

# VALUES EXPLORATION

**WELCOME!  
PLEASE  
FILL  
OUT THIS  
SURVEY  
WHILE WE  
GET  
SETTLED!**



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[bit.ly/3HoBCGE](https://bit.ly/3HoBCGE)

# *SEX WORK*

**AND HARM REDUCTION**

**Cyndee Clay, Executive Director  
HIPS**

**2025 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit**



# WHO IS HIPS

HIPS advances the health, rights, and dignity of people and communities impacted by sex work and/or drug use by providing non-judgmental harm reduction services, advocacy, and community engagement led by those with lived experience.

We envision a world where all people engaged in sexual exchange and/or drug use can use their power to lead healthy and self-determined lives free from stigma, violence, criminalization, or oppression.



# WHO IS HIPS

- Founded in 1993, by a coalition by Terrie Williams, MSW
- **Medical, Social Services & Advocacy** rooted in **harm reduction practice, led by those with lived experience**
- 15,000 points of service at 4 locations and extensive mobile services
- People who do **sex work**, people who **use opioids and/or stimulants**, **unhoused LGBTQ+** community







*365,000*

**SYRINGE EXCHANGES**

*14,103*

**NALOXONE KITS**

*56,863*

**VENDING MACHINE**

*78%*

**MAT RETENTION RATE**

*STATS*

## TERMS

### Sex

Sex work is the consensual provision of sexual services between adults. It acknowledges this form of labor, contextualizes within labor rights models

### Transactional

acknowledges "gig" economy and non traditional forms of resource sharing  
Also encompasses non commercial forms of exchange - food, shelter, protection

focuses on the act of exchange, not identity

### Trafficking

Usually stands to mean force, fraud or coercion, but also any exchange by someone under 18. Ignores circumstances, legally and culturally vague

### Sexual

Identifies abuse of a position of vulnerability, but currently includes transactional sex of any kind

### Exploitation

# STATS

**Estimated 14 billion generated by sex industry in the US each year**

**9.1 million full service sex workers worldwide**

**1-2 million estimated in the US**

**70-80K US arrests each year nationally**

**16,000 arrests of youth in 2022**

**361 million in anti-trafficking grants in 2022**

**Estimated 200 million spent on arrests**

**70% of arrests involve female sex workers or female managers**

**Sex work is legal or decriminalized in 86 countries**

**Most statistics on sex work and sex trafficking are unreliable**

**PHYSICAL LABOR IS SEEN AS  
AN OPTION OF LAST RESORT**

**IT'S THE MONEY, HONEY**

**DEPENDENCE**

**COERCION**

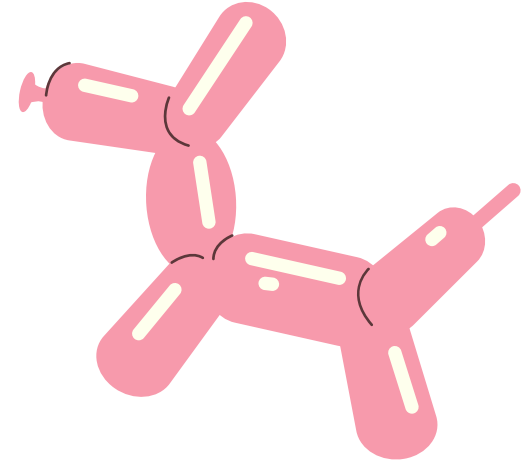
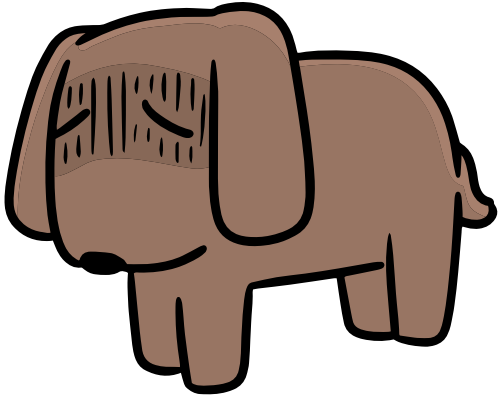
**CULTURE**



