



**Media Alert – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

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**This year for Overdose Awareness Day, Victory Programs' Mobile Prevention Team Dispenses Highly Effective Overdose Reversal Drug Naloxone (Narcan) and Offers Syringe Exchange Services for Community Members in South Boston's Newmarket Square**

- **What:** Victory Programs' Mobile Prevention Team offers monthly drop-in services and street outreach (established February 2018) in hard-hit South Boston Newmarket Neighborhood.  
**Services include:**
  - Overdose prevention, identification, and response in addition to naloxone access
  - Integrated HIV, Hepatitis C, and STI testing
  - Sexual health education and risk reduction
  - Harm reduction kits aimed at preventing infectious disease transmission and safer consumption
  - Supported referrals to substance use treatment, healthcare, and housing resources
  - Syringe services (new as of Wednesday, August 28, 2019)
- **When:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- **Where:** Victory Programs Administrative Offices, 965 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

In conjunction with **International Overdose Awareness Day**, officially recognized on August 31, Victory Programs' Mobile Prevention Team will add syringe services to our drop-in and outreach services starting on Wednesday, August 28, at Victory Programs' Administrative offices located at 965 Massachusetts Avenue, just a few blocks from the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, in addition to a continued focus on distributing naloxone to the people most likely to need it.

**Syringe services** offer a long-proven strategy for decreasing the transmission of infectious diseases such as HIV and Viral Hepatitis. Clean syringe access can also reduce the likelihood and prevalence of potentially dangerous bacterial infections such as syphilis and some strains of Staphylococcus. Victory Programs' syringe services include access to unused, sterile syringes and collection/safe disposal of old, used syringes.

**Naloxone**, which is safe enough to use on an infant, is a highly successful tool for reducing unnecessary deaths due to drug overdoses. **Victory Programs' Mobile Prevention Team is part of the Statewide Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution program** which is mandated to distribute naloxone to anyone who is likely to experience or witness an overdose. According to the most recent quarterly report, published on August 21, 2019, **opioid-related overdose deaths were down 11% over the first six months of 2019** compared to the same period last year. Many health experts attribute the reduction in part to the increased distribution of naloxone. In 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health reported **naloxone was successfully administered in 4,079 rescues across the commonwealth.**

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### **About Victory Programs**

Victory Programs has more than 40 years of experience opening doors to hope, health and housing for individuals and families in need. Since its inception in 1975, the agency has expanded to 19 health, housing and prevention programs providing shelter and recovery services for up to 2,500 people annually. Victory Programs has a storied history of responding to emerging needs in the community. Throughout its organizational growth, Victory Programs' commitment to those struggling with homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS always remains its top priority. For more information about Victory Programs visit [vpi.org](http://vpi.org) or call 617-541-0222.