St. Ann's Corner of Harm Redu SIEN Annual Report

A Guide to 2023



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HOW TO SUPPORT OUR WORK



Message From the Board

SACHR was founded on the belief that positive change is possible when individuals come together with a shared purpose. We strive to save lives everyday by leading with empathy, practicing mercy, and providing safety with a deeply centered lived experience and commitment to harm reduction and public health.

Our agency growth and service to the Bronx has been, and continues to be, an incredible journey undertaken together in pursuit of our mission humane, health-oriented public policies.

From our earliest work on a South Bronx street corner providing the only resources that could prevent HIV from spreading, to our growth as a multi-facet public health agency, we have seen this belief turn into a reality, impacting countless lives in ways we could only dream of when we started this journey.

As our agency continues to grow and develop we must remember that our work is far from over. Unintentional drug poisoning or opioid-related overdose continue to rise across the country. In 2022, the NYCDOHMH reports, there were 3,026 deadly overdoses—a 12% increase over 2021. Drug use — licit/illicit— is ubiquitous and the epidemic cuts across all social and economic demographics.

The drivers of the drug poisoning epidemic are complex and we must choose to address them by placing science ahead of politics; pragmatism ahead of fear; holism ahead of othering. There are many challenges to be faced, and many lives in need of our help. The path to pragmatic health-oriented drug policies requires a reorientation away from punishment across all sectors.

We invite you to be inspired by the stories of hope and transformation contained in our annual report - a glimpse at the important impact our agency has on countless lives and communities throughout the Bronx. Let them remind you of the difference we can make when we come together with purpose and determination.

Our history demonstrates we can turn dreams into reality and continue to write the story of compassion, progress, and positive change.

Loyce Rivera Luis Barrios

Thank you for your support and love.

Abrazos.

Joyce Rivera, MA Founder & CEO, SACHR Rev. Luis Barrios, Ph.D. Chairperson, SACHR



Our Leadership Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Cicatelli Rev. Luis Barrios, Ph. D, Chairperson Joyce Rivera Michael T. Baldwin, Esq.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Joyce Rivera, Founder & Chief Executive Officer Timothy Majoor, Chief Operating Officer Alvaro Arias, Chief Financial Officer Steven Hernandez, Chief of Staff Chiara Sovegni, Co-Director of Programs Krystal Montalvo, Co-Director of Programs

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Brady Ric Curtis, Ph.D Jeff Underweiser, Esq. David J. Ores, M.D.



What We Do

Since 1990, St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction (SACHR) has been the longest continuous-running syringe exchange in the United States. We meet drug users where they are: on the streets & actively engaged in high-risk lifestyles or within the center, where they seek comprehensive healing services.

SACHR provides access to quality health resources including a needle exchange program and mental health counseling, acupuncture, massage therapy, and buprenorphine treatment in addition to providing services that respond to basic needs (showers, food, clothing), street outreach, participant leadership, workforce, and soft skill programs, and education to high-risk populations, including youth, in the Bronx. Additionally, SACHR provides training modules in the areas of overdose prevention, accessing public health services, and good neighbor skills. The agency provides low-threshold services to families and individuals to optimize their physical, psychological, social and spiritual health utilizing a harm reduction approach. Their reliable and consistent analyses of the everyday context of the community continue to create the basis for decisive, strategic approaches to problem solving for substance users, their collaterals, and community partners.

SACHR Service Portfolio includes Syringe Access Program, Holistic Health Services, Drug User Health HUB, Women's Service Unit, Meal & Food Insecurity Program, Behavioral Health HUB, Ryan White Services, Supportive Counseling and Family Stabilization Program, HIV/HCV Testing, and Overdose Prevention.



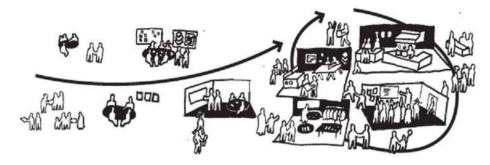


Programs

SACHR is home to a wealth of harm reduction programs – each tailored to a specific need within the Bronx community. SACHR is a Drug User Health Hub that provides a comprehensive set of interventions aimed at addressing the needs of injecting drug users in the South Bronx.

