



Syringe Services Program Report

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Department of Health and Human Services

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology

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Syringe Services Program Report: January 2019

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Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Purpose | 1 |
| Background | 1 |
| Methods | 1 |
| Summary | 1 |
| NRS 439.985-439.994: Sterile Hypodermic Device Programs (Syringe Services Programs) ³ | 1 |
| Harm Reduction Model | 2 |
| Programs in Nevada | 3 |
| Change Point | 3 |
| Trac-B | 3 |
| Data | 3 |
| Change Point | 3 |
| Data Limitations | 3 |
| Total Participants Served | 4 |
| Syringe Summary | 4 |
| Age | 5 |
| Race | 5 |
| Ethnicity | 6 |
| Gender | 6 |
| Trac-B | 7 |
| Total Participants Served | 7 |
| Syringe Summary | 7 |
| Age | 8 |
| Race | 8 |
| Ethnicity | 9 |
| Gender | 9 |
| Point of Contact | 10 |
| Recommended Citation | 10 |
| References | 10 |
| Appendix | 10 |
| Guidelines | 10 |
| Report Form | 11 |

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to showcase Nevada's syringe services programs (SSPs) and to display the populations served. Audiences for this report include the public, participants, stakeholders, and local health authorities (LHAs). It should serve to enlighten the public and participants regarding locations, services offered, and the general demographic information of those served by current SSPs in Nevada. It should also provide a snapshot of the populations served at each of the SSPs to stakeholders and LHAs.

Background

SSPs offer many benefits to the community including free sterile syringes and needles, safe disposal of needles and syringes, overdose treatment and education, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and hepatitis testing, hepatitis vaccination, referral to mental health services and substance use disorder treatment, and other tools to prevent HIV and hepatitis such as counseling, condoms, and PrEP¹. However, not all programs offer every service.

Lack of funding prevented widespread availability of SSPs. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 provided the opportunity to use federal funds to support specific aspects of syringe services programs under certain circumstances. However, the purchase of sterile needles or syringes with federal funding for illegal use is still prohibited².

Providing sterile injection equipment to persons who inject drugs prevents the sharing of used injection equipment and decreases the opportunity for the spread of communicable diseases like HIV or hepatitis. SSPs also offer a place to dispose of used equipment; decreasing the risk of exposure to community members, law enforcement, or healthcare workers.

Methods

The data presented in this report was provided by each program from the self-reported data of their participants. Data is submitted twice a year; the two reporting periods are January to June and July to December.

Summary

The data collected suggests most people who utilize SSPs in Nevada are between the ages of 20 and 40, and are predominantly white males.

NRS 439.985-439.994: Sterile Hypodermic Device Programs (Syringe Services Programs)³

In 2013, the Nevada Legislature added NRS 439.985-439.994, a provision allowing for hypodermic device programs, also known as syringe services programs, in Nevada. The function of sterile hypodermic device programs is to enable the use of sterile hypodermic devices and other related material for use among people who inject drugs to reduce the intravenous transmission of diseases.

These programs serve several functions:

1. Ensure the availability and accessibility of sterile hypodermic devices by encouraging distribution of such devices by various means.
2. Provide for the effective operation of sterile hypodermic device programs while protecting the rights of people who use such programs.
3. Guarantee that sterile hypodermic devices and other sterile injection supplies are not deemed illegal.
4. Ensure that sterile hypodermic device programs operate in harmony with law enforcement activities.

Harm Reduction Model

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs⁴. This is a movement that can take many forms, as not one strategy works for every population. Harm reduction strategies in one population in one area of the city may look entirely different than harm reduction strategies in another.

Harm reduction follows several principles⁴:

- Accepts, for better and/or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them.
- Understands drug use as a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe abuse to total abstinence and acknowledges some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others.
- Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being—not necessarily cessation of all drug use—as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.
- Calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live to assist them in reducing attendant harm.
- Ensures that drug users and those with a history of drug use routinely have a voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.
- Affirms drugs users themselves as the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use, and seeks to empower users to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use.
- Recognizes that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination and other social inequalities affect both people’s vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm.
- Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the tragic harm and danger associated with licit and illicit drug use.

Programs in Nevada

Change Point

Change Point is located in Reno and is a program of Northern Nevada HOPES. It is Nevada's first legal syringe services program. They offer syringe services and other harm reduction supplies (such as safe syringe disposal and safer sex kits), overdose education, counseling, and free HIV and hepatitis C testing.

Phone: (775) 997-7519

Email: outreach@nnhopes.org

Hours: Monday 11:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday 11:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday 11:00am – 5:00pm
Friday 11:00am – 5:00pm

Address: 445 Ralston St.
Reno, NV 89503

Trac-B

Trac-B is located in Las Vegas and is a program of the Harm Reduction Center-Las Vegas. They are the first syringe services program in Southern Nevada. Their services include syringe services; syringe and needle recovery; medical consulting; HIV, sexually transmitted diseases (STD), and hepatitis C screening; education, and wound care.

