Syringe Service Programs:
Platforms for Engagement

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Strategy:
Syringe Service Programs

• Harm Reduction focuses on ways to minimize the harmful effects rather than ignore or condemn them.

• A social justice model is based on respect for and the rights of people who use drugs.

• Intent is to keep the client alive and as healthy as possible.
Strategy:

Syringe Service Programs

• Public Education, Prevention & Treatment
• Reduces risks/harm from …
  – IV drug use directly
  – Infectious diseases
  – Untreated medical needs
  – Unintentional overdose
Impact:

Syringe Service Programs

• Program efficacy quantitative & qualitative\textsuperscript{1,2,3},

• People who inject drugs (PWID) are 5 times as likely to enter treatment for substance use disorder when engaged in a Syringe Service Program (SSP)\textsuperscript{4}

• **Decrease in Hepatitis C rates** by 50% and **decrease in HIV rates** of 80% among those who inject drugs.\textsuperscript{5}
  – Once publicly funded, Washington D.C.’s SSP prevented an estimated 120 HIV cases and saved $44 million in treatment costs in only 2 years\textsuperscript{6}

• **Baltimore neighborhoods saw a decrease in crime by 11\%**.\textsuperscript{7}
  – Neighborhoods without a needle exchange saw an 8\% increase in the crime rate during same time period.\textsuperscript{8}
Federal Funding

• The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, Division H, Sec. 520
  – Provides, under limited circumstances, the opportunity to use federal funds to support certain components of SSPs.
  – Excludes the purchase of syringes.
  – Must be in consultation with relevant state or local health department, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Federal Funding Guidance

Funding and Guidance for SSPs is available from:

• Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  – Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
  – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
  – Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grants
  – HIV Grants
  – State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants
Availability
SSPs By State

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ORC: Syringe Programs

ORC 3707.57: “Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program”

• Established September 2015,

• Allows a local board of health to establish a syringe program to reduce the spread of HIV, Hep B and Hep C.

• Must consult with named “interested parties”
Availability

SSPs in Ohio¹⁰

- 14 syringe programs
- Operating in 16 counties
- Providing services in 21 locations
- 1,300% increase from 2015, when there was only 1 program operating

Source: Harm Reduction Ohio
Harm Reduction Program In Columbus, Ohio

Equitas Health
Care for All

SAFE POINT

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR
COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH

City of Columbus • Columbus Public Health
Safe Point: A Harm Reduction Program
Local Impact

2017 Safe Point Outcomes

- Over 3,000 unduplicated Safe Point participants in 2017.
- Primary Drug: Heroin 84%, Crack/cocaine 3%, Crystal meth 8%, Marijuana 2%, Other/not reported 3%
- Gender: Male 60%, Female 40%, Other <1%
- Self-reported Hepatitis C: Positive 37%, Unreported 63%
- 1,315 lives saved by naloxone provided by Safe Point (as reported by participants).
- Medical referrals: 1,029
- Behavioral health referrals: 472
- Alcohol and other drug treatment referrals: 1,518
- Overdose prevention: 3,068
- Syringe disposal: 2,626
- Safer Injection: 4,668

*number of times education was provided
Local Impact

Hepatitis C in Franklin County

- 2013: 1307
- 2014: 1529
- 2015: 1884
- 2016: 2359
- 2017*: 2308

HCV Cases
Closing

- There are many harms associated with substance misuse.
- Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) seeks to reduce many of these harms.
- SSPs maximum the participant’s ability to meet their basic needs, access healthcare and supportive services, and greatly improve individual and community health outcomes.
- Public health’s response must be multi-faceted with partners and continually evolve to address related and emerging issues.
- Harm Reduction strategies are a key part of this response.