

# NORTH CAROLINA SAFER SYRINGE INITIATIVE



As of July 11, 2016, North Carolina law (G.S. 90-113.27) allows for the legal establishment of hypodermic syringe and needle services programs. Since legalization, syringe services programs (SSPs) across the state have provided lifesaving support to North Carolinians. These are some of the successes to-date based on the objectives stated in the law.

**OBJECTIVE 1: REDUCE THE SPREAD OF HIV, AIDS, VIRAL HEPATITIS, AND OTHER BLOODBORNE DISEASES IN THIS STATE**



**19.4 Million**

sterile syringes distributed

**5,328**

Hepatitis C tests conducted

**11,888**

HIV tests conducted

EACH STERILE **SYRINGE DISTRIBUTED** IS A POTENTIAL NEW CASE OF HIV, HCV, OR ENDOCARDITIS **AVOIDED**

**OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCE NEEDLE STICK INJURIES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND OTHER EMERGENCY PERSONNEL**



**6.9 Million**

sterile syringes directly disposed

**+ countless more**

disposed of properly due to the distribution of sharps containers and education by SSPs

EACH USED **SYRINGE DISPOSED OF PROPERLY** IS A POTENTIAL NEEDLE STICK INJURY **AVOIDED**

**OBJECTIVE 3: ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS WHO USE DRUGS ILLICITLY TO ENROLL IN EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT**

**220,173**

documented interactions with participants

Interactions include service provision, education, and linkage to care.



PEOPLE WHO USE SSPS ARE **THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY** TO REPORT LESS FREQUENT INJECTION THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT USE SSPS

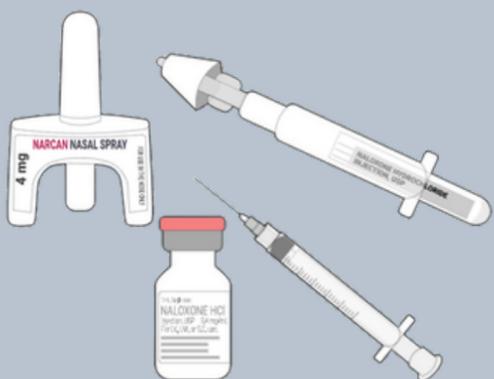
**12,113**

treatment referrals

**+ countless more opportunities for engagement in a positive direction**

PEOPLE WHO USE SSPS ARE **FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY** TO ENTER TREATMENT THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT USE SSPS.

**OBJECTIVE 4: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSES IN OUR STATE**



**202,746** naloxone kits distributed

**30,722**

overdose reversals reported to SSPs

**+ countless more that have gone unreported**

Numbers alone cannot quantify the true impact of SSPs. The stories of care, compassion, and understanding are limitless. North Carolinians are healthier because of SSPs. More North Carolinians are alive because of SSPs.



NC DEPARTMENT OF **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health

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