Syringe Access & Disposal Services in SF

Presented by: Eileen Loughran
Coordinator Community Based Programs
SF Syringe Access & Disposal History

• **1988**: Underground “Needle Exchange” run by volunteers
• **1993**: Mayor Frank Jordan declares State of Emergency
• **1993**: Syringe programs formally sanctioned in SF
• **2005**: Law changed to allow counties and cities to authorize SPs in their jurisdictions without declaring a state of local emergency
• **2007**: Developed Policies & Guidelines
Syringe Access Programs are a global best practice

- Research has shown that syringe access and disposal programs are the most effective, evidence-based HIV prevention tool for people who use drugs.

- In cities across the nation (including SF), people who inject drugs have reversed the course of the HIV epidemic by using sterile syringes and harm reduction practices.

- Harm reduction (including needle/syringe program and opioid substitution therapy) is an evidence-based approach to HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who inject drugs and is strongly supported by WHO and other UN agencies.

- The number of new infections among PWID has dropped from 110 in 2010 to 38 per year in 2016.

- San Francisco can get to zero because of early adoption of syringe programs.
Syringe Access Programs are a gateway to care

Syringe Programs provide education, information, and services:

• Access to Narcan to reverse overdose
• Access to test strips for fentanyl testing
• HIV/HCV testing, linkage, and treatment
• Medically assisted substance use treatment
• Linkage to detox and drug treatment programs
• Links to medical, dental, and mental health services
• Case management, counseling, and referral
• Referral and linkage to housing services
• Community building
Data Snapshot 1/8 - 2/5 2019

11,570 Syringes Returned
35 Narcan Trainings
45 Health Education Counseling sessions
85 Referrals to other Services
Low-Barrier Medical Care

Addiction Treatment:
• Opiate- Buprenorphine/Naloxone
• Alcohol: Gabapentin or detox

Routine medical
• Wound Care

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THANK YOU!

Eileen Loughran:
Eileen.Loughran@sfdph.org

Robert Hoffman:
rhoffman@sfaf.org

Dr. Deborah Borne:
Deborah.Borne@sfdph.org

Sarah Strieff:
Sarah.Strieff@sfdph.org