

UST Social Justice Interest Group
Injustices Toward People Who
Use and Inject Drugs

PRESENTERS:
 **Nicholas** DeFilippo
 **Kirsten** Kenny

BACKGROUND
 There is simultaneously an overcriminalization and a lack of medical and social support for people who use and inject drugs in Connecticut.

There is no formal education about harm reduction in our curricula as either a legitimate long term recovery strategy or a bridge to future abstinence from using or injecting drugs. This leads to stigmatization of PWUD/PWID in medical spaces, among other harms.

- METHODS**
1. Identified harms of stigma against PWUD/PWID as a social justice issue
 2. Examined structural and interpersonal biases against PWUD/PWID
 3. Contacted representatives from local HRCs to speak at a meeting
 4. Learned about harm reduction strategies to share with community members
 5. **Organized a list of actionable items for next year's interest group.**

- RESULTS**
- Met monthly from Nov 2020 – Mar 2021
 - 10 – 20 minute Social Justice Snapshots
 - LaToya Tyson from ACT
 - Awareness of internalized bias
 - **Harm Reduction Toolkit (see QR code)**
 - **2021 – 2022 Action List (see QR code)**

The **medical issue** of substance use disorders & the **social injustices** experienced by **PWUD/PWID** are **correlated but separate.**

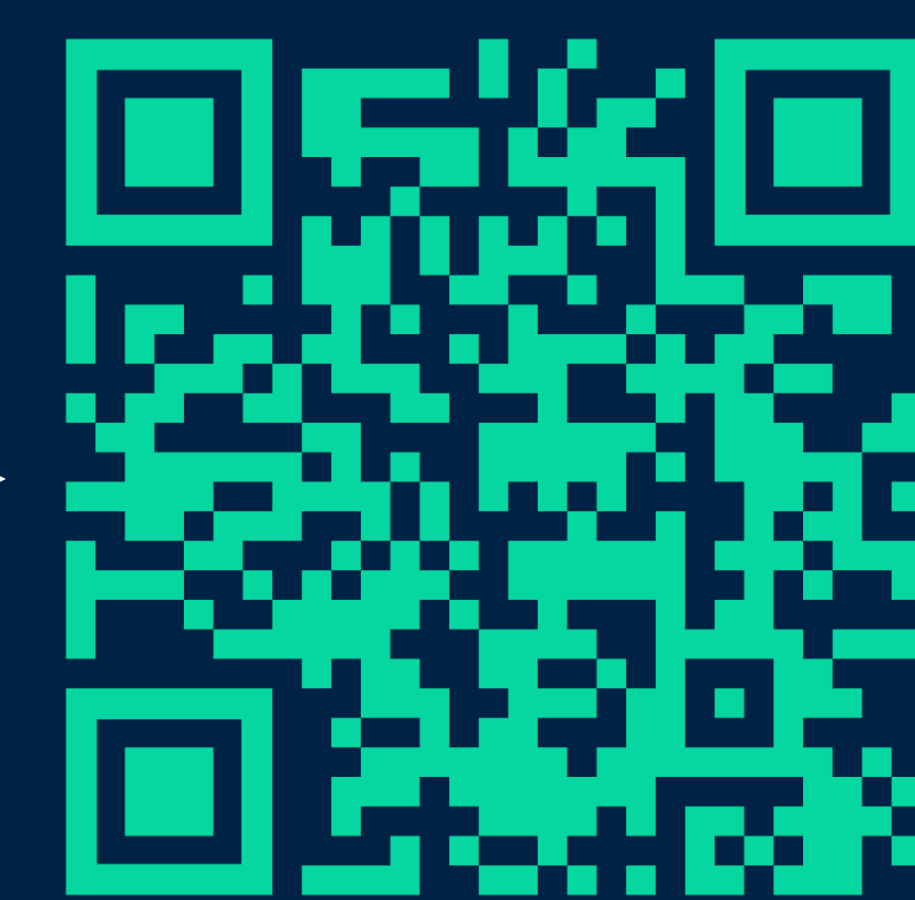
BUILDING POWER AND EQUITY WITH PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS
 through access, advocacy and action

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



Take a picture to access the **Harm Reduction Toolkit** (includes references)

Take a picture to access the **2021-2022 SJIG Action List**



The "risk itself (e.g. related to drug use or sex work) that you're discussing

The "mindset" that someone brings to the situation, including thoughts, mood, and expectations



The physical and social environments of where the person is, and their perception of how that can promote/reduce risk

• Kirsten Kenny, Nicholas DeFilippo, Jenna Gobel, Sarah Fuller, Nicey Brooks, Katie Stevens, Hanako Agresta, Caroline Thomas, Lahari Kota, Osama ElSherbini, Sidra Khan, Tyler James, Marina Zoghbi, Jon Lis