***BUT WHY***



**HARM REDUCTION ♥'S  
CONTIN-U-UMS**



**Harmful**

**Safe**

Using  
alone

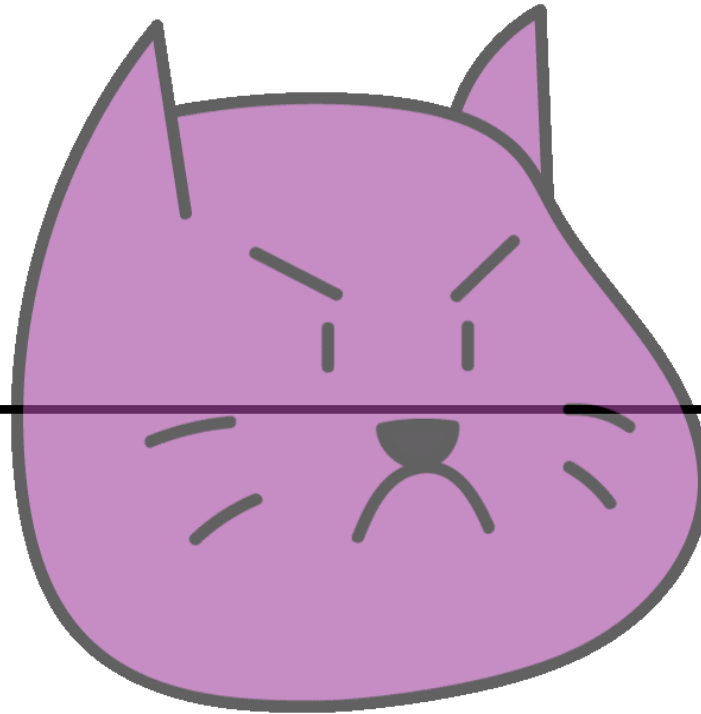
Sterile  
New  
Syringes

Testing  
your  
Drugs

Safer  
Consumption  
Site

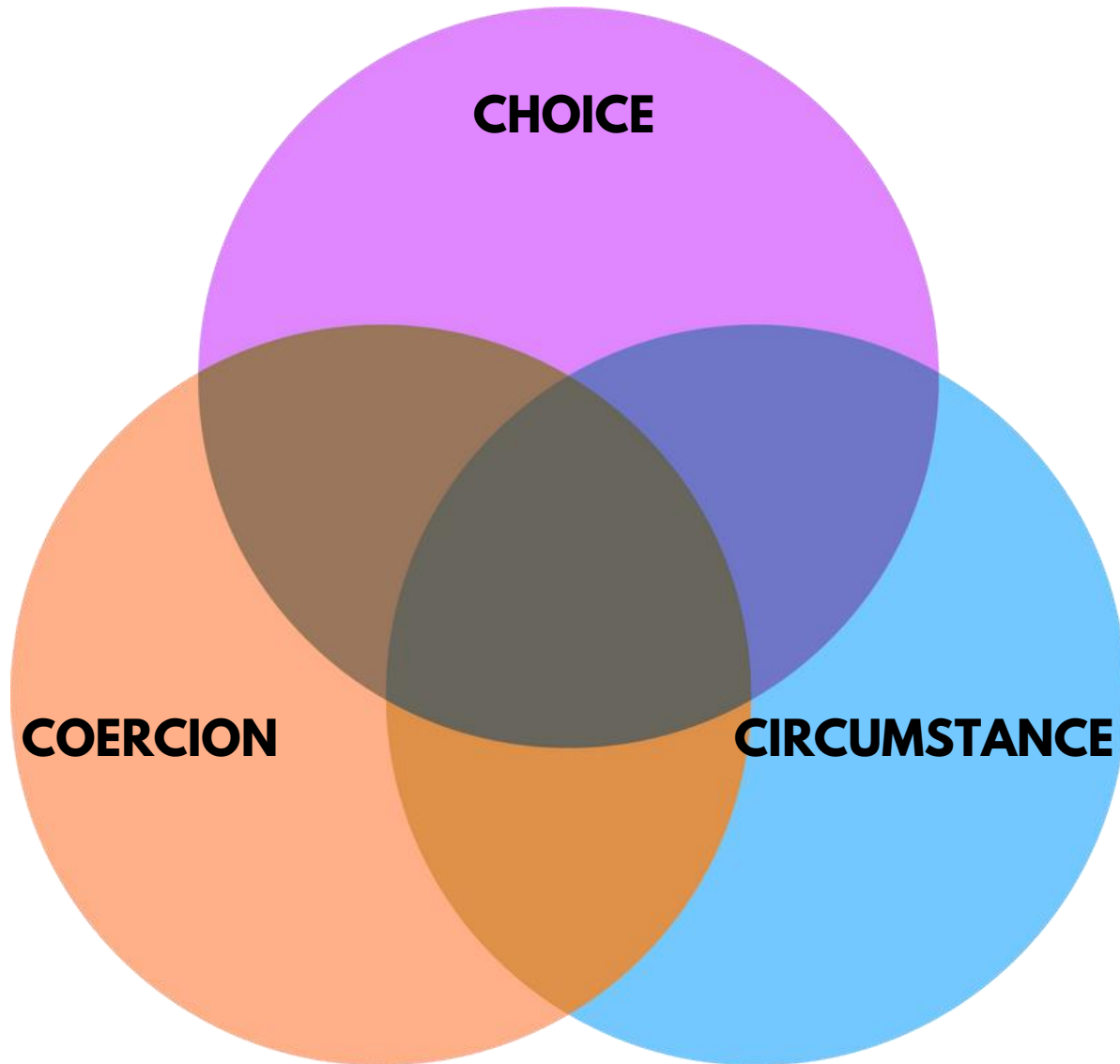
**TIME TO LET IT GO**

**SEX WORK**

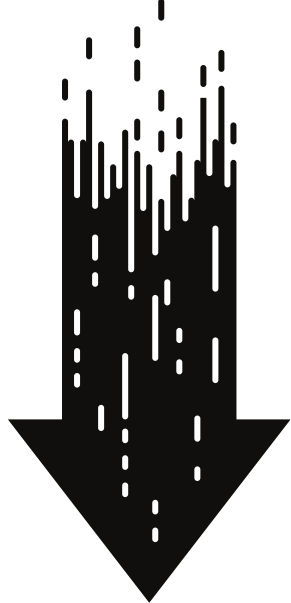


**TRAFFICKING**

**LET'S TRY THIS**



**REDUCE**



Exploitation  
Risk  
Vulnerability  
Isolation  
Poverty  
Incarceration

WHAT ARE WE EVEN  
DOING?

**INCREASE**



Health  
Safety  
Joy  
Social Support  
Independence  
Housing Security  
\$\$\$\$\$





# *BEST PRACTICES*

- SUPPLY CONDOMS AND LUBE
- APPLY HR AS A PHILOSOPHY
- DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS
- CONSIDER HOURS & DAYS
- BE LOUD, BE PROUD
- HIRE SEX WORKERS
- EDUCATE ON PREP
- DON'T BE A JERK
- BE PATIENT



**WWW.HIPS.ORG**

**GLOBAL NETWORK OF SEX WORK  
PROJECTS**

**NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION  
COALITION**

**REFRAME HEALTH & JUSTICE**

**HIPS@HIPS.org**

**CyndeeClay@HIPS.org**

***RESOURCES***

*thank  
=YOU=*  
♥