

County SSP Program Updates

Staff report on June 28th County Board of Supervisors item

County SSP Advisory Commission

7/12/2022, 6PM-7:30PM

Presented by Jen Herrera, HSA Assistant Director

Review of 6/28 report to the Board

Directive: *Return to the Board on or before June 28, 2022, with a plan to address previous direction provided on [June 8, 2021](#), to use our existing solid waste resources to come up with a systemic response to syringe collection, by either expanding contracts with current providers and/or releasing an RFP or RFQ to solicit such services, including a potential on-demand response component.*

[Link to Board item](#)

- Recommended Actions

1. Accept and file a report back from the Health Services Agency on the Syringe Services Program; and
2. Direct the Board Chair to write a letter to local jurisdictions encouraging partnership with the County to implement a coordinated system of syringe litter response.

- Background

- Reviewed relevant, past Board directives
- Reviewed program's recommendations to improve syringe litter cleanup

- Analysis

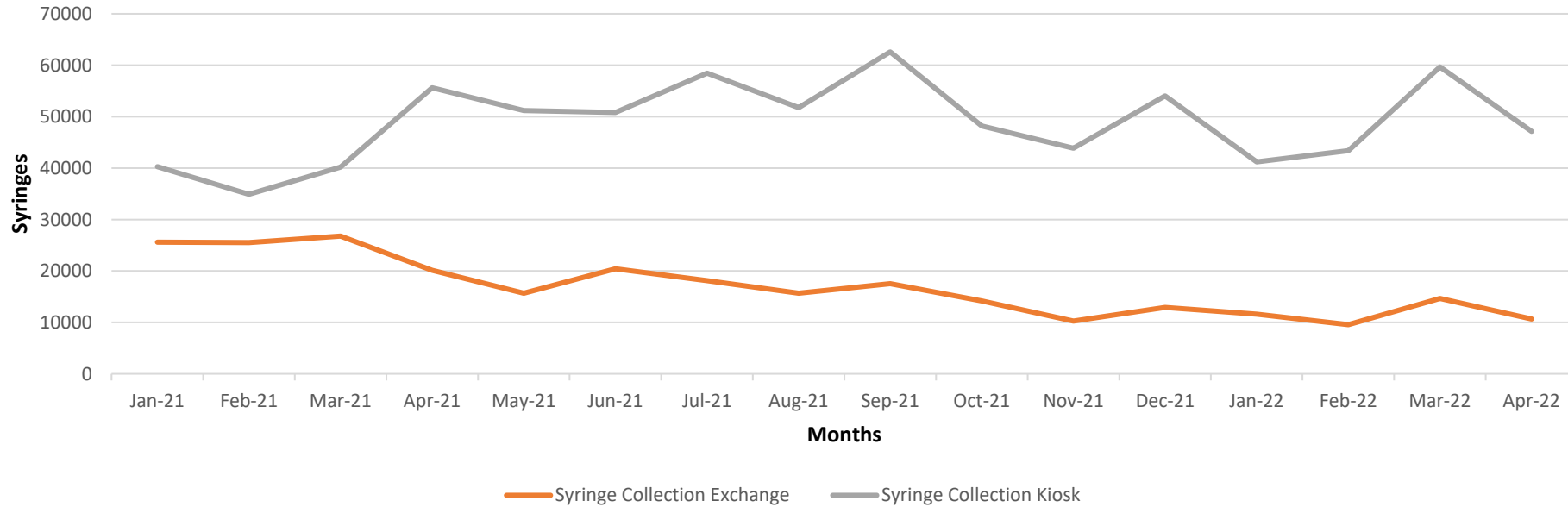
- Review of County efforts to mitigate syringe litter
- Reviewed County funding for these efforts
- HSA recommendations
 - Leverage existing solid waste disposal resources and funding
 - Partner with all jurisdictions and community organizations
 - Continue to invest in prevention of syringe litter

County Board of Supervisor Directives to the County SSP 2019-2020	Outcomes
Develop a plan to manage secondary exchange; only allow up to 2 secondary exchanges per visit	Met
Collaborate with CDPH to complete a study of syringe litter in Santa Cruz County, and report back to the Board	Met
Develop ordinance to develop the seven-member SSP Advisory Commission	Met
Coordinate outreach to syringe litter organizations and SSP listening sessions	Met
Implement SSP Advisory Commission	Met
Develop recommendations to improve syringe litter reporting and response	Met
Return with a contract or contract amendment with providers to collect syringes in “hot spots” throughout the community	Met
Coordinate and present a multi-disciplinary injection drug use study session for the Board	Met
Add two additional hours to Santa Cruz and Watsonville exchange sites	In Process
Coordinate installation and payment of syringe kiosks in other jurisdictions, per letter from the Board Chair to the local jurisdictions	Ongoing
Improve system to monitor referrals from SSP to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services	Ongoing
Regular community outreach, including Grant Park neighbors	Ongoing
When applying for funding, HSA directed to operationalize in a manner consistent with the previous action and policy by the Board	Ongoing