Phone: (702) 840-6693

Email: tracbexchange@gmail.com

Hours: Monday 1:00pm – 6:00pm
Tuesday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Wednesday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Thursday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm

HIV and HCV testing every
Wednesday during business
hours

Address: 6114 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Data

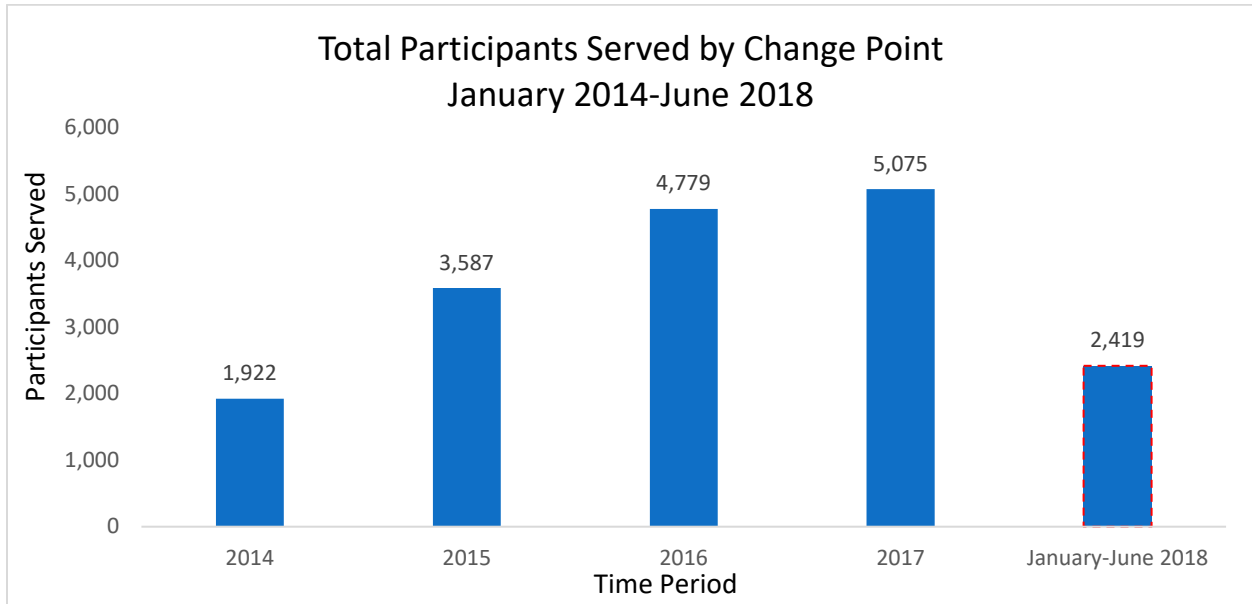
Change Point

Data Limitations

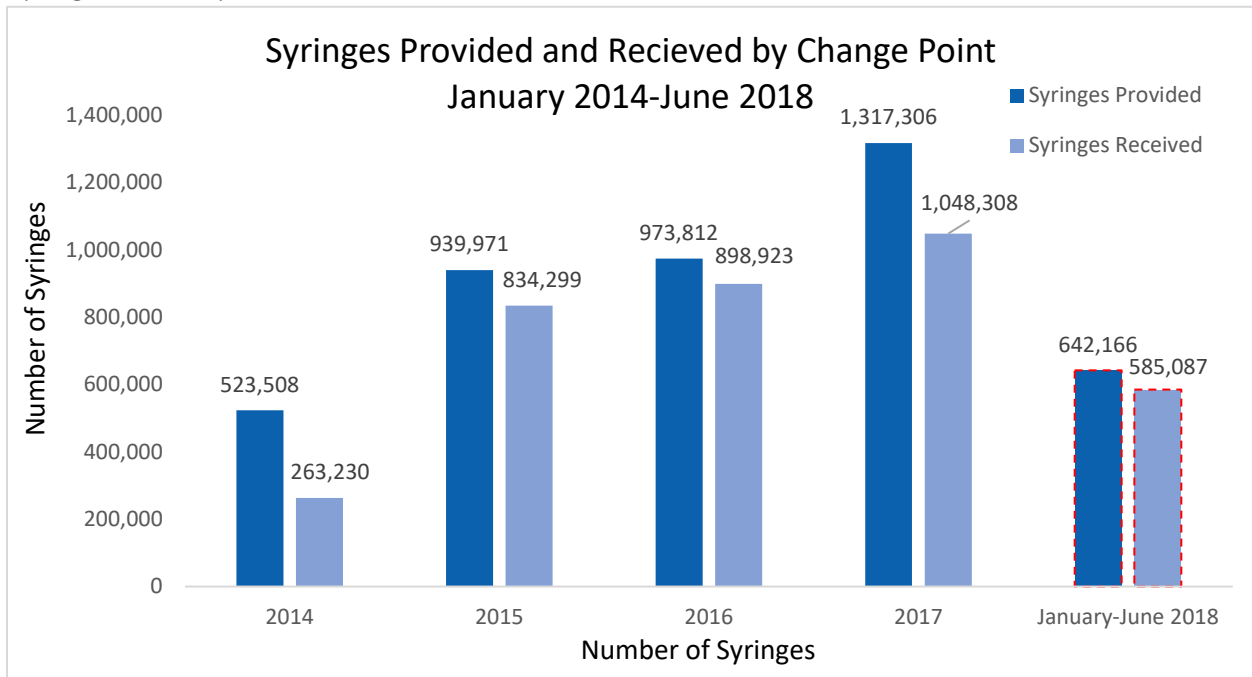
Participants reported by Change Point may have a minimal amount of duplication due to participants creating false client identifications when they first access the program. The main reported reason for creating these false ID's is privacy. The program has been working with participants to educate on

confidentiality and privacy of information to improve any duplication. Change Point is in the process of evaluating a new system that will help to mitigate these duplications in the future.

