



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY - HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

Date: August 9, 2013
Subject: Syringe Services Program 90-Day Report
April 30-July 31, 2013

This 90-day report for the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency (HSA) Syringe Services Program (SSP) outlines the distribution and receipt of syringes provided by the SSP. It does not account for other sources of syringes (prescription or non-prescription) available in the County. Community pharmacies and physicians (under SB 41) have the authority to sell up to 30 syringes to a single individual at one time and are not required to collect used syringes.

Background

Effective April 30, 2013 HSA began administering the SSP. The primary goal of the SSP is to work in partnership with the community to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases associated with injection drug use and to address the community's concern regarding improperly discarded syringes.

SSP consists of three components:

- Syringe Exchange
- Syringe Disposal and Community Cleanup
- Community Awareness and Education

Syringe exchange is a public health intervention which is proved to reduce the transmission of blood-borne pathogens in the community. It works by providing people who cannot or will not stop injecting illegal drugs with new syringes, and a place to safely dispose of used syringes.

There are approximately 200 syringes exchange programs operating in 38 states. Syringe exchange is common elsewhere in the world, with official programs being operated in at least 46 countries, including countries such as Iran, China and Russia, where illicit drug use is often treated far more harshly than is constitutionally possible in the United States.

California Health and Safety Code Section 11364.7 (a) guarantees freedom from criminal prosecution for public entities and their agents or employees who distribute syringes during a lawfully authorized syringe exchange project/program.

In addition to the program's core component of exchanging syringes and providing education and referrals, several other aspects of the program were developed and enhanced over the course of the 90-day period. The SSP program provides additional services to lessen the impact of improperly discarded syringes of any kind. Self-service kiosks for disposal of prescription and

non-prescription syringes are located outside each of the HSA clinics. The County has expanded cleanup efforts to alleviate the problem of improperly discarded syringes. The cleanup is a combined effort between HSA Environmental Health, the Department of Public Works, the Sheriff's Department and the City of Santa Cruz. In addition, a public webpage was developed which includes the latest version of SSP's Policies and Procedures, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), recent scientific research and other resources.

In an effort to continuously improve the SSP program, staff has consulted regularly with the California Department of Public Health as well as other county operated syringe exchange programs. In March, the SSP Advisory Group was formed consisting of local stakeholders, law enforcement, city administrators and other content experts regarding syringe exchange, disease control and drug treatment. This advisory group has served to provide insight and guidance to the SSP while mitigating potential negative impacts of the program. HSA executive staff has and will continue to reach out to law enforcement in an effort to maintain an open dialogue regarding syringe exchange and other substance abuse issues.

Hours of Operation for Syringe Exchange:

Santa Cruz Health Clinic at Emeline: M, W, Th, and F 8 am -12 pm, Tues 4:30 pm- 7 pm

Total hours of operation: 18.5 hours/week

Watsonville Health Clinic at Crestview: M-Th 9 am- 7 pm Fr 9am-4:30 pm (closed daily from 12-1 pm)

Total hours of operation: 42.5 hours/week

Highlights of Utilization Data

HSA Clinics /Fixed Site Exchange

During the first 90 days of the SSP there were 594 visits to the HSA fixed site, 303 of those visits were unduplicated. The average number of unduplicated times a participant visited the exchange was 1.96. Utilization at the Emeline site was greater than utilization at the Watsonville Health Center exchange, and the 90 day data suggests that Tuesday evenings in the Emeline clinic is the most frequented.