OUR APPROACH TO PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

We believe in the co-creation of programs to serve our community needs. From active community advisory boards, to peer development programs, and regular participation in Community Boards and open dialogue with elected leaders and agencies, our programs are thoughtful and customized to community and participant needs.



SYRINGE ACCESS PROGRAM

Access to and disposal of syringes was the first service provided by SACHR when we opened over 30 years ago. The goal of our Syringe Access Program (SAP) is to provide sterile needles at no cost for injecting drug users. When SACHR began its services in 1990, there was a 60% HIV incidence rate among the city's 250,000 people who injected drugs. As a result of this and other similar program efforts, the HIV incidence rate in New York City has dropped to under 3% among people who inject drugs. We believe that by implementing proven harm reduction strategies, there may eventually be zero new HIV infections through injection drug use. In addition to HIV prevention, our efforts are focused on continuing the fight to prevent overdose, Hepatitis C, and the stigma that the people we serve face every day.

HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICES

St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction (SACHR) is in itself a sanctuary, a safe haven to come to seek solace and compassion from an often unforgiving world. The Sanctuary within SACHR is a room where participants can find a peaceful place of healing and rest. Auricular acupuncture (NADA protocol) and full-body acupuncture are offered by certified and licensed professionals, free of charge to our participants.

Our belief and experience are that these body-oriented modalities can ignite change within an individual, helping one transition from fear and despair to a place of hope, confidence, and serenity. We begin at the simplest of beginnings: providing effective yet compassionate, human-to-human care.

DRUG USER HEALTH HUB

A central component of the services we provide at SACHR is the Drug User Health Package. It can be best described as a comprehensive set of interventions aimed at addressing the needs of injecting drug users in the South Bronx. The approach is flexible and multilayered and is delivered to the community through outreach teams, community venues, peer overdose responders, licensed social workers, and medical clinicians. SACHR's Health Hub focuses on addressing the full spectrum of needs. Rather than only dealing with problems after they have arisen, evidence-based prevention strategies that emphasize patient dialogue and respect will be integral to our approach. Services Include:

- Buprenorphine Services
- Naloxone Services
- HIV/HCV Testing

- Overdose Prevention & Training
- Case Management
- Ryan White Services

WOMEN'S SERVICE UNIT

The Women's Services Unit (WSU) is about women helping women. The goal is to create a safe haven where members know that the other women have their back. The WSU helps women take charge of their lives by introducing education and information that strengthens their communication and leadership skills. This includes the Persistent Women Program and Women in Power Group. Persistent Women is a women's only program that helps participants self-advocate in all their relationships, especially intimate ones.

This program is aimed at anyone who identifies as a woman and engages in high-risk behavior and/or is living with HIV/AIDs. Our goal is to provide women with the resources to empower themselves and self-advocate in their own lives.

MEAL PROGRAM

A healthy diet is key for supporting mental health and improving one's quality of life. SACHR's Meal Program addresses food insecurity by offering cultural competent breakfast, lunch, and dinner and snacks options every weekday. All of our dishes are prepared daily with fresh ingredients from people in our community. Since 1992, meals have been a part of our essential services. Additionally, we provide hot meals during our daily outreach programs, addressing food insecurity throughout the entire Bronx.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Our Outreach Program works across the South Bronx providing services to those that cannot reach our agency. We believe in a continuum of care so our Outreach Program provides the same services as we do indoors, offering access to information and materials that will help preserve your health and well-being. The team provides various supplies to people who inject drugs and are at risk for various infections including HIV and HCV. No matter the weather, our team is out providing care to those who need it the most.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HUB

Our Behavioral Health Program meets participants where they are and honors their self-determination by partnering with them to achieve their identified goals. Made up of licensed providers that deliver comprehensive behavioral health services, our clinicians provide psychosocial assessments, individual psychotherapy, group counseling, mindfulness meditation, acupuncture, and stress reduction services. In an effort to extend services outside of the agency, we also provide educational workshops and referrals to psychiatrists. Participants may access mental health services on a walk-in basis or by scheduled appointment.

RYAN WHITE SERVICES

SACHR's Supportive Counseling and Family Stabilization Program serves the agency's HIV positive population. Our robust program is client-centered and works to reduce barriers to medical care by providing effective care coordination, accompaniments to appointments, metrocards, direct observation therapy (DOT) for medication, and advocacy. Meeting on a weekly basis, our team will be able to coordinate medical and support services by connecting participants to primary care, HIV treatment including PEP/PrEP resources, housing, mental health services, psychiatric care and legal services.

