



→
Harm

REDUCTION:

Exploring the social and community context regarding harm reduction

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01

*Social and
Community*
Context

WHAT IS IT?

→ Social and Community Context

Social and community context is one of the five social determinants of health. The Network for Public Health Law describes this determinant as the environment where people spend their lives, and the relationships made within said environments (The Network for Public Health Law, n.d).





02

Relation to

Harm

Reduction

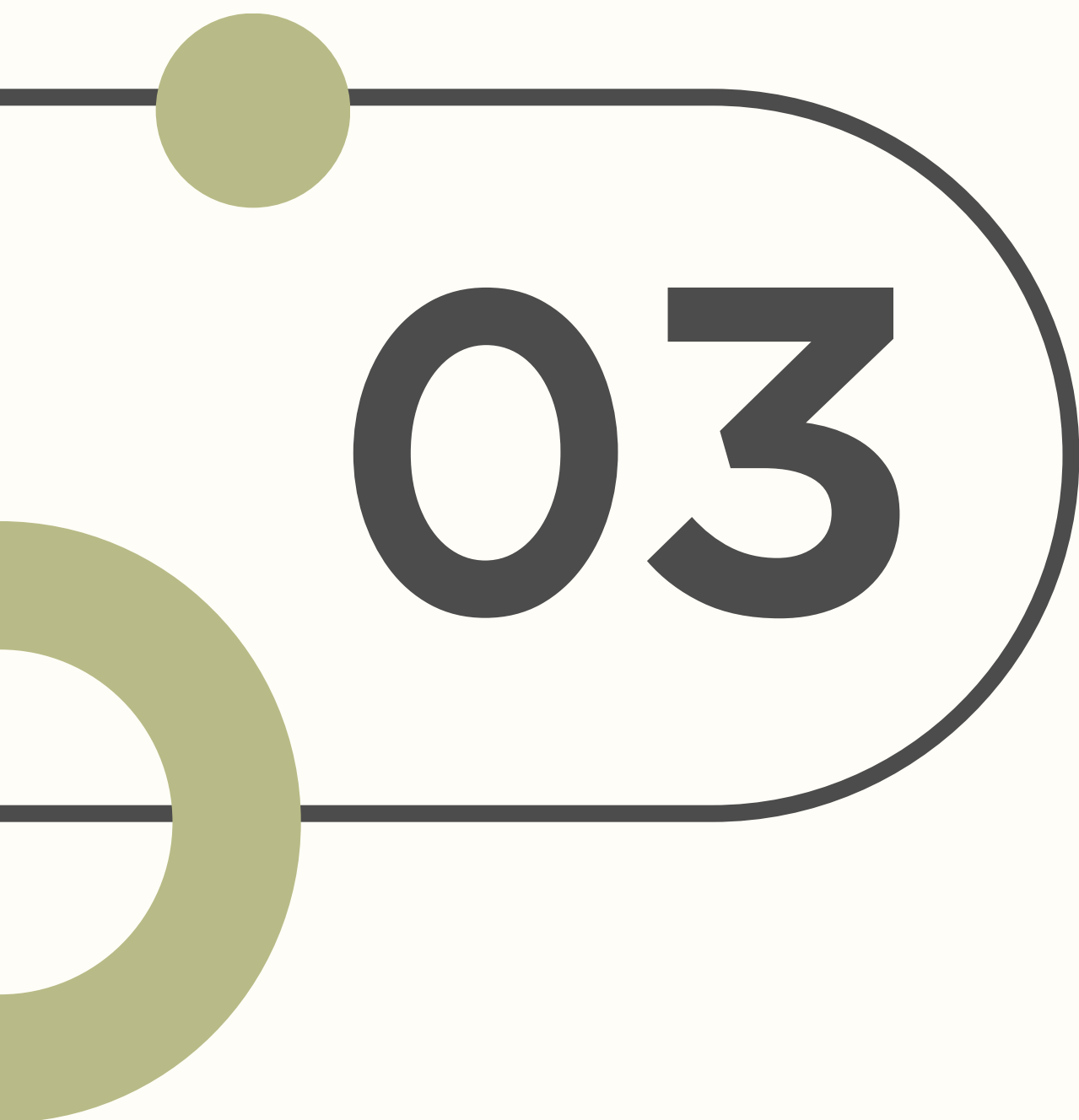
Relating Social and Community Context to Harm Reduction

➔ SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS CRITICAL

One of the main reasons harm reduction is so proactive are the people surrounding it. According to SAMHSA, formulating ways to connect with those who use drugs can prevent overdose and positively influence sectors of well-being (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2023).

