



Idaho Safer Syringe Programs

2020 Annual Report

What are Safer Syringe Programs?

Safer syringe programs (SSPs) are a practical approach to address substance use in Idaho. SSPs are community-based prevention programs that protect people by providing safe disposal of used syringes. SSPs are also places where individuals who inject drugs can go to access sterile syringes, get health exams, and get connected to substance use disorder treatment.

Substance use is complex. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is focused on prevention and treatment options for people with substance use disorder. But we also need a way to safely dispose of used syringes to protect the public safety workforce and community members from injury, prevent the spread of infections such as HIV and viral hepatitis, and connect individuals to substance use disorder treatment.

Services offered at Idaho's Safer Syringe Programs include:



Safe syringe disposal & access to sterile syringes



Connection to substance use disorder treatment



Opioid overdose reversal medications (naloxone)



HIV and viral hepatitis testing, STD testing, condoms



Housing assistance, food banks

Annual Survey

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Section provides Idaho SSPs with guidance, training and measures their impact by conducting an annual survey. Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, Idaho's four SSPs report serving 527 unique participants from 25 counties, demonstrating the continued impact that substance use has in communities throughout the state.

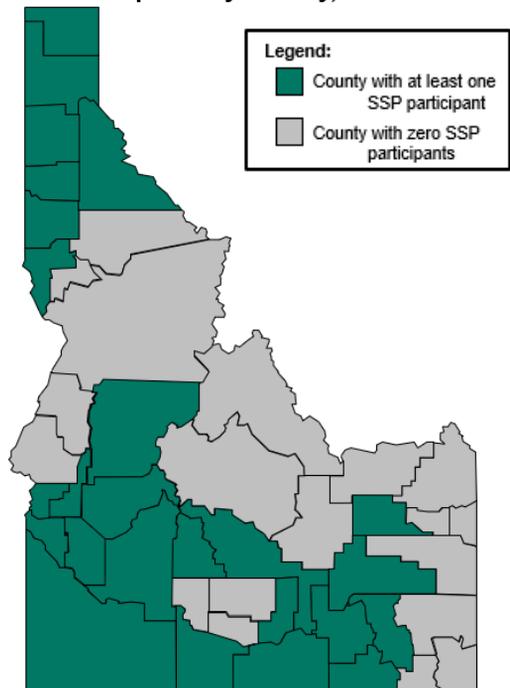


527 participants accessed services



1,323 visits or encounters occurred

SSP Participants by County, Idaho - 2020





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Impact

Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, Idaho's four SSPs made the following impact:



Communities Are Safer

- 311,230 used syringes safely disposed of (return ratio 0.98), preventing injury.
- Four publicly accessible safe sharps disposal collection boxes installed.
- Two programs operated a "Found syringe hotline".
- Four community clean-up events were held.



Spread of Infections Are Reduced

- 304,310 sterile syringes provided preventing the spread of infections such as hepatitis C, HIV, or bacterial infections.
- 25,362 condoms distributed preventing the spread of sexual transmitted infections.



Lives Are Being Saved

- 2,918 naloxone kits distributed directly to people who use drugs or their family members.
- At least 31 opioid-related overdoses reversed with naloxone provided by SSPs.



Pathway to Healthcare & Recovery Are Provided

- 138 HIV tests & 34 hepatitis C tests performed.
- 2 new HIV and 4 new hepatitis C infections identified, enabling early treatment preventing spread to others.
- 150 recovery referrals requested.

**The opposite of addiction is connection.
Idaho's SSPs provide that connection.**

In Their Own Words

"Don't worry. This place doesn't judge people." – Anonymous SSP participant

"People living with addiction can be viewed as selfish, but we see people who are trying to take care of themselves and their community." – SSP Staff Member

*"I tell everybody about this place because I feel like if we are in our addiction we need to be safe about it as best as we can and try to keep each other healthy."
– Anonymous SSP participant*

*"I'm very lucky I don't have HepC, but I'm very appreciative of the fact that they test us here and that they have those services available to us."
– Anonymous SSP participant*

*"We just had a participant come in wanting to get into treatment (for substance use disorder)! It is amazing to see that we really are making a difference in our community."
– SSP Executive Director*

Program Contact

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