

SSPs Benefit Communities and Public Health

What are Syringe Services Programs (SSPs)?

Syringe Services Programs are community-based public health programs that provide critical services in nonjudgmental environments to people who use syringes. Services include sterile injecting supplies and safe disposal, and access to healthcare, treatment, and support.



SSPs provide free sterile syringes to people who need them in order to reduce syringe re-use and sharing. SSPs also offer safe syringe disposal for used syringes. SSPs do not encourage or enable drug use.



SSPs can offer screening for infectious diseases including viral hepatitis, STDs, and HIV. SSPs can also serve as sites for vaccination against hepatitis A and B to those at greatest risk.



SSPs provide opioid overdose prevention education and distribute naloxone. People who use drugs and their loved ones are most likely to witness opioid overdose. Ensuring they have the tools to respond is essential.



SSPs provide referrals to physical and behavioral health care, including medication assisted therapy, supportive housing, and primary care.



SSPs are a critical HIV prevention intervention. Where SSPs are effectively implemented, HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is low.



SSPs access people not engaged in traditional healthcare and establish trusting relationships in order to provide health education and risk reduction counseling.