INTRODUCTION
In South Carolina in 2017, there were 6,724 reported cases of newly confirmed or probable chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is potentially an undercount. An example of harm reduction services is syringe exchange programs (SEPs), which help to reduce the spread of HIV and HCV infections among people who inject drugs. SEPs also typically provide other harm reduction services including but not limited to HIV/HCV testing, naloxone distribution and training, overdose education, condom distribution, and referrals for healthcare and addiction treatment services.

The goal of harm reduction is to reduce any negative outcomes associated with drug use while employing the idea of “meeting people who use drugs ‘where they’re at’.”

METHODS
Researchers will collect observational data as they observe harm reductionists in public spaces where supplies and services are offered to the general public. In the same space, survey data will be collected from consumers receiving harm reduction services. Additionally, this study will use Photovoice methodology, a participatory photographic research method that represents individual perspectives and lived experiences.

Through gathering the anticipated results, the goal is to discuss the findings with community leaders and healthcare providers and to educate the general public as appropriate.

RESULTS
Anticipated results include determining the importance of harm reduction in South Carolina, the needs of the consumers receiving harm reduction services, and how harm reduction services impact the health of consumers.

DISCUSSION
By identifying the harm reduction and healthcare services that are not being provided but are needed by people who use drugs, this will help to implement better care and support for a vulnerable population in the Upstate of South Carolina and surrounding areas.

REFERENCES