



# SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAM FACTS



**HARM REDUCTION**  
Indiana State Department of Health

## SYRINGE/NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WORK

Syringe Service Programs have been studied for 40 years and have been proven effective.<sup>1</sup> Syringe Service Programs do not encourage starting or continuing with injection drug use, and in fact, are effective at reducing injection drug use and assisting people in their recovery.<sup>2</sup>

### HARM REDUCTION

Can prevent illness or injury that may occur as a result of doing dangerous things.



### AVAILABILITY

Indiana has **9** counties approved to provide syringe services.

### RETURN RATE

Average syringe return rate of **82%** statewide

### PARTICIPATION

Over **8,500** people participate in SSPs in the state.

### OPPORTUNITY

Representing more than **37,000** visits/opportunities to access other services, including:

- HIV, STD, TB, and hepatitis B & C testing
- Referrals to substance abuse and mental health care, health care, housing, food, and other wrap-around services.
- Adult immunizations
- Wound care

Syringe Service Programs work to prevent disease and are a gateway to public health and social services.

<sup>1</sup> "Several studies have found that providing sterilized equipment to injection drug users substantially reduces risk of HIV infection, increases the probability that they will initiate drug treatment, and does not increase drug use." (National HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategy for the United States, 2010)

<sup>2</sup> Hagan H, et al. Reduced injection frequency and increased entry and retention in drug treatment associated with needle-exchange participation in Seattle drug injectors. *J Subst Abuse Treat* 2000;19(3):247-52.)

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<http://www.in.gov/isdh/27356.htm>



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