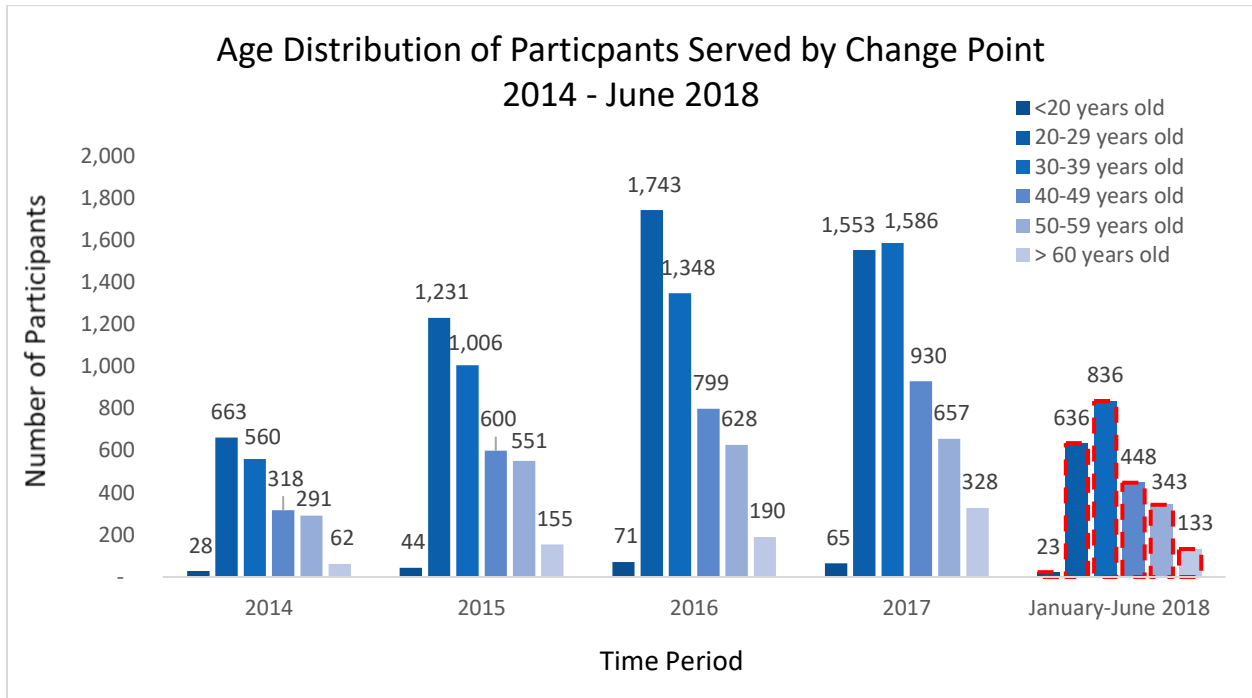
Total Participants Served-



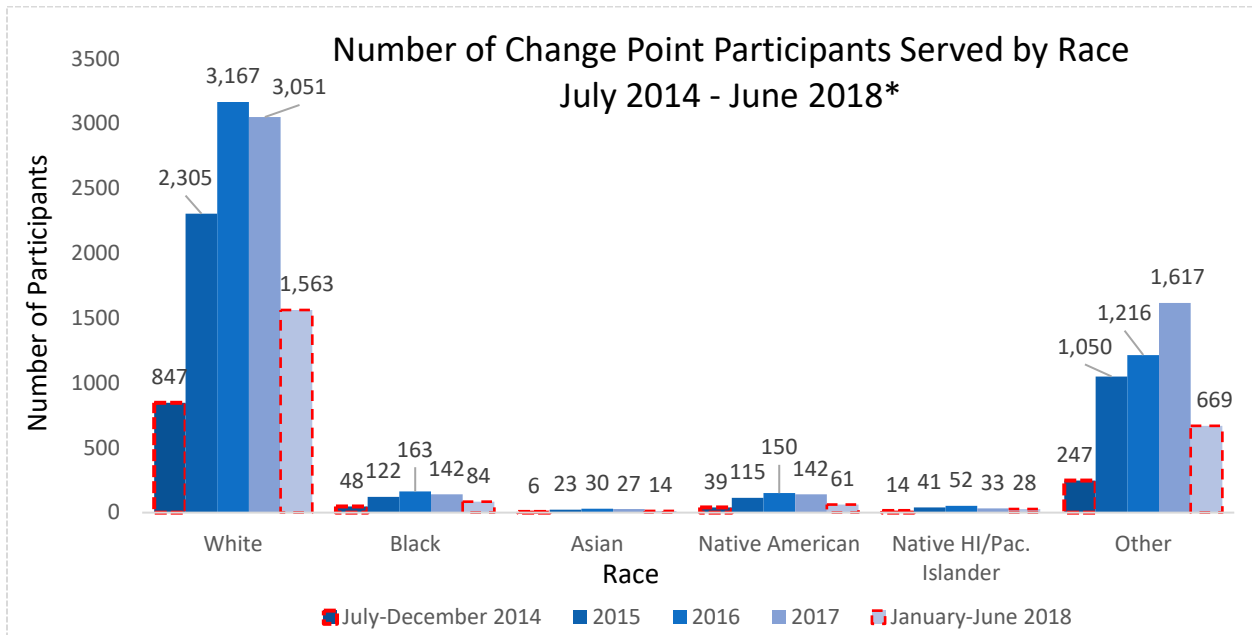
Syringe Summary-



Age-



Race-

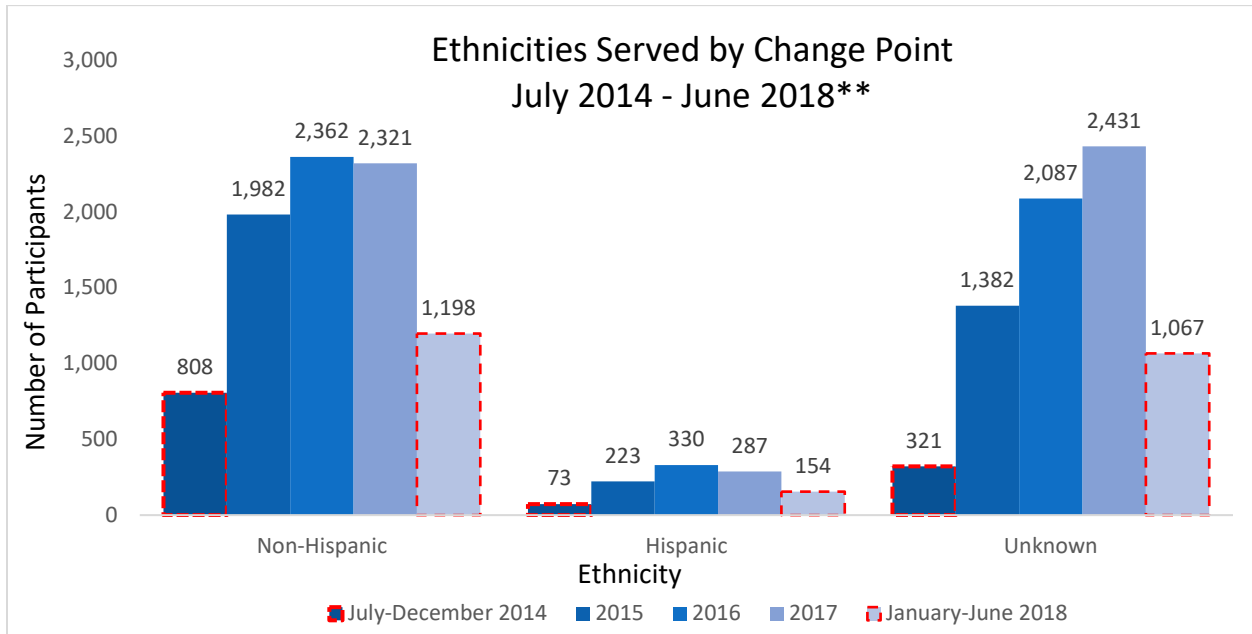


*Please note: the above graph shows data in full years except the first bar in each race, which represents a half year's data due to changes in Race categories. Race categories changed June of 2014.

