

THE CONNECTICUT SYRINGE EXCHANGE SUMMARY
STATE FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2005– JUNE 30, 2006

This report summarizes the services delivered by Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) in Connecticut during the state fiscal year 2005-2006. The five programs established and monitored by the Department of Public Health AIDS and Chronic Diseases Division are located in Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven and Stamford. The agencies that were contracted to administer these programs during 2005-2006 were the, AIDS Project Greater Danbury, AIDS Project Hartford, Bridgeport Health Department, New Haven Health Department and Stamford Health Department. As of June 30, 2006, there were 1,631 unduplicated clients enrolled in the five programs. The total number of syringes distributed as of June 30, 2006, increased by 45,925 (35%) compared to June 30, 2005. The number of syringes collected increased also by 49,014 (37%) compared to June 30, 2005. There was an increase in the number of client visits as of this fiscal year, 6079 compared to 5342 in FY 04-05 (a 14% increase). There was also an increase in the total number of referrals made by the SEPs to other services, such as substance abuse treatment, medical care, STD clinics (6453 in FY 05-06 versus 5915 in FY 04-05, a 9% increase).

All of the syringe exchange programs are integrated into HIV/AIDS prevention and street outreach activities that exist within their host agencies. This offers clients the opportunity to receive information regarding how to prevent HIV as well as services such as HIV counseling and testing. HIV counseling and testing is offered on the van at all five programs. Free condoms are distributed.

Upon enrollment to the syringe exchange programs, an intake is done to determine the nature and frequency of each client's substance and syringe use. This intake also helps to determine what additional services clients may benefit from. In addition, periodic assessments are conducted with returning clients in order to update the status of their circumstances. Connecticut legislation allows for new clients to be provided with an early intervention packet of 30 syringes. Returning clients must then exchange one dirty needle for each clean needle received.

HIV positive clients identified by the program may also be linked to Ryan White Case management programs. The syringe exchange programs have formal relationships with health care facilities enabling clients to receive evaluation and treatment of medical concerns.

As of June 30, 2006, approximately 28% of syringe exchange clients were referred to substance abuse treatment programs. This represents a 2% increase from last year. These referrals are based on the client's readiness to participate in drug treatment.

The Department of Public Health AIDS and Chronic Diseases Division convenes quarterly meetings of the Syringe Exchange Program staff to discuss programmatic issues, client trends, interventions and to provide support and networking opportunities for the program staff. This year the syringe exchange programs met with representatives from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to discuss issues regarding treatment referrals. The purpose of this meeting was to learn, from the frontline syringe exchange staff, of any barriers their clients have experienced with getting into treatment for future system improvements. A follow-up meeting with DMHAS will be scheduled in FY 06-07.

There were three syringe exchange programs that increased their hours of services during this year. The programs were AIDS Project Hartford (added evening and Saturday hours); Bridgeport Health Department (added evening and Saturday hours); New Haven Health Department (added evening hours). The increase in the number of syringes distributed and collected can be attributed to the additional hours of these three programs.

Program Utilization

From July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Syringes Distributed	176,676
Syringes Collected	182,342

Gender and Race Ethnicity Break Down

From July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

	Male	Female	Black	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
New clients	347	122	55	186	228	0	469

As of June 30, 2006

	Male	Female	Black	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
Unduplicated Clients Enrolled	1,099	524	209	743	669	2	1,623

Referrals to services from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Substance Abuse Treatment	457
Medical/Health Services	237
HIV Counseling and Testing	57
HIV Health Education/Risk Reduction Services	3526
HIV Case Management Services	39
Others (TB, STD's, family planning, etc.)	295
Total	4,611