HIV / HCV TESTING PROGRAMS

Our Testing program provides both testing and counseling for participants. While needle exchange efforts have almost eliminated new transmissions of HIV, Hep C is still an epidemic among the community of people who inject drugs. We are addressing this public health problem through outreach and educational efforts at our facility. Our services include both pre and post test counseling. We educate people about the risks of transmission, strategies to prevent infection, and the steps that need to be taken if infection has occurred. If positive for Hep C, we can help cure you by connecting you with the necessary treatments.





SYRINGE OUTREACH RESPONSE TEAM

The SORT program is an initiative aimed at addressing the proper disposal and safe removal of used syringes found in public spaces. The program focuses on ensuring the health and safety of both the community and the environment by organizing regular clean-up activities and promoting education around safe syringe disposal practices.

The primary objective of SORT is to prevent accidental needlestick injuries and minimize the potential risks associated with improperly discarded syringes, but the program also serves other purposes. SORT not only ensures the removal of hazardous waste from public areas, but also aims to reduce the stigma surrounding drug use and promote a compassionate approach towards individuals struggling with addiction. By addressing the issue of syringe litter in a systematic and educational manner, this program contributes to a cleaner and safer environment for the entire community.

GROUP WORK

SACHR goes beyond the tedious word-talk of groups by developing and organizing interactive social and group dynamic activities that will allow wounds to heal and invite healthier possibilities. Our group work program is a cornerstone of the organization, fostering a sense of belonging and collaboration among its diverse members. Designed to bring people from different backgrounds together, this program creates a supportive and inclusive environment where individuals can develop valuable skills, build meaningful relationships, and contribute to the betterment of the community.

Through a wide range of group activities, workshops, and projects, the program promotes teamwork, communication, and problem-solving abilities. Participants engage in collaborative endeavors that encourage mutual understanding and empathy, transcending societal barriers. By working together towards common goals, members gain a deeper appreciation for diversity and learn to appreciate the strengths and perspectives each person brings to the table.

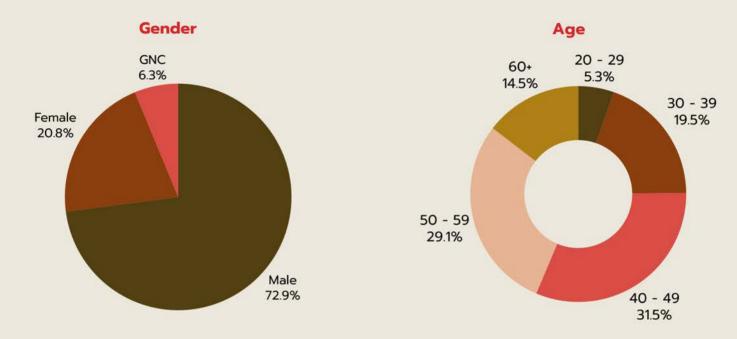
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PLANNING

Through our Good Neighbor Leadership Program, SACHR works with community to build awareness and shape programs to serve the Bronx. From door knockers, to door to door canvassing and regular meetings with intersectional stakeholders we strive to meet the global needs of community and customized participant needs everyday. Additionally, SACHR embarks on in-depth research studies which chart the feasibility of programs and the overall impact on our communities we serve.



Our Community

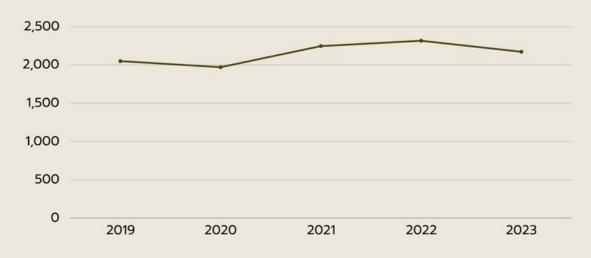
SACHR's work is firmly rooted in the Bronx and the diverse communities that we serve. We work in every Bronx Council, Assembly, and Senate District, providing person-centered health and wellness services grounded in harm reduction principles to participants from all walks of lives. Drug use – licit/illicit-- is ubiquitous and the epidemic cuts across all social and economic demographics.



