**policy: harm reduction**

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| **purpose** |

Our understanding of Harm Reduction recognizes that drug use or high-risk behavior of any kind is inherent among humans AND that we can support youth and young adults in taking steps to reduce risk without judgement. With our help, young people identify their own risks and develop plans to reduce harm to self and community.

We are committed to structuring our operations and programs in ways that center a harm reduction framework. We recognize that systems inherently oppress youth and young adults, especially youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth with disabilities, and we think that is straight up wrong. We work to avoid acting as a point of entry for youth into systems of harm wherever possible.

Our goal is to provide a space and the resources necessary for young people to contemplate and initiate positive change without judgement, fear of prosecution, or involvement in systems of harm.

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| **policy** |

1. Northwest Youth Services adopts Harm Reduction as a core value.