



SafeRx



Year in Review

As HIP closes out 2023, all of us at SafeRx want to share our deep gratitude for your partnership. As we highlight our collective accomplishments over this past year, we hope you feel as much pride as we do knowing how many lives are impacted by this work. We wish you all a happy new year and look forward to continuing strong into 2024.

In community,
Rita, Suzette, Jen, Ali, Emily, and Max

Impact Statement

SafeRx is rooted in the universal values of compassion, dignity, equity, and community. As a result of our work, we aim to bring about enduring change - That all people in Santa Cruz County equitably experience well-being, safety, dignity, and self-determination related to substance use.



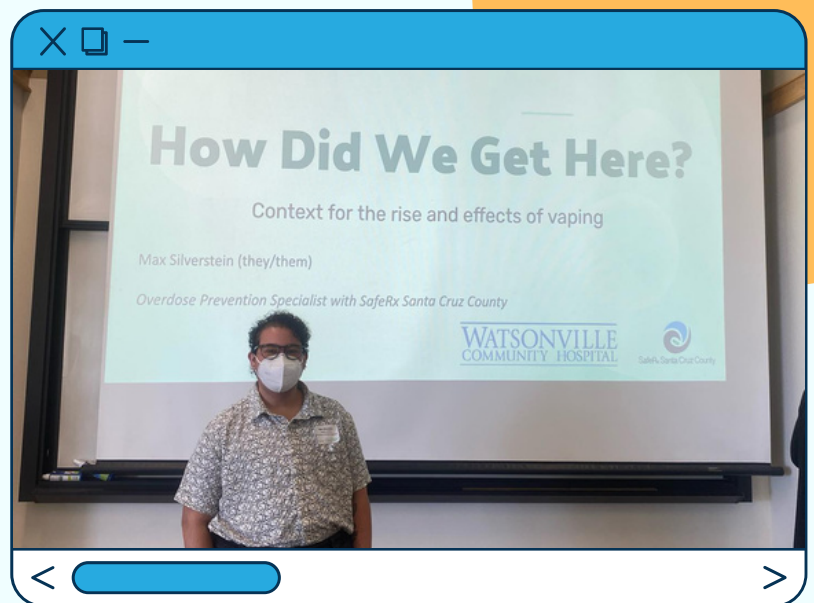
[Learn more](#)

SafeRx had a very full year with school and community engagement events, hosting trainings, providing partner technical assistance, new materials development, expansion to our webpage, increasing coalition attendance, elevating local data and best practices and significantly expanding access to Narcan for Santa Cruz County.

SafeRx and School Engagement

In partnership with our local County Office of Education and institutions of higher education, we:

- Reached over 175 caregivers and youth leading educational presentations, sharing vital resources, and distributing Narcan at 3 local middle and high school Parent Nights
- Engaged with our adult student community at the **Harmless Halloween event at Cabrillo College** where we provided Narcan and life-saving information
- Supported skill building, greater awareness and increased confidence with evidence-based prevention and harm reduction practices at local, traditional and alternative high schools throughout the county
- Supported and presented at the **COE's Vaping Forum, Clearing The Air**





SafeRx Community Outreach and Training

Did you know SafeRx provides training and technical assistance for community organizations?

Queer Focused Events

- SafeRx engaged with youth, parents, allies, and community leaders at the **26th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards** while distributing **over 60 boxes of Narcan**
- Supporting and empowering our amazing, LGBTQ+ youth across the county, SafeRx shared vital education and Narcan with over 200 youth and caregivers at the **Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit of the Central Coast**



- With mentorship and support from SafeRx, Watsonville Community Hospital hosted a very well-attended **International Overdose Awareness Day** event! Over 20 partners joined the resource fair and networking opportunity. Thank you, WCH, for hosting!
- Partnering with the CORE Institute for Innovation and Impact, SafeRx presented to a community of changemakers committed to the health and well-being of residents across our county at their Fall CORE Coffee Chat.



