

# Syringe Services Programs

## What is a 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:<sup>1,2</sup>



Free clean needles and syringes



Safe disposal of needles and syringes



HIV and hepatitis testing and linkage to treatment



Hepatitis A and B vaccination



SSPs also provide:

- Referral to substance use disorder treatment
- Overdose treatment and education

## Have SSPs been successful in Michigan communities?

In 2017, Michigan SSPs directly served nearly



**8,000**

clients

distributing over **672,000** clean needles.



Nearly



24%

Nearly **1 in 4** Michigan SSP clients referred to substance use treatment received treatment

**SSPs do not increase drug use or crime**<sup>1</sup>

# How Do SSPs Benefit Communities and Public Safety?

## 1 SSPs reduce needlestick injuries

SSPs **reduce needlestick injuries** among first responders and the public by providing a proper place to throw out used syringes.

After the start of a SSP in Portland, Oregon, research showed

 **66 % drop**

in the number of syringes thrown out in an unsafe way<sup>3</sup>

## 2 SSPs Save Money

SSPs **save health care dollars** by preventing infections

Testing linked to hepatitis C treatment can save an estimated

**320,000 lives.**<sup>1</sup>

Estimated lifetime cost of treating one person living with HIV

**> \$400,000**<sup>1</sup>



## 3 SSPs Reduce new HIV and Viral Hepatitis Infections<sup>1</sup>

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 person who inject drugs since the start of SSPs in the late 1980's<sup>4</sup>

SSP clients are **5 times**

more likely to enter a drug treatment program than non-clients.<sup>5</sup>



### Sources:

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