

SafeRx Santa Cruz County

SafeRx Santa Cruz County (SafeRx) is a local substance use safety coalition comprised of social service, government, behavioral health, and healthcare organizations dedicated to aligning and accelerating best practices for opioids and other substances, as well as current best practice guidelines to reduce death. SafeRx works towards a healthy, thriving, safe, equitable Santa Cruz County through prevention, increased treatment access (particularly with proven-effective and promising medications for treating substance use), and evidence-based, harm reduction practices, to improve community well-being and save lives.

Steering Committee

Comprised of leaders among community stakeholders and initiative chairs. Serves to provide guidance and support to initiative chairs as they meet their identified goals.

Core Leadership Team

Comprised of members from diverse organizations who hold the values and mission of SafeRx for the purpose of guiding initiatives and decision-making.

Prescriber Practice Initiative

Provides guidance to clinicians including pain management guidelines and enhancing awareness of non-pharmacy approaches to pain management.

MAT Advisory Group

In conjunction with Prescribe Safe Monterey and San Benito County, MAT-AG is a peer support and resource group of physicians, advanced practice clinicians, and behavioral health providers focused on improving opioid use disorder treatment and capacity.

Polysubstance Workgroup

Serves to convene local partners involved in addressing harmful drug use in the community with the purpose of creating an evidence-informed response to substance use.



Community Education Initiative

Develops and publicizes patient and community education, messaging, and materials.

Harm Reduction Coalition

Advocates for and provides evidence-based harm reduction services, policies, and practices that reduce stigma, promote safety, and improve health, including work with overdose prevention and distribution of Narcan.

**SafeRx staff participates in the HRC in a consultative role and assists in the dissemination of HRC materials.*

Metrics Initiative

Develops a community dashboard with accurate, relevant, easily tracked data.



SafeRx Santa Cruz County

 www.hipscc.org/saferx

 @SafeRxSCC



COMMUNITY
PREVENTION
PARTNERS



SafeRx Santa Cruz County History

SafeRx was originally brought together with funding from the California Health Care Foundation in November of 2015 to decrease opioid-related misuse and deaths by introducing safer prescriber practices, improving access to medication-assisted substance use treatment, and increasing availability of overdose reversal medication.

Today, SafeRx is maintained through funding from the California Public Health Department, Janus's Hub and Spoke grant, and Santa Cruz County Substance Use Disorder Services Prevention Division. Rooted in the unique concept of opioid failure (that medications have failed the patient; the patient has not failed the treatment), SafeRx continues to address the local opioid epidemic, and has expanded to respond to other substance use disorder treatment needs.

SafeRx Santa Cruz County Ongoing Projects-

Prescriber Practice Initiative

- **Safe Prescribing**– Pilot the use of prescribing guidelines (including opioid failure management) in safety net clinics and disseminate the guidelines to providers as a best practice.

MAT-Advisory Group

- **MAT**- Increase the number of buprenorphine providers through opportunities for training and local support, as well as support for the development of MAT policies and procedures primary care. Maintain a directory of MAT providers for referral.
- **Naloxone**- Increase community distribution of naloxone, the number of first responders trained and using naloxone, naloxone co-prescribing with opioid medications, and encourage pharmacies to use existing state-wide standing order to furnish naloxone.

Metrics Initiative

- **Data Tracking**- Use metrics dashboard to guide interventions.
- **Provide Reports**- Use opioid and other drug metrics as a report card to disseminate to the community and organize an annual data presentation to coalition members and other stakeholders.

Polysubstance Workgroup

- **Address Emerging Drug Trend**– Provide and disseminate proven and promising treatment options for polysubstance and stimulant use disorders while monitoring trends and community needs to implement new strategies.

Community Education Initiative

- **Message Development and Dissemination**— Create community education materials and identify strategies for effective dissemination of communications to the community.