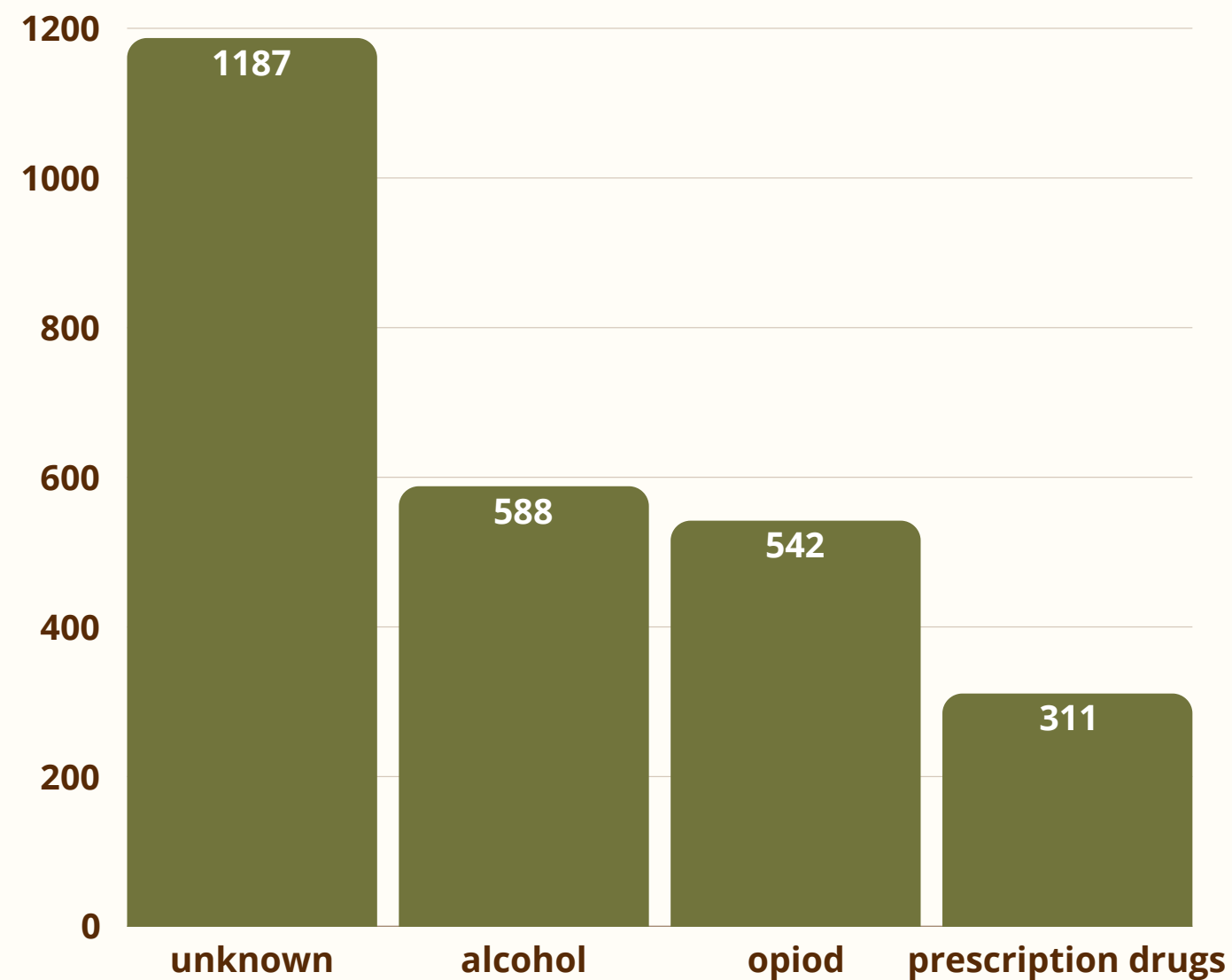
➔ WHY

Using the community to build relationships with drug users and advocates for harm reduction can provide education to everyone. Said education has the power to save lives. SAMHSA also expresses the benefits of community-based harm reduction programs, in which they “meet people where they are — on their own terms, and may serve as a pathway to additional health and social services, including additional prevention, treatment, and recovery services” (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2023).

