

# ADDITIONAL OPTION FOR REPORTING DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN THE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



## **Why can collecting demographic data for harm reduction strategies like Naloxone Distribution and Syringe Services Programs be difficult?**

Collecting demographic data on participant characteristics, such as race and ethnicity, can be important for harm reduction programs to evaluate the reach and success of their programs. This information can also be key to understanding potential gaps in services or other important trends or patterns by demographic.

Harm reduction programs, however, can face unique challenges when attempting to collect this data. Program participants who are asked to provide this information could be concerned about their privacy. They may even be less likely to engage in the services due to the burden of data collection. In some cases, this well-intentioned collection of demographics can create more harm than good.

## **The Annual Impact Report requires race/ethnicity data for all funded strategies. What can local governments report instead of race/ethnicity data for this section of the Impact Report?**

Beginning in the FY24-25 reporting period, local governments will have a second option for fulfilling the required demographics section of the Annual Impact Report for two strategies: Exhibit A, Strategy 7. Naloxone Distribution and Exhibit A, Strategy 9. Syringe Services Programs.

Local governments who would like to pursue this second option will be asked to provide breakdowns of their process measure by zip code. For example, a local government who has funded Naloxone Distribution might choose to report the “number of naloxone kits distributed” by zip code (i.e. 10 kits to 27XXX, 35 kits to 28XXX, etc.). Or, a local government who has funded Syringe Services Programs might choose to report the “number of individuals with OUD served” by zip code (i.e. 10 people in 27XXX, 35 people in 28XXX, etc.).

Local governments will be asked to declare that they will be pursuing this zip code option for eligible strategies directly in the Annual Impact Report workbook. CORE-NC will then follow up with each local government to obtain the information after the reporting deadline.

## **Where will this zip code information be published?**

Information collected from local governments who elect to pursue this zip code data option will be publicly available on the [CORE-NC Document Library](#) as an appendix to the local government’s Annual Impact Report Workbook.