



Syringe Exchange:

What Local Health Departments Need to Know

October, 2015

A project of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention
IU School of Public Health-Bloomington

The recent outbreak of HIV in southern Indiana among injection drug led to the passage of SEA 461. This law permitted counties to establish syringe exchange programs (SEPs) as part of a comprehensive public health response to HIV and Hepatitis C.

3-Steps of SEA 461

Indiana law requires counties wishing to establish syringe exchanges to move through the following 3 steps:

1. The local health director declares an epidemic of HIV or Hepatitis C linked to injection drug use that cannot be addressed effectively in other ways.
2. The county executive body (commission) holds a public hearing and approves a program.
3. State approves the county's application for a program.

Communities across the state are considering syringe exchange programs. Health departments are important partners in this process, and are leading the local efforts in many cases.

*- Dr. Carrie Lawrence
Director, Project Cultivate*

Unfortunately the law prohibits the use of state or federal funding to support these programs. However, counties are using local resources, and there is funding from AIDS United through the Health Foundation of Indianapolis specifically for Indiana SEPs.

Over 20 Counties are moving forward to establish SEPs

As shown on the map (reverse side), almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of Indiana counties are working toward establishing an SEP. These counties vary in size and resource, but they all share the need based on rates of Hepatitis C.

Coalitions in these counties involve a variety of partners across the spectrum, including hospitals, sheriffs, health departments, drug prevention coalitions, addictions treatment providers, physicians, and coalitions focused on insurance enrollment. Each coalition is unique to their county, but their needs include information about Hepatitis C and HIV, syringe exchange programs and their effectiveness, and financing for SEPs.

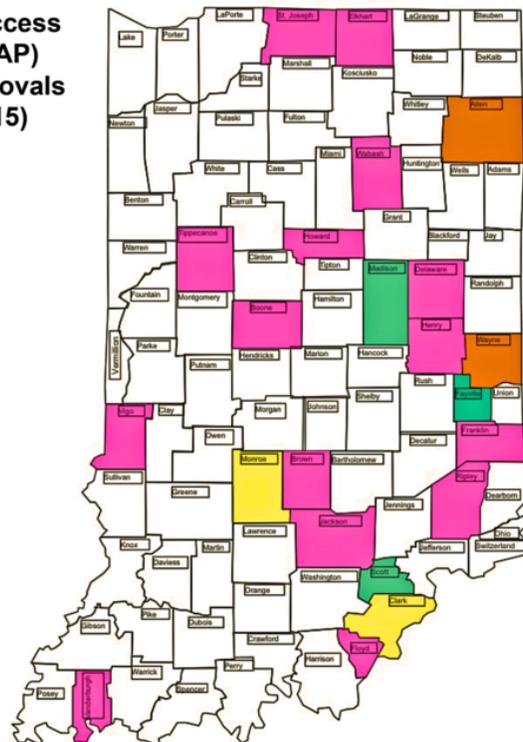
Project Cultivate is here to help you

Initiating a community process to plan and implement syringe exchange services can be daunting. Project Cultivate, an initiative of IU's Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention, provides support to counties in several ways:

- Consultation about syringe exchange models and programs
- Linkage to information, peer consultation and training
- How to bring public health evidence to the policy decision process
- Advice about coalition building (need, benefit, how-to)

Indiana Syringe Access Programming (SAP) Progress and Approvals (October 21, 2015)

- State Approved SAP
- County Commission approves SAP
- County health director declares Hepatitis C or HIV epidemic related to injection drug use
- Community members working toward potential SAP




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