SACHR's participant population is as diverse and vibrant as the borough we work out of. Through our Women's Service Unit we have been able to broaden our outreach to female-identifying individuals and connect them with the care they need.

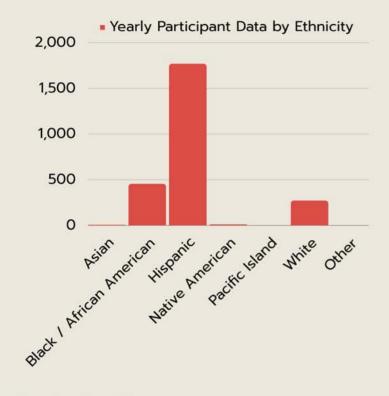
As our NYC population ages we have seen an increase in service needs among aging New Yorkers and Bronxites, where our data highlights significant benefits from harm reduction services and connection to program areas like socialization, housing, and older adult medical care and basic need navigation.

Unique Participants Since 2019





Demographics



Ethnicity

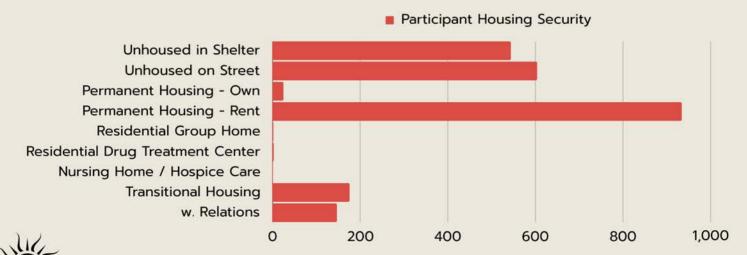
Just over 70% of SACHR participants identify as Hispanic, with African American and White ethnicities following behind

As a result, SACHR ensures that program offerings are available in multiple languages, has bilingual staff, that meals are culturally competent, and that programmatic groups meet the needs of the participants that we serve. Understanding our participants ethnicities is important because it provides valuable insights into the diversity, needs, and experiences of the different groups within our agency.

Housing Security

Over 60% of SACHR participants are un or underhoused in New York City. This speaks to the dire need for housing, release of Section 8 vouchers, nimbyism, and the impact of gentrification and displacement.

SACHR understands that housing is critical to participant stability and development. While we are not property managers or real estate developers our team assists participants in navigating the complexities of identifying and securing housing in New York City. We do this through partnerships with local community based organizations, shelters and the Department of Homeless Services, the private sector, NYCHA, and NYC Housing, Preservation, and Development (HPD).





Impact

SACHR was started because of a commitment to community health. The Bronx in the late 1980s was a crumbling city. Buildings were burning and the community was forced to endure these conditions. It is no wonder the HIV/AIDS Crisis quickly infiltrated our neighborhoods and took a hold of our people.

Before they were our participants, they were our family, friends, and neighbors. Our work is integral in the rebuilding of the Bronx community in light of the Drug War and Opioid Crisis.

2,800+ unique participants served this year

851,689 total services provided

1000+ hours of outreach throughout the Bronx

100%
of Bronx community
districts served



By the Numbers

We believe that impactful work is locally-led. Along with implementing community-based outreach projects, our local partnerships help to facilitate comprehensive mental health, behavioral health, and harm reduction services to protect our participants long-term health. We have worked to improve the quality of life for our program participants at the grassroots level and with the help of generous supporters like you, we're humanizing the policy narrative on illicit drugs and challenging the selective policy failures of our country regarding the poor and vulnerable.



12,014
Hygienic Services
Provided in 2023



24,851
Delicious & Culturally
Compentent Meals
Provided in 2023



2,148
Medical Services
Provided in 2023



320
Group Counseling &
Development Sessions
Provided in 2023



1,116
Acupuncture Services
Provided in 2023



127
Participants Connected to Housing Support in 2023



735
Tech Connectivity
Services Provided in
2023



1,250
Fitness Services
Provided in 2023



759
Workforce / Job
Opportunity Referrals
Provided in 2023



Syringe Services Program

Scientific research confirms that the wide scale implementation of harm reduction programs including expanded syringe access is the best answer to the AIDS epidemic in New York State and to the over 100,000 injection drug users in New York City who remain at highest risk for Hepatitis C.