Age (most common age group)

Emeline Clinic	25-44: 71%
Watsonville Clinic	18-24: 60%

Gender

Emeline Clinic	Male: 66%	Female: 32%
Watsonville Clinic	Male 50%	Female: 50%

Area of Residence

Emeline Clinic	North County: 53%	Mid County: 23%	South County: 3%
Watsonville Clinic	North County: 5%	Mid County: 5%	South County: 90%

Syringes Collected

Emeline Clinic	29, 442
Watsonville Clinic	553

Syringes Dispensed

Emeline Clinic	29,756
Watsonville Clinic	553

SOS Home Visit Exchange

Street Outreach Supporters (SOS), a community-based organization who has been vetted through the County Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP), operates the home delivery component of the SSP. During the first 90 days of the SSP, SOS has reported the following: 261 visits to residences. Data missing in this initial 90-day report are due to changes in data collection requirements by County HSA throughout the data collection period. Subsequent reports will have complete data now that forms and data collection methods are universal. SOS is required by HSA to follow the same policies and procedures as well as data collection and reporting in compliance with HSA’s policies and procedures. Syringes are not to be distributed to minors and outside of residences such as parking lots. Home delivery services are available countywide by phone appointments.

- **Age (most common age group)**
25-44 60%
- **Gender**
Male 52% Female: 47%
- **Syringes Collected** 26,351
- **Syringes Dispensed** 25,331

Combined (fixed site and home delivery) exchange data indicated that during this 90-day period the SSP collected 706 more syringes than were distributed. It is important to note that there are other legal sources of syringes in the community. Senate Bill 41 authorizes physicians and pharmacies as well as syringe exchange programs, to sell up to thirty syringes per transaction without a prescription.

For more information regarding the SSP, the HSA SSP website (<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/phealth/2ssp.htm>) provides detailed information regarding the syringe services program such as policies and procedures and frequently asked questions.

Disposal

Self-serve kiosks for disposal of prescription and non-prescription syringes are located outside of HSA's Emeline and Watsonville clinics. The County has obtained two more kiosks and is in the process of investigating additional placement locations in the unincorporated areas of the County.

The table below summarizes monthly utilization of self-serve kiosks since their placement on April 30, 2013. Utilization is measured in pounds of sharps waste.

Kiosk Location	April	May	June	July
Emeline	0 lbs.	20 lbs.	10 lbs.	*0 lbs.
Watsonville	0 lbs.	15 lbs.	6 lbs.	32 lbs.

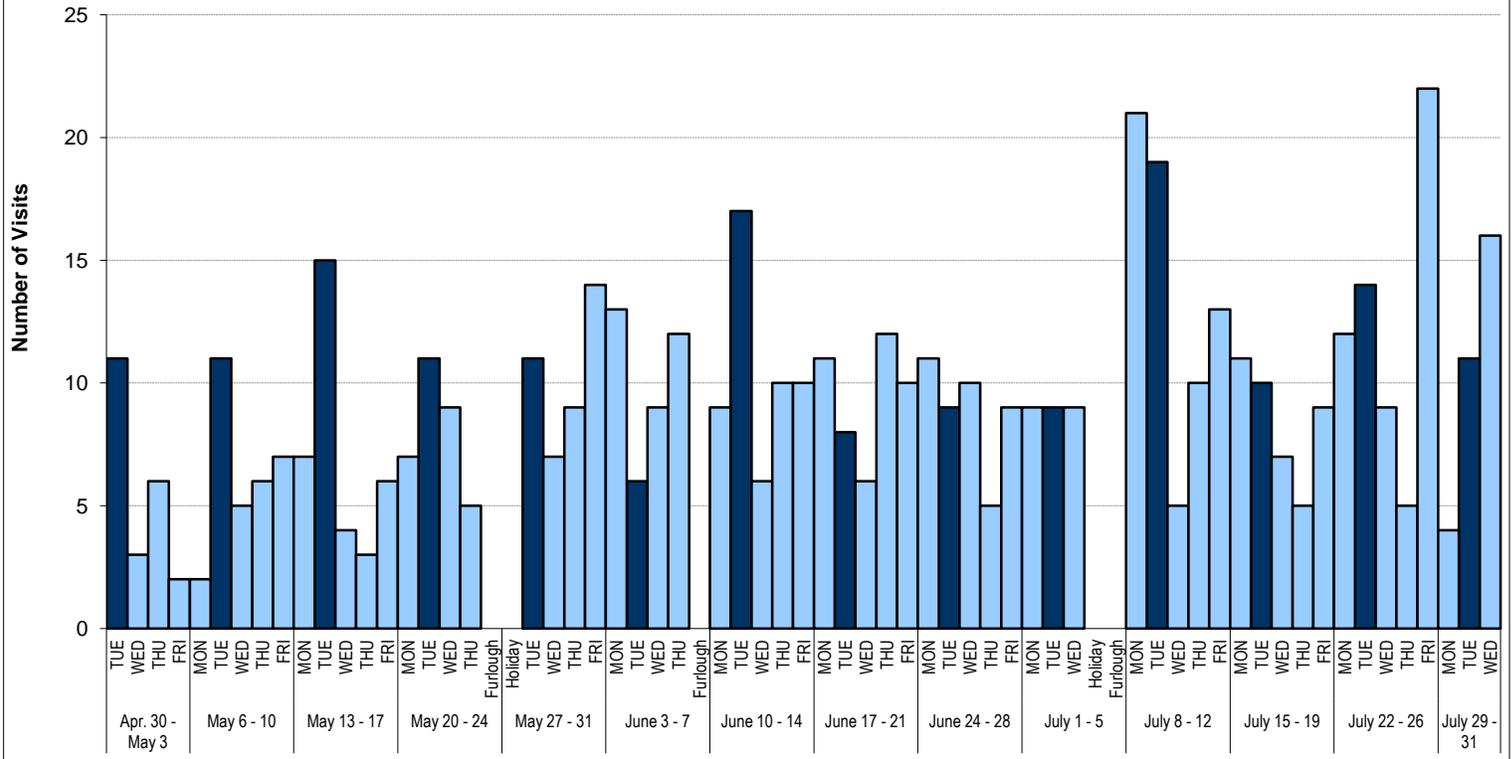
*Measurement for July will be reported in August as the kiosk will be emptied in August.