Additional Directives since June 2021

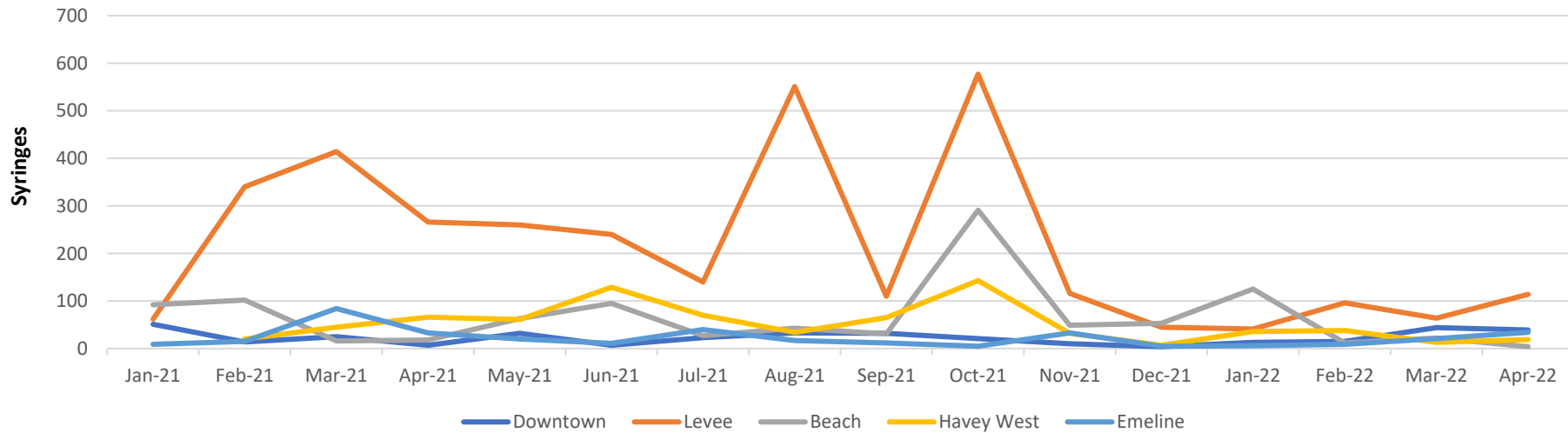
Date	Board Directive	Status
6/8/2021	<p>DIRECTED the Health Services Agency, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Information Services Department to continue to collaborate on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implementing the My Santa Cruz County App as a tool to address public syringe litter reporting in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County; b) leveraging existing solid waste disposal resources and improving overall litter efforts of the County of Santa Cruz and Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville; and c) jointly report back on progress by December 7, 2021 	Complete 2/15/2022
2/15/2022	Return to the Board on or before June 28, 2022, with a plan to address previous direction provided on June 8, 2021, to use our existing solid waste resources to come up with a systemic response to syringe collection, by either expanding contracts with current providers and/or releasing an RFP or RFQ to solicit such services, including a potential on-demand response component.	Complete 6/28/2022
6/28/2022	<p>Transcript from Board meeting (official written direction pending):</p> <p><i>“Supervisor McPherson and I would like to recommend to continue this item to the second meeting in August. Unfortunately this report was not responsive to previous Board direction. In the meantime he and I will meet with the HSA director to go over specific concerns.</i></p> <p><i>When the item returns in August, we would like HSA to identify 8 additional disposal kiosks to be installed and managed by the County.</i></p> <p><i>And also that the August report should contain, per previous Board direction, the number of needles collected in the kiosks by the Downtown Streets Team, Save our Shores, the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation. All of them keep this data and we’ve asked that they be in these reports going forward, and we’d like to see it in the report when it comes back in August.”</i></p>	Pending