January – June 2014 Race categories were: White, Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, and Other. This data has been excluded but is available upon request.

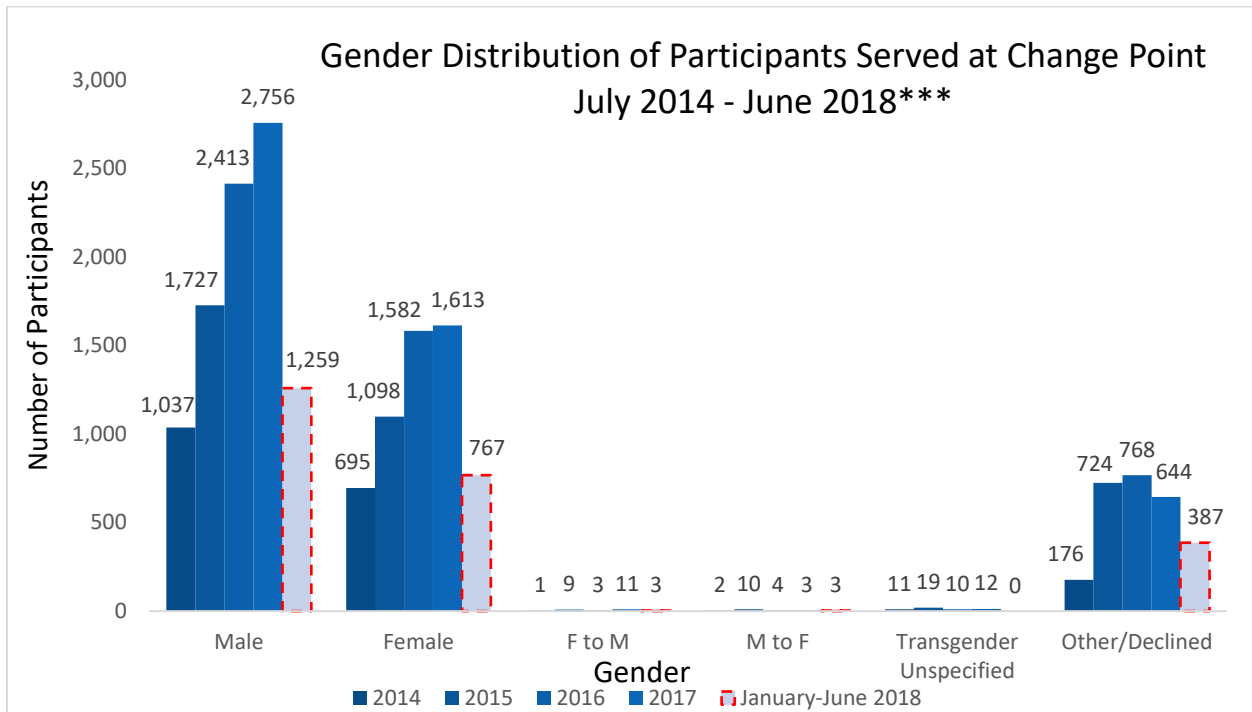
June - December 2014 Race categories were: White, Black, Asian, Native American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Other.