Other exciting events include:

- Training on Opioids, Fentanyl, Youth, and Naloxone for CASA staff and volunteers
- Partnering with Health Management Associates to host a half-day training titled **Evidence-Based Treatment for OUD - Myths, Facts, and Current Standards of Care** for 40 local attendees at the London Nelson Community Center

SafeRx-Curated Materials and Webpage

- In collaboration with DataShare Santa Cruz County, SafeRx celebrated a Spring launch of our updated DataShare Local Progress Page featuring our progress story and data trends.
- Utilized and linked by partners across the tri-county region, SafeRx developed and incorporated into our webpage an extensive **Xylazine Library** with vetted education, guidance, and resources on this emerging substance.
- Recognizing concerning trends in illicit substances and the need for clinician education, SafeRx partnered with the Santa Cruz County Public Health Division to generate a **Xylazine provider handout** shared throughout our tri-county region.

[Xylazine Library](#)

[Provider Handout](#)



- After an overwhelmingly positive response to our Let's Talk booklets, we launched **Let's Start Talking: A Toolkit for Understanding Substance Use Through the Middle School Years**. (To our Marin and Tri-County partners - Thank You for co-developing this incredible resource with us!)

[Let's Talk](#)

- To ensure more of our community can equitably access our life-saving resources, all SafeRx materials developed and posted to our website in 2023 have been translated into Spanish!

Increasing Vital Access to Narcan County-Wide

- SafeRx, the County Office of Education, and Inspire Diagnostics partnered for youth lives, hosting our first **Narcan Drive Thru Pop-Up** event at Cabrillo College. Together, we successfully distributed **over 550 units of Narcan to more than 350 youth and families!**



- After such an powerful response, SafeRx was thrilled to share the model, supporting Santa Cruz Community Health and the County Office of Education in hosting their own pop-up for our San Lorenzo Valley Schools. Over 500 boxes of Narcan were provided to youth and families!

County Office of Education and Santa Cruz Community Health

Your unwavering commitment, courageous support, relentless advocacy, and steadfast belief in our youth and our community cannot be overlooked! Thank you for your partnership!



- Spreading the model even further, SafeRx attended and supported Soquel Unified School District's Narcan Pop-Up at New Brighton Middle School
- After training a local business, Security Crime Prevention, on how to recognize and respond to an overdose, **all security officers now carry Narcan** and are performing reversals in OD hotspots

Access to Naloxone has Increased in Santa Cruz County in 2023!

SafeRx has been working to expand community access to Narcan by empowering partners to become naloxone distribution sites. Throughout the year, we have provided staff training and technical assistance to partners in their efforts to secure naloxone from the Department of Health Care Services through the Narcan Distribution Project (NDP). **We are thrilled to have supported the following NEW Naloxone distribution partners in 2023 dedicated to saving lives in our community:**

- Cabrillo College
- The Diversity Center

We are also excited to have supported **Grey Bears, CASA of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Mosquito Abatement Team, and the County Elections Office** by providing Narcan and training staff and volunteers to address overdose.



BARCAN

SafeRx has continued the low-barrier naloxone access project, Barcan, with local bar partners:

- Slough Brewing Collective
- Rush Inn
- Jury Room
- Moe's Alley

Thank you to these local businesses in making Narcan accessible to the public. **Our partners have dispensed over 300 Narcan kits to patrons and their staff!**

Thank you Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County for supporting Barcan with Harm Reduction donations!

Strengthening and Expanding Coalitions

SafeRx coalition and SafeRx-partnership convenings were held with regular cadence during 2023 and continued to grow in engagement and attendance:

- Eight, Community Education Initiative (CEI) meetings
- Six, MAT in Jails work group meetings
- In partnership with Santa Cruz Community Health, four, Tri-County Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) SUD Learning Collaborative meetings
- Three, Tri-County Medication for Addiction Treatment Advisory Group (MAT-AG) meetings
- One, SafeRx Steering Committee meeting
- One, Annual Local Drug Trends meeting

Appreciation

All of us at SafeRx humbly recognize that we could never have achieved this much without the unwavering backbone of support provided by our larger HIP organization and by our generous funders:

Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health, Santa Cruz County Public

Health, the California Youth Opioid Response Project, the California Opioid Prevention Network, and the Public Health Institute. Along with our countless, dedicated partners, it cannot be overstated how much your confidence in us and our ability to make a meaningful impact means to us and to the power of our work.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Santa Cruz County

