



CHOW FACT SHEET

CHOW Project. Reducing Harm. Optimizing Health.

The CHOW Project Activities in 2016

The CHOW Project contributes to the health of our community by providing syringe exchange services, health education, outreach, safer sex supplies, hygiene kits, HIV and hepatitis C counseling, testing and referral and overdose prevention services. The CHOW Project is statewide with the main office located in Honolulu with outreach workers on Maui, Kauai and the Big Island. All services, except case management, are anonymous, and all services are free and confidential.

In 2016 The CHOW Project:

- Exchanged 1,020,286 syringes statewide through 11,120 visits
- Distributed 19,286 condoms and safer sex kits
- Initiated 3,140 outreach contacts, distribution of hygiene kits
- Conducted 127 hepatitis C tests
 - 19 newly identified participants living with hepatitis C
- Conducted 158 HIV tests
 - No newly identified participants living with HIV
- Trained over 1,500 people on harm reduction, HIV, STDs and/or viral hepatitis
- Housed 26 participants through Hale O Malama, the coordinated homeless assessment and entry system
- Conducted health events that reached 188 participants with health information, vaccinations and testing opportunities
- Distributed over 300 doses of Naloxone with 12 overdose reversals reported
- Collaborated with other agencies on programs, community planning, policy issues and capacity building

The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families and communities adversely affected by drug use, especially people who inject drugs, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug-related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose. CHOW supports the optimal health and well-being of people affected by drug use throughout the State of Hawaii.

Did You Know?

Hawaii was the first state in the U.S. to have statewide syringe exchange

CHOW has provided syringe exchange and other services for over 20 years

Hawaii has very low rates of HIV in needle users, their partners and children

Syringe exchange makes the entire community safer by removing needles

Syringe Exchange is Evidence-based

“There is compelling evidence that increasing the availability and utilization of sterile injecting equipment by IDUs [injection drug users] reduces HIV infection substantially. There is no convincing evidence of any major, unintended negative consequences.”

-World Health Organization