Ethnicity-



****Please note: the above graph shows data for full years except the first bar in each ethnicity, which represents a half year's data due to Data on ethnicity was not collected in the January-June 2014 reporting period.**

Gender-

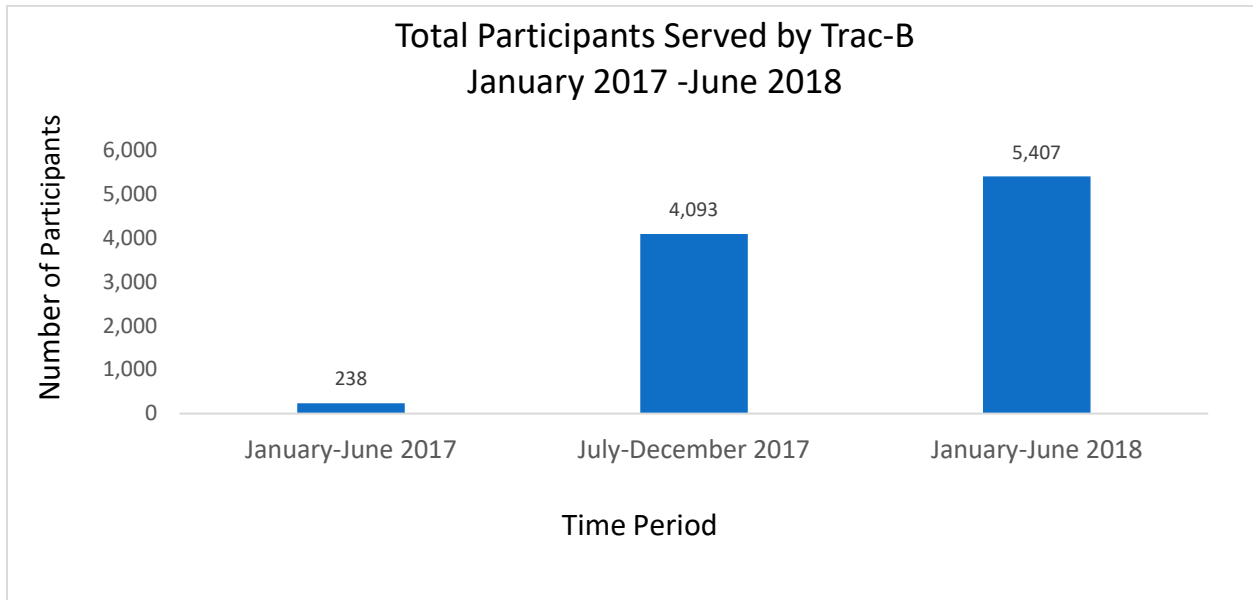


***** Transgender data was not collected in the January-June 2014 reporting period. "Male to Female," "Female to Male," and "Transgender Unspecified" was added beginning in the July-December 2014 reporting period.**

