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 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

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.