In 2023, SACHR's Syringe Outreach Response Team had a 50% collection rate of used syringes. These were returned to SACHR, collected from public space, and collected during street outreach.

533,795

Total Syringes Provided to Participants

263,250

Total Syringes Collected by our Syringe Outreach Response Team



In service to community.

Partnerships and our work in and with community provide foundational guidance on SACHR program development and implementation of our service model. From large scale free community events, to meetings with stakeholders and City, State, and Federal leadership, to providing expert training and policy advisement, we are thought leaders in public health and harm reduction.



SACHR's sexual health outreach team partners with Third Avenue BID and area businesses during summer pop-up programs on Roberto Clemente Plaza in the HUB.



SACHR partners with the Food Bank of New York to provide educational tools to program participant and NYC Health Bucks to ensure a holistic approach to health and wellness.



Open communication with elected officials is an essential tool to promoting public health. Pictured: NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera, Chair of the Health Committee and SACHR founder and CEO, Joyce Rivera.



SACHR partners with the Bronx Opioid Collective to bring real time services to the Bronx. SACHR is a founding member of the Collective, a signature program funded by the New York City Council





SACHR's Got Talent is an annual event, hosted in partnership with participants, the NYC Department of Health, and community based organizations with to end stigma in our communities, and showcase the talent of SACHR participants while building community.



Working with government is a key component to ensuring equitable services are provided to our communities. Pictured: NYS OASAS Commissioner Cunningham tours SACHR Center with the leadership team.



SACHR's Good Neighbor Program has led several trips, tours, and seminars to New York City cultural centers including the Metropolitan Museum, the Bronx Zoo, the Cloisters, Wave Hill, and the Museum of the City of New York.



SACHR provides stability and family to our community. Holiday celebrations are community based and provide a forum to gather and celebrate each other while also providing a framework for socialization and health services.



SACHR shares best practices and is a thought partner with organizations and municipalities throughout the United States. Our team provides expert testimony, serves on conference panels, and participates and leads in research and data opportunities which shape the future of public health.

Organizational Overview & Financials

From our humble beginnings, SACHR has grown into a multi-faceted public health organization that serves the entire Bronx. We have made significant strides in expanding our staff and budget, and in recent years have made concerted efforts to diversify funding streams to ensure sustainability and institutional continuity.

\$4.68M

total consolidated revenue in the past fiscal year

IN 2023, WE INVESTED

- \$1.4M to fund harm reduction services
- \$0.4M in expanding services, repairs, and maintenance of Outreach vehicles
- \$0.4M to fund operating expenses

NET ASSETS

2023: \$2.7M

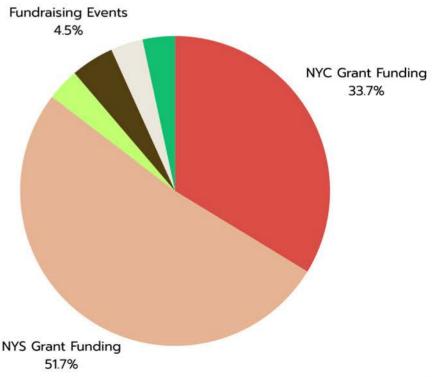
2022: \$2.5M

2021: \$2.2M

80%

of revenue supports participant programs

Revenue Overview

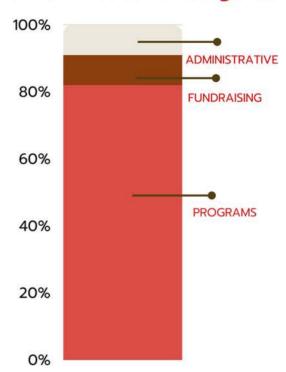




Operational Spending Summary

Fringe 6.5% Consultants 7.4% Salaries 54.5% Other 8.2%

Expenses in Program, Fundraising, and Administrative Categories



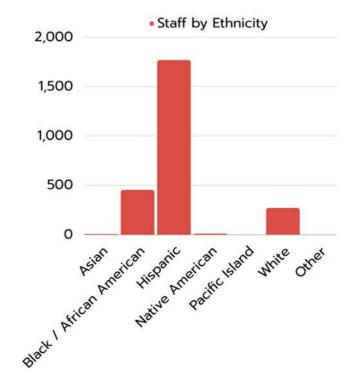
Our Team.

