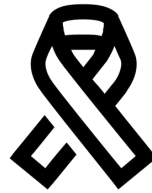


What are Syringe Service Programs?

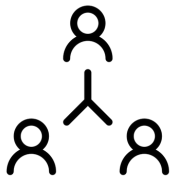


SSPs provide free sterile syringes to people who need them in order to reduce syringe re-use and sharing. SSPs also offer safe syringe disposal for used syringes. SSPs do not encourage or enable drug use.



SSPs are a critical HIV prevention intervention.

Where SSPs are effectively implemented, HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is low.



SSPs provide referrals and linkage to physical and behavioral health care, including medication assisted therapy, supportive housing, and primary care



SSPs provide opioid overdose prevention education and distribute naloxone.

People who use drugs and their loved ones are most likely to witness opioid overdose. Ensuring they have the tools to respond is essential.



SSPs can offer screening for infectious diseases including viral hepatitis, STDs, and HIV. SSPs can also serve as sites for vaccination against hepatitis A and B to those at greatest risk.



SSPs access people not engaged in traditional healthcare and establish trusting relationships in order to provide health education and risk reduction counseling.



Washington State Department of Health has funded SSPs since 1992. The authority of public health to establish SSPs was decided in Supreme Court Case 120 Wn.2d 140 (1992) Health District v. Brockett, and SSPs legally operate under RCW 69.50.4121.