Development of community resources for opioid harm reduction in Saint Joseph County

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Summary: Harm reduction (HR), a pillar of DHHS overdose prevention strategy, brings new tools to the community to minimize the harms of illicit drug use. As described by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), HR is “a way to meet people where they are with kindness and respect.” This Emerging Opportunities in Health proposal will bring together analytical chemists, police, and student health staff at UND, the SJC Health Department, and several harm reduction organizations in South Bend to accomplish three specific aims: 1) develop a resource map and gap analysis for opioid harm reduction in SJC, 2) convene meetings to exchange information, identify funding opportunities, and develop and test response strategies, and 3) pilot activities to strengthen rapid detection of and response to dangerous opioids in our community.