SACHR professionals come from a variety of backgrounds; we are experts in public health, pioneers in harm reduction, activists, researchers, and policy experts. We are passionate about public health and harm reduction and ensuring the vitality of New York City.

Full Time Staff Part Time Staff	35 8

Our commitment to anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion is essential to who we choose to be. We continuously reflect on our role and that of our field in perpetuating inequities, refine our understanding of these conditions, and address their impact on our workplace and our work.

Our team has a lived experience that enhances our services for program participants. Additionally, we are in and of the community that we serve which provides an important approach to our service model.





Get Involved

At the heart of our work is a commitment to leading with empathy, practicing mercy, and providing safety within the context of the Bronx community that we faithfully serve. The SACHR team is ready for you to engage with us and get involved in learning about our programs, Bronx public health, and methods to create an innovative, forward thinking New York City by promoting and advocating for constructive public health policies which benefit our participants and the community.

From advocacy and anti-stigma campaigns to volunteers, peerships, and fellowships at the SACHR Center, to promoting work on social media - SACHR is excited to continue our history of strong community partnerships.

Want to learn more? Visit our website, www.sachr.org, follow us on social media, @sachr_nyc, or schedule a tour, info@sachr.org.

Support

We invite you to join us in our mission to save lives and promote affirming, compassionate public health solutions. From direct contributions via our website, www.sachr.org/donate, to working with our team in public and private partnerships SACHR encourages all levels of support.

Your support is an investment in the public health and sustainability of the Bronx and New York City. Our knowledgeable team can assist in a one-time gift, bequests, long term support, annuities and life insurance programs to support the work of SACHR.

Contact Michael Brady, mbrady@sachr.org to learn more.

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FUNDING.

We invite you to invest in SACHR and underwrite the following programs with your contribution.

\$150,000 - La Cueva Food Program

The La Cueva Food Program provides hot, culturally competent meals for nearly 100,000 individuals annually. This program is supported solely through private contributions.

\$10,000 - Reproductive Justice Program

This program provides comprehensive reproductive health and childcare services for program participants.

\$1,500 - Participant Computer Lab Work Station

Provides support for a new participant work station and promotes workforce development & technology. \$25,000 - Digital Connectivity & Technology

This program provides workforce and technical training for program participants in the area of digital equity.

\$5,000 - Braided Learning Support Program

This program provides resources to promote braided learning tools for participant families at SACHR.

\$500 - Supports an Overdose Training Course

This program provides vital overdose prevention training courses to businesses and organizations.



In the media

We are advocates for innovative public health policies which positively impact our participants and the communities that we serve. In 2023, we developed a comprehensive media strategy to underscore the importance of harm reduction, innovative public health interventions while also highlighting SACHR's dynamic history of service to the Bronx and New York City.

Private For media inquires please contact Michael Brady, Public and Partnerships, mbrady@sachr.org.



NEW YORK BUSINESS

Needle exchange founder looks back at 'countless' lives saved





Ending HIV & AIDS

Timothy Majoor, COO, St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction







DAILY®NEWS

Save lives with harm reduction: Expand overdose prevention centers

New York Daily News New York Daily News Nublished: Aug 31, 2023 at 5:00 am



The opioid crisis demands immediate action. The reality is that people — friends, loved ones, and colleagues — are dying every day. We don't have more years of policy negotiations to spare. The time to save lives is now. New York has the resources it needs to expand overdose prevention centers into the communities that need them most, like the Bronx where the rate of overdose fatalities is higher than any other county in the state.



Gothamist





NIMBYism delays plan for Bronx's first overdose prevention center amid crisis

St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction in Longwood is working to open the first overdose prevention center in the Bronx - but the plan is facing delays amid the quest for community buy-in and funding.

Year after year, the South Bronx leads New York City in drug overdose deaths, and neighborhoods there are facing a harder toll as fatalities continue to rise. Mayor Eric Adams has identified the area as a priority location for a new overdose prevention

BRONXNET

The Importance of Harm Reduction

Jovce Rivera, Founder & CEO, St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction

Debbian Fletcher-Blake, President & CEO, VIP Community Services









St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction Annual Report 2023

For more information: www.sachr.org
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