WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER Syringe Services Programs

What is an Syringe Services Program (SSP)?
A community-based public health program that provides services to prevent drug use, HIV, and Viral Hepatitis

SSPs provide services such as: 1, 2
- Free sterile needles and syringes
- Safe disposal of needles and syringes
- HIV and hepatitis testing and linkage to treatment
- Hepatitis A and B vaccination

How Do SSPs Benefit Communities and Public Safety?

1. SSPs Reduce Needlestick Injuries
SSPs reduce needlestick injuries among first responders by providing proper disposal. Increasing safe disposal also protects the public from needlestick injuries.

2. SSPs Saves Money
SSPs save health care dollars by preventing infections.

Testing linked to hepatitis C treatment can save an estimated 320,000 lives 1

Estimated lifetime cost of treating one person living with HIV > $400,000 1

3. SSPs Reduce new HIV and Viral Hepatitis Infections
SSPs reduce new HIV and viral hepatitis infections by decreasing the sharing of syringes and other injection tools.

New HIV infections have dropped by 80 percent among persons who inject drugs since the start of SSPs in the late 1980's

Have SSPs been effective (or successful) in Michigan communities?
In 2017, Michigan SSPs directly served nearly 8,000 clients distributing over 672,000 clean needles

24 percent of Michigan SSP clients referred to substance use treatment received treatment

Sources:

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