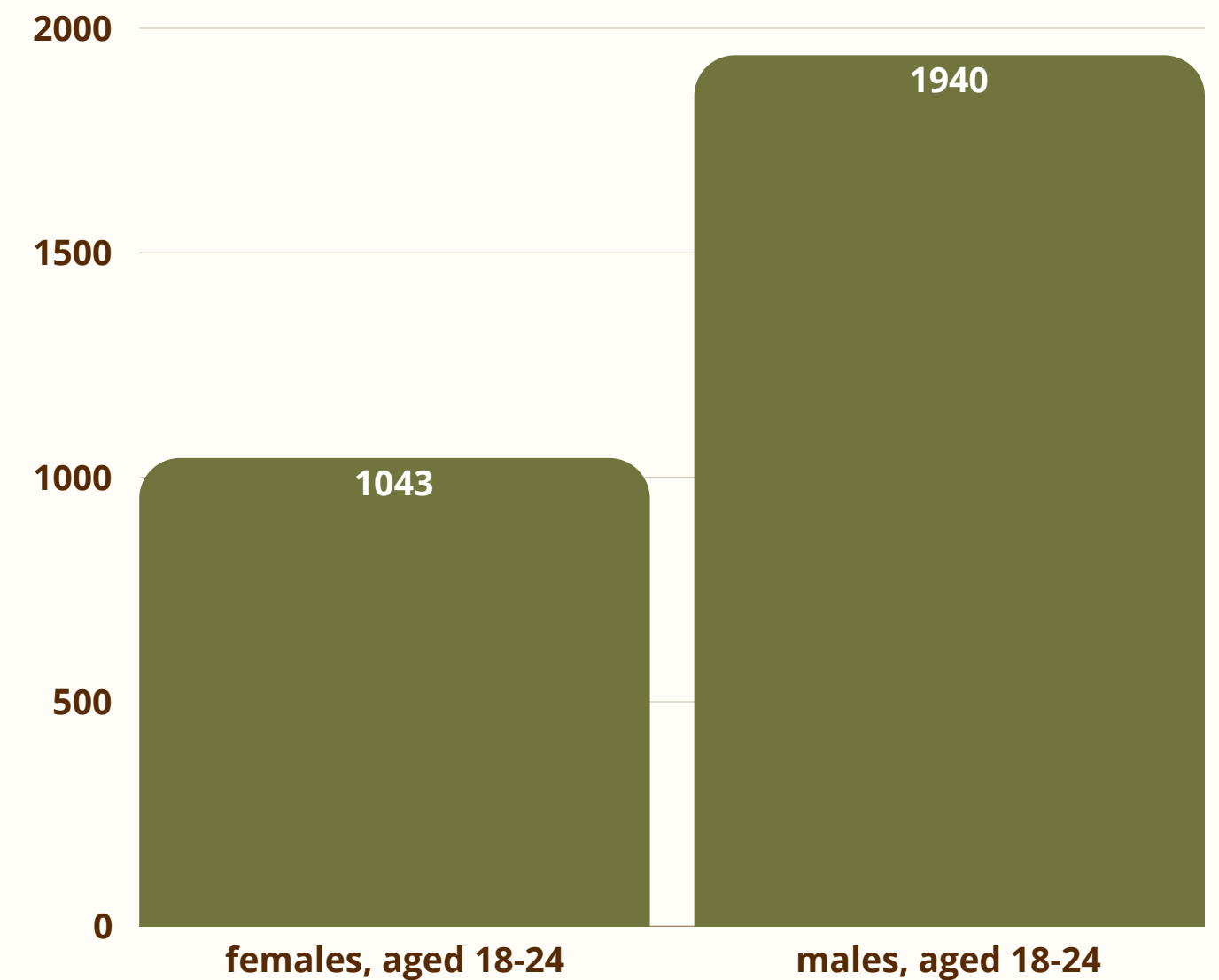


DATA

Data:



18-24-year-olds in Forsyth County are most likely to experience overdose from “Unknown” drugs and substances



Among 18-24-year-olds in Forsyth County, males are almost twice as likely to overdose as females

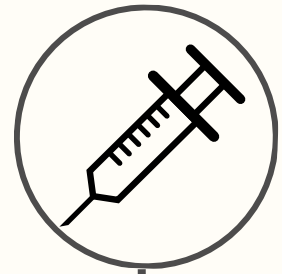
(Unseen Patterns, by MapForsyth and Forsyth County Health and Human Services, 2024)



04

What Has Been Done
In North
Carolina

Efforts of North Carolina



SYRINGE SERVICES

North Carolina provides many syringe services that help decrease the probability of overdose deaths. The one specific to Forsyth county is Twin City Harm Reduction Collective. They offer peer-based training, mobile site, and a fixed site.



NCHRC

The North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition provides many programs and services related to harm reduction. These include information to legislative advocacy, referrals to drug treatments and training on overdose recognition and reversal.



SSDP

There is a Students for Sensible Drug Policy branch in Forsyth County. They take harm reduction on directly. They do things such as testing drug samples that people bring in, and tell them what is in their sample. This leads to people hopefully making more informed decisions, to use drugs in the safest way possible.



FROST

FROST, or Forsyth Regional Opioid and Substance Use Team is a collective of representatives from over 80 different community agencies and community members. They aim to educate, provide prevention, promote harm-reduction, remove barriers to access and treatment, and reduce stigma.



SALEM COLLEGE

Salem College offers student leaders, such as residential assistants and orientation leaders, harm reduction training. During this training, students are given single-use naloxone kits. It is unclear whether this training is offered to all students.



05

*What More Can be
Done?*

Call to Action



Call to ACTION

- On FROST's website, they list many Forsyth County and Winston-Salem organizations who partner with them. At present, Winston-Salem City Council is not listed as an active partner of FROST. We believe that reaching out to FROST regarding future partnership is a good first-step for Winston-Salem City Council. Furthermore, FROST also houses SSDP (Students for Sensible Drug Policy), allowing for CAB and the students they represent throughout the Winston-Salem area to have a more active role in harm-prevention throughout Forsyth County.
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