

HSA, Public Health



Public Health

# County of Santa Cruz Syringe Services Program (SSP) Advisory Commission Program Updates

November 08, 2022

# Current Activities

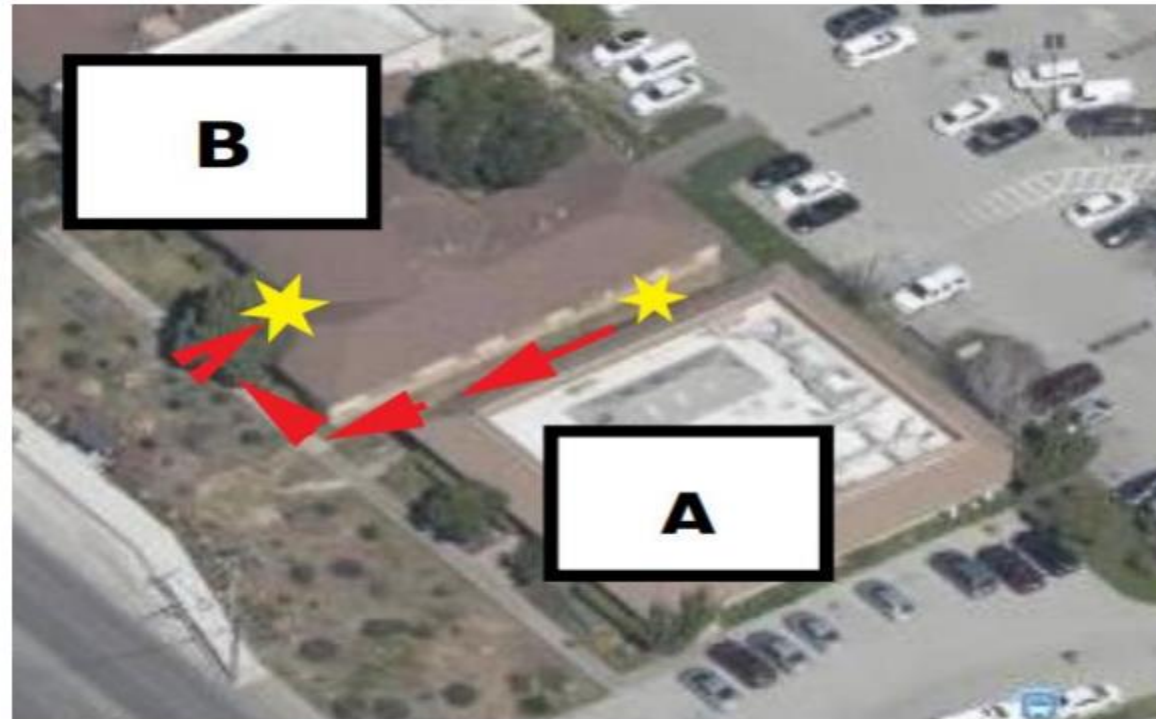
Goals: Prevent disease, link to treatment and services, improve public safety

- 1) Watsonville Exchange Updates
- 2) CRSP Syringe Litter Reporting
- 3) Use of Santa Cruz Exchanges by County SSP Participants
- 4) HRC Conference
- 5) Community Action Board (CAB) Collaboration

# Watsonville Exchange

- We have completed the move of the 1430 Freedom Blvd. Watsonville Exchange from Suite A to Suite B
- We have reduced our HCV/HIV testing days from every Wednesday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month
- We will assess returning to every Wednesday if participation in testing offered through the exchange increases
- The SSP continues supporting testing in collaboration with HPHP Street Medicine at the Salvation Army in Watsonville on Monday afternoons

1430 Freedom Blvd.  
Suite B  
Watsonville, CA. 95076  
Hours of Operation:  
Mondays  
3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Tuesdays  
10:30am - 11:30am  
Wednesdays  
1:30pm - 3:30pm  
**(Free HIV/HCV testing  
available 2nd and 4th  
Wednesdays of each  
month)**  
Thursdays  
3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Fridays  
9am - 11pm  
Please use entrance on  
Freedom Blvd. side of Suite  
B  
([see map](#))



# **City of Santa Cruz (CRSP) Syringe Litter Reporting Data**

- **We are continuing to work with the City of Santa Cruz to improve sharing of CRSP Syringe Litter reports**
- **We have data from September 2018–August 2022 which covers the # of reports made each month during that span of time**

# **County SSP Exchange Participant Reported use of HRCofSCC/Mobile Exchange**

- **Surveyed County SSP Participants August–October 2022 to gauge how many of our participants utilized the HRCofSCC’s exchange**
- **Beginning in late August 2021 we have distributed bilingual flyers Spanish/English (through our exchange) informing our participants of the HRCofSCC mobile service**

# Survey Results

- **From August 1-October 31, 2022** 164 unique individuals visited our exchanges (Santa Cruz/Watsonville)
- **86.5% (142) participants reported they “do not” use the HRCofSCC/Mobile Exchange**
- **13.4% (22) participants reported they “have used” the HRCofSCC/Mobile Exchange**

# Some anecdotes from conversations about Exchange use

- Participants who visited the exchange without Syringes expressed interest in using the HRCofSCC for syringe access
- Some participants were reluctant to use HRCofSCC delivery services due to concerns about discretion
- Some participants expressed more comfort in visiting our exchange due to its fixed location and known hours

**13<sup>th</sup> National Harm Reduction  
Coalition Conference  
San Juan, Puerto Rico**



# Putting the Experience to Use

- **CDC Harm Reduction TA Center**

Sent in request to assist with Policies and Procedures re-write coupled with Volunteer and Staff Training Curriculum

- **Outreach and Mobile Exchange**

Attended sessions conducted by service providers from Pennsylvania (Lehigh Valley Health Network) and California (Access Support Network)

- **CASEP (California Syringe Exchange Programs)**

Met with leaders and staff from other CA exchanges and shared information about successes and challenges

# **Syringe Assessment Project**

Assessing and Addressing Barriers to  
Syringe Access and Disposal in South County

# Syringe Assessment Project

- 9-month contract with the Community Action Board (CAB) of Santa Cruz County
- Funding comes from the California Harm Reduction Initiative (CHRI) grant
- Purpose:
  - Learn about the barriers people who use drugs (PWUD) face in accessing the Syringe Services Program (SSP) in South County;
  - Document syringe litter hotspots, patterns of disposal behaviors, and barriers to proper disposal in South County;
  - Use insights to inform and tailor SSP and CAB service delivery, education, collaboration, and advocacy in South County.

# Syringe Assessment Project

Three primary deliverables:



## In-Depth Conversations with PWUD

- At least 20 conversations with open-ended questions about access and experience with the SSP, outreach, and syringe use and disposal
- Being conducted by people with lived experience



## A Syringe Litter Assessment

- To take place over a two-week period this winter
- Replicating methods from the 2019 syringe litter assessment



## Education and Advocacy

- Based on lessons learned, tailor education and outreach to better serve the South County population
- Share findings with community partners to improve SSP access and disposal of used syringes

**Questions?**

Thank You