Syringe Services Program Advisory Group

In an effort to enhance Syringe Services in the County while mitigating any negative impacts of the program, an advisory body was formed of local stakeholders, law enforcement and content experts. The membership includes representatives from the City of Santa Cruz Police Department, City of Santa Cruz Administration, City of Watsonville Administration, Janus, Santa Cruz AIDS Project, The Harm Reduction Coalition, Westside Pharmacy, UCSC, United Way of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Street Outreach Supporters and many other local agencies. The group met three times during this 90-day period (March, April and June) and will continue to adhere to a regular meeting schedule.

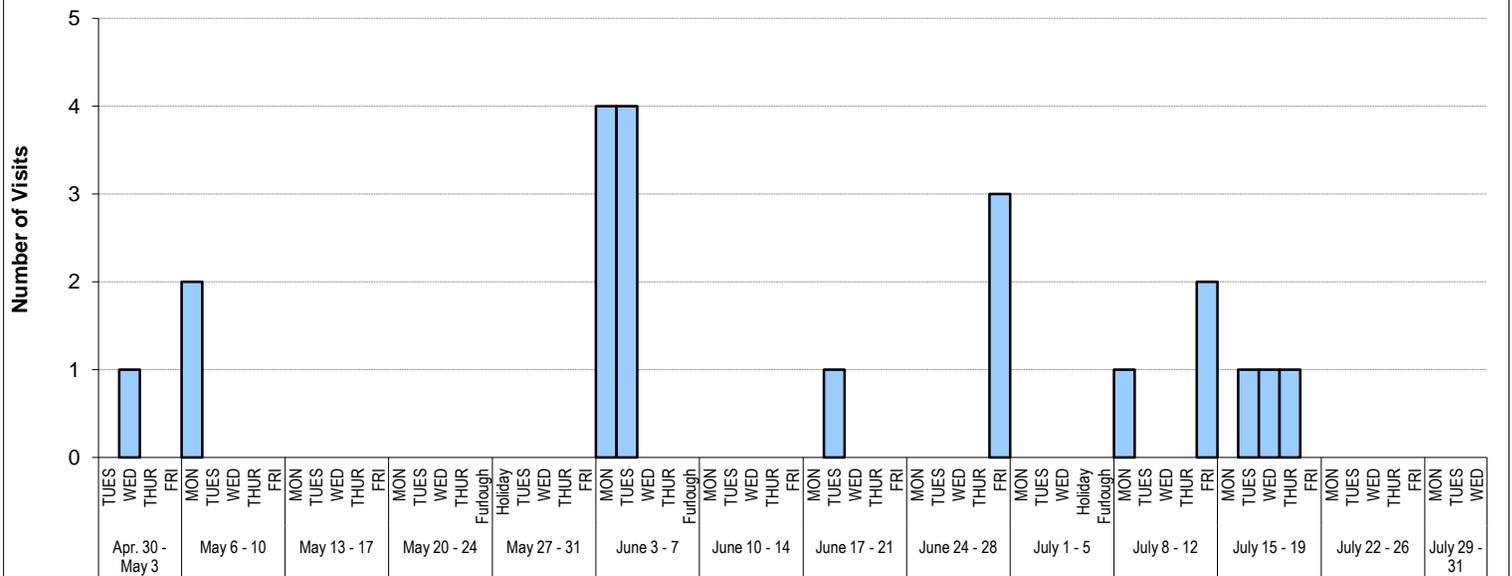
The next two pages provide utilization data and graphs for the SSP for this 90-day period.