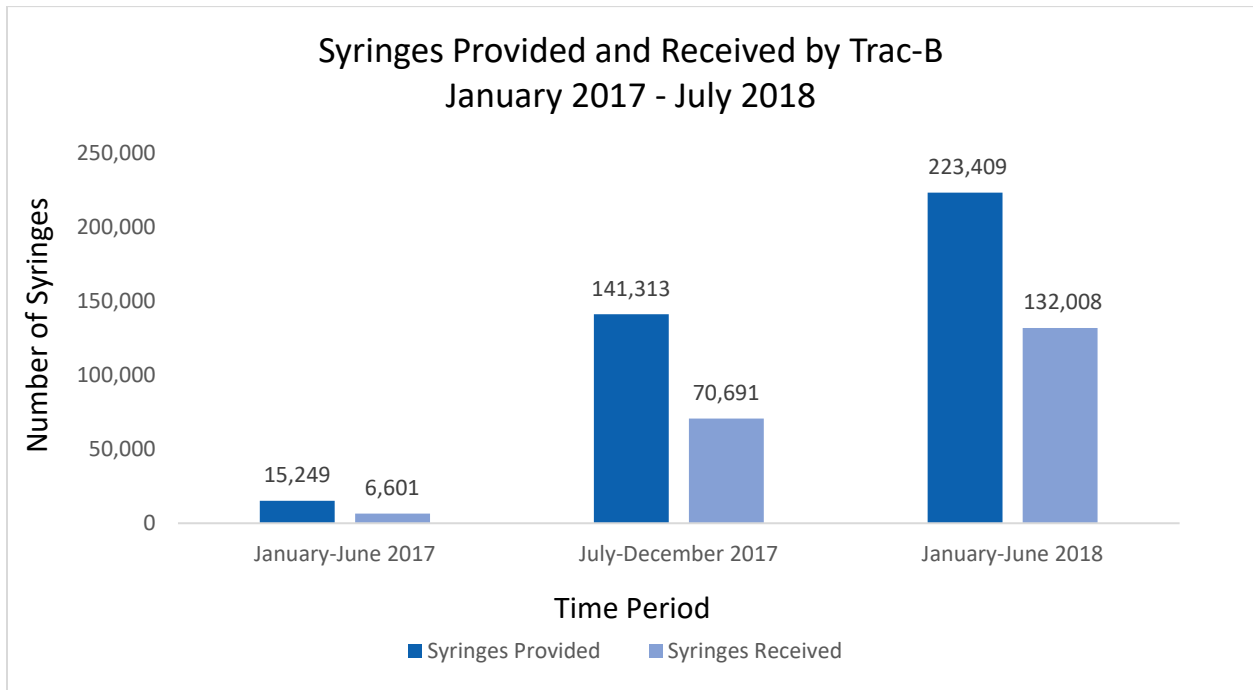
Trac-B

Participant data reported from Trac-B does not duplicate number of participants served.

