Hernandez      | Karla MacCatherine     | Michael Fox     |
| Andrew Knochel     | Graeme Fox          | Katarzyna Bartoszynska | Nic Rowell      |
| Anna Brown         | Haleigh Williams    | Katelyn Jaworski       | Rudi Isenbarger |
| Audra Norwood      | Haley Coles         | Kathleen Murphy        | Sally Rodgers   |
| Baily Williamson   | Haylee Mills        | Kelsey Mgone           | Sarah Stadler   |
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| Benjamin Davis     | Humberto Pion       | Laine Baker            | Sherri Rhodes   |
| Carrie Montgomery  | Isabelle Harris     | Lauren Setnicky        | Taylor Russ     |
| chelsi rossi       | Jennifer K Johnson  | Lillie Armstrong       | Tucker Grace    |
| Christine Pietzsch | Jess Patrick        | Lily Herman            |                 |
| Clayton w James    | Jonathan Ratliff    | Lisette Geraldo        |                 |



**In 2023 we will continue need you, we need your help. Our fundraising goal for 2023 is XX.**

Your contributions help us reduce barriers to care and stigma faced by people in our community impacted by drug use. With your support, we can build an Arizona where health & safety are guaranteed. Help out today by going to [our website](#) to give the gift of support.