Rates of drug-involved overdose deaths have been rising in the United States, particularly with synthetic opioids. The rate of opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts increased 8.8% in 2021 compared to 2020. The Dimock Center offers multiple levels of addiction treatment including Acute Treatment Services (ATS), Crisis Stabilization Services (CSS), halfway houses, and clinic-based addiction treatment. However, there is a lack of training in substance harm reduction and resources for staff and patients.

- Develop harm reduction educational materials for addiction treatment patients and staff at The Dimock Center.
- Distribute this knowledge through pamphlet presentations during different treatment programs at Dimock.

A pamphlet was created, based on a review of various resources, that discusses harm reduction practices. It was distributed to staff via email. Staff were asked to answer questions assessing substance use knowledge before and after reading the brochure. Twenty-one responses were recorded and analyzed. The pamphlet was distributed across Dimock Health Center to patients. Presentations discussing drug use harm reduction and preventative health were given to patients. Based on patient interest following presentations, we created a nutrition pamphlet to be distributed across Dimock.

Harm reduction practices can decrease the negative consequences of substance use disorders by meeting patients where they are and by helping to prevent disease, overdose, substance misuse, and even death. Both staff and patients were interested in learning more about harm reduction and were appreciative of these new resources and presentations. Results from this project show that building additional harm reduction educational resources at community health centers is a worthwhile intervention.

- Provide patients with the harm reduction pamphlets during detox intake and ensure patients have the information upon discharge.
- Encourage Dimock employees and staff to educate patients on harm reduction practices.
- Create a more extensive harm reduction curriculum for continued education.
- Host workshops that demonstrate harm reduction practices for better understanding.