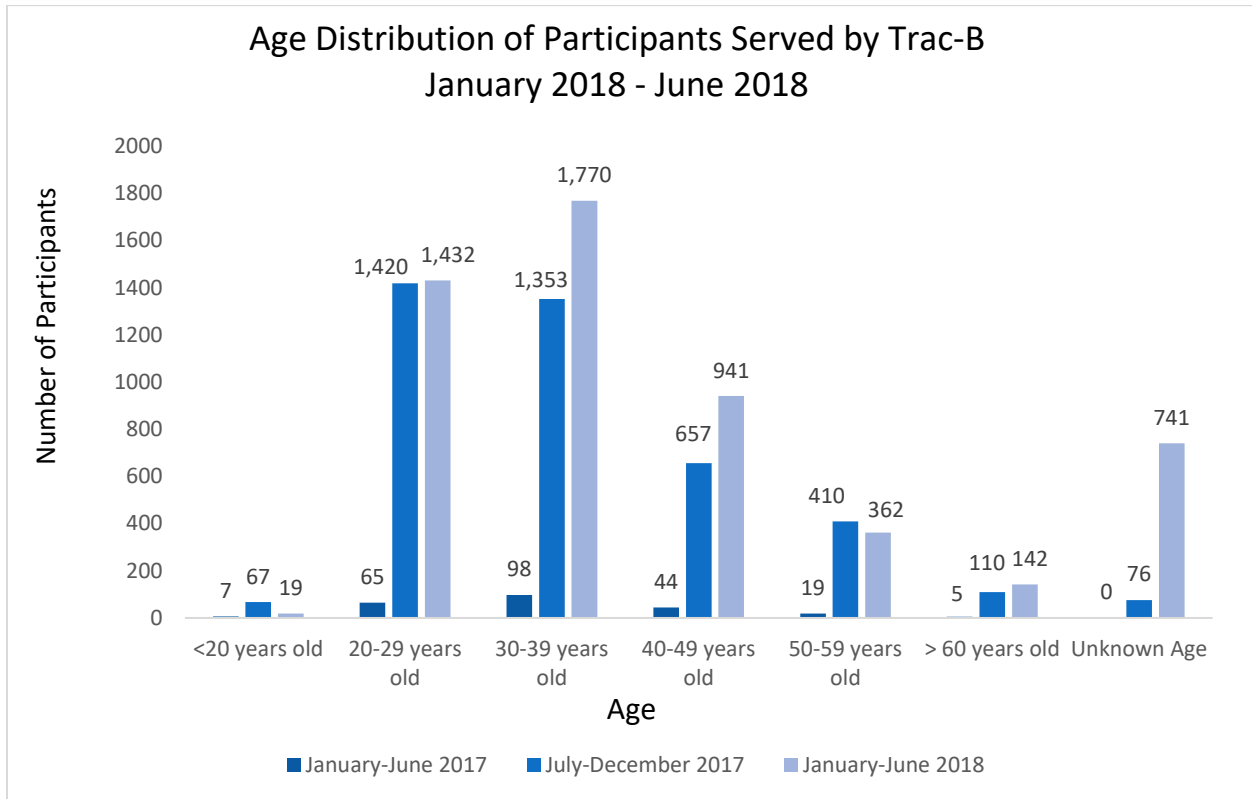
Total Participants Served-



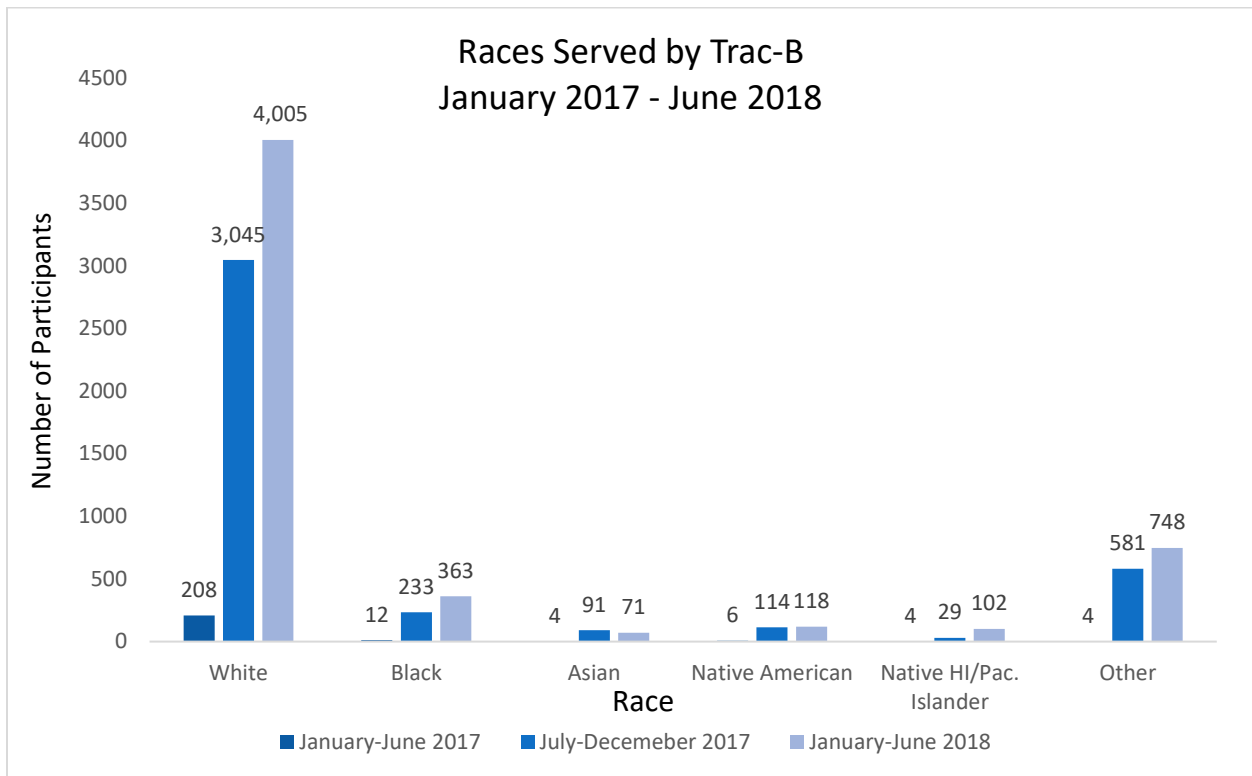
Syringe Summary-



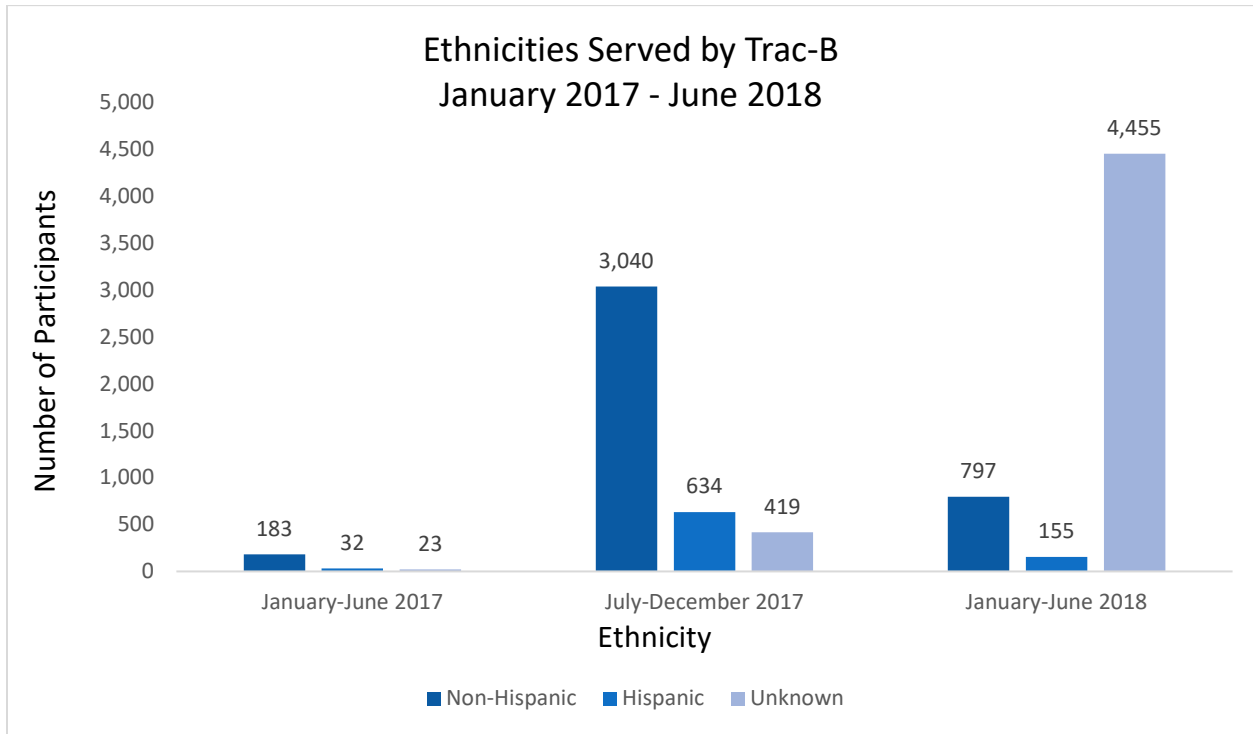
Age-



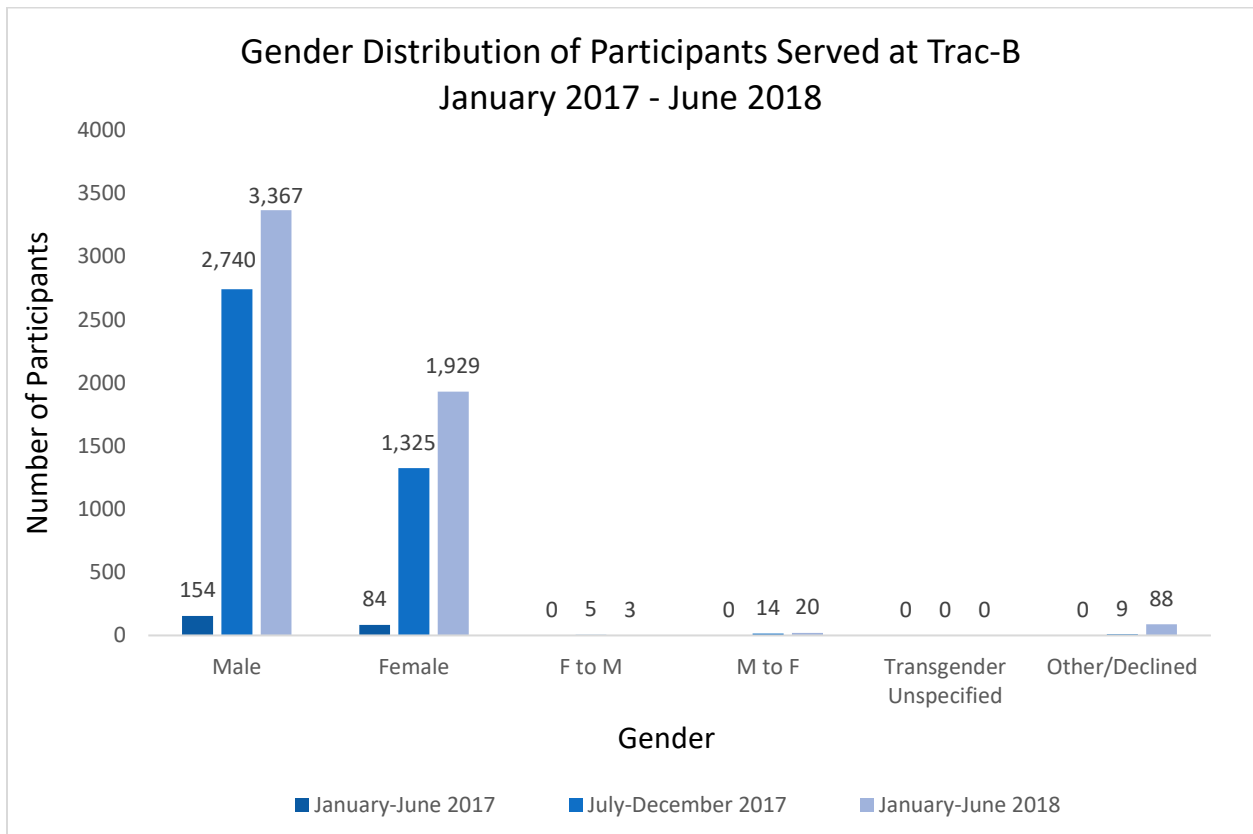
Race-



Ethnicity-



Gender-



Point of Contact

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Recommended Citation

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References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/cdc-HIV-syringe-services-programs.pdf> accessed on 9/1/17
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/ssps.html> accessed on 10/9/18
3. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec985> accessed on 6/23/17
4. <http://harmreduction.org/about-us/principles-of-harm-reduction/> accessed on 6/23/17

Appendix

Guidelines

The current electronic version of the Guidelines can be found at

<http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/Docs/SyringeServicesProgram/>

Report Form

Please contact the Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology for a fillable PDF version of this form.

Syringe Services Programs

Agency Information

Name of Agency: Date:

Completed by: Contact Phone #:

Contact E-mail

Reporting Period

January - June
Year

July - December

Population summary data

Total number of participants served during this period:

Age

< 20 years 20-29 years 30-39 years 40-49 years 50-59 years > 60 years Unknown

Race

White Black Asian Native American Native HI/Pac. Islander Other

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic Hispanic Unknown

Gender

Males Females FtM MtF Transgender Unspecified Other/Declined

Syringe summary statistics

Number of syringes provided

Number of syringes received

Please return this form to the State of Nevada, Division of Public & Behavioral Health no later than one month following the end of a reporting period. Questions, please call 775-687-5162.