**Syringe Services Program Visits by Day of the Week (n=574),
Santa Cruz County HSA Emeline Clinic,
April 30 - July 31, 2013**



Note: The dark blue color indicates Tuesday evening clinic visits.

**Syringe Services Program Visits by Day of the Week (n=20),
Santa Cruz County HSA Watsonville Clinic,
April 30 - July 31, 2013**



**Syringe Services Program Report
April 30 – July 31, 2013**

	HSA Emeline Clinic		HSA Watsonville Clinic		SOS Home Delivery*		Total	
	Count	% of Visits	Count	% of Visits	Count	% of Visits	Count	% of Visits
Visits	574	100%	20	100%	261	100%	855	100%
Unique ID's	294	51%	9	45%	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Age Group:								
• 18-24	27	5%	12	60%	34	13%	73	9%
• 25-44	405	71%	8	40%	156	60%	569	67%
• 45 and over	128	22%	0	0%	71	27%	199	23%
• Missing	14	2%	0	0%	0	0%	14	2%
Gender								
• Male	380	66%	10	50%	135	52%	525	61%
• Female	181	32%	10	50%	123	47%	314	37%
• Transgendered	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%	3	<1%
• Missing	13	2%	0	0%	0	0%	13	2%
Ethnicity								
• Caucasian	482	84%	5	25%	183	70%	670	78%
• Latino/a	57	10%	14	75%	66	25%	137	16%
• Other (Inc. Multi-Ethnic)	33	6%	1	5%	12	5%	46	5%
• Missing	2	<1%	0	0%	0	0%	2	<1%
Area of Residence								
• North County	303	53%	1	5%	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
• Mid County	133	23%	1	5%	"	"	"	"
• South County	19	3%	18	90%	"	"	"	"
• San Lorenzo Valley	51	9%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
• Homeless/Trans.	57	10%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
• Missing	11	2%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
	Count	Avg # per Visit	Count	Avg # per Visit	Count	Avg # per Visit	Count	Avg # per Visit
Syringes Collected	29,442	51	553	28	26,351	101	56,346	66
Syringes Dispensed	29,756	52	553	28	25,331	97	55,640	65
• 1:1 or less	28,563	50	553	28	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
• Extra	1,193	2	0	0	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
#Dispensed minus Collected	314	1	0	0	-1,020	-4	-706	-1
Any Referral								
• Drug Treatment	7	1%	2	10%	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
• SOS	13	2%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
• Narcan	6	1%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
• HIV/Hep C Testing	10	2%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
• Nurse Line	4	1%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
• Pharmacy	2	<1%	0	0%	"	"	"	"
• Educational Brochures	12	2%	7	35%	"	"	"	"

N/A = Not available

* SOS Home Delivery data collection systems were officially aligned with HSA Clinic forms beginning in mid-June, so some numbers are not available at the same level of detail; SOS data includes May 1 through July 31.