

Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)

Syringe service programs work to reduce the risks that are associated with drug use.



Wisconsin needs SSPs

1,427

Opioid related overdoses in 2021.

47%

Increase in opioid related overdoses from 2018 to 2021.

300%

Increase over the past decade in hepatitis C cases in people ages 15-29, with many cases reporting injection drug use.

Syringe Service Programs:



Help prevent infections.

Used needles can spread infections like HIV and hepatitis C (HCV). SSPs provide clean needles at no cost to prevent infections. Programs also help connect individuals to HIV and HCV testing and treatment services to those who may need it.



Decrease substance use.

People who use SSPs are more likely to enter treatment for injection drug use and stop use than those who do not use SSPs.

Programs also provide trainings to people who use drugs and community members on how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and reverse a drug overdose by using naloxone, a medication that reverses a drug overdose.



Keep neighborhoods safe.

SSPs provide safe disposal for used needles. This decreases discarded needles in communities and prevents first responders and the public against injuries from needlesticks. Programs also help law enforcement respond to overdoses and prevent death as they provide naloxone to local police departments.

BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health
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