County SSP Syringe Collection Jan 2021-April 2022



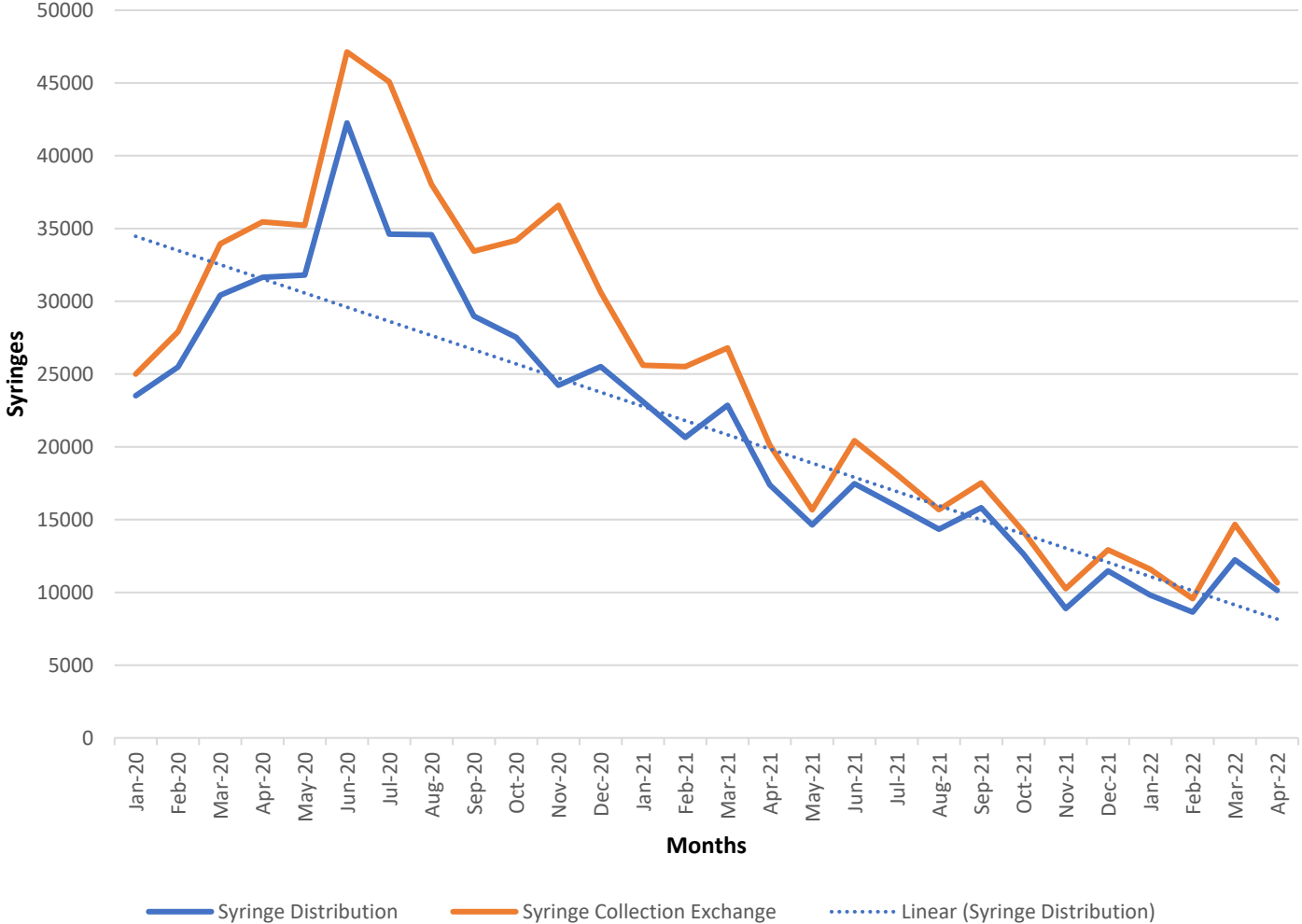
Available syringe collection data

Downtown Streets Team (Santa Cruz) Syringe Collection Jan 2021-April 2022



Challenges:
Inconsistent data collection across partners;
unavailable data

County SSP Syringe Distribution and Collection Jan 2020-April 2022



From June 2020 onward, there has been a steady decline in syringe collection and distribution through County SSP exchange

County SSP – 3-pronged approach

Actions



Outcomes



Goals

1) Syringe Distribution

Clean syringes and supplies for every use

Found syringes less likely to spread disease

Reduced risk of exposure to infection and disease

2) Syringe Collection

Decreased availability of used syringes

Less chances of needlesticks for all

Cleaner and safer environment for all

3) Enhanced Linkages and Referrals

Overdose prevention, Naloxone availability

Access to social, behavioral and medical care

Improvement of health and well-being for PWID

Next Steps

- BOS report-back scheduled for August 23, 2022
 - Determine if this will be on the Regular or Consent agenda
- Preparation:
 - HSA leadership to meet with Supervisor Coonerty and Supervisor McPherson
 - SSP requesting data from listed partners (SOS, City of SC) and conducting analysis
 - SSP analyzing operational needs for 8 new kiosks
 - SSP engaging with stakeholders and receive feedback
- Ongoing Tasks:
 - Continue to track Board directives
 - Continue to improve monitoring of syringe litter

*Additional feedback
from the SSP Advisory
Commission?*