



# Syringe Services Program Report

**July 2018** e 0.1

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: July 2018

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## Purpose

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

## Background

Syringe services programs offer many benefits to the community. Generally, they provide 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 PrEP<sup>1</sup>. It should be noted, however, that not all programs offer all services.

In the beginning, these programs were few and far between due to a lack of funding. However, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 provided the opportunity to use federal funds to support specific aspects of syringe services programs under certain circumstances<sup>2</sup>.

The idea behind syringe exchange is that providing injection drug users with sterile injection equipment prevents the sharing of used injection equipment; this decreases the opportunity for the spread of communicable diseases like HIV or hepatitis. These programs also offer a place to dispose of used equipment, therefore the opportunity for community members, law enforcement, or healthcare workers to be exposed decreases as well.

## 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 the majority of people who utilize syringe services programs in Nevada are between the ages of 20 and 40, and the majority are white males.

## NRS 439.985-439.994: Sterile Hypodermic Device Programs (Syringe Services Programs)<sup>3</sup>

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 that protect the human 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 drugs<sup>4</sup>. 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 principles<sup>4</sup>:

- 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 that 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 real 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 real and 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.

<i>Phone:</i>	(775) 997-7519
<i>Email:</i>	<a href="mailto:outreach@nnhopes.org">outreach@nnhopes.org</a>
<i>Hours:</i>	Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm
<i>Address:</i>	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.

<i>Phone:</i>	(702) 840-6693
<i>Email:</i>	<a href="mailto:tracbexchange@gmail.com">tracbexchange@gmail.com</a>
<i>Hours:</i>	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
<i>Address:</i>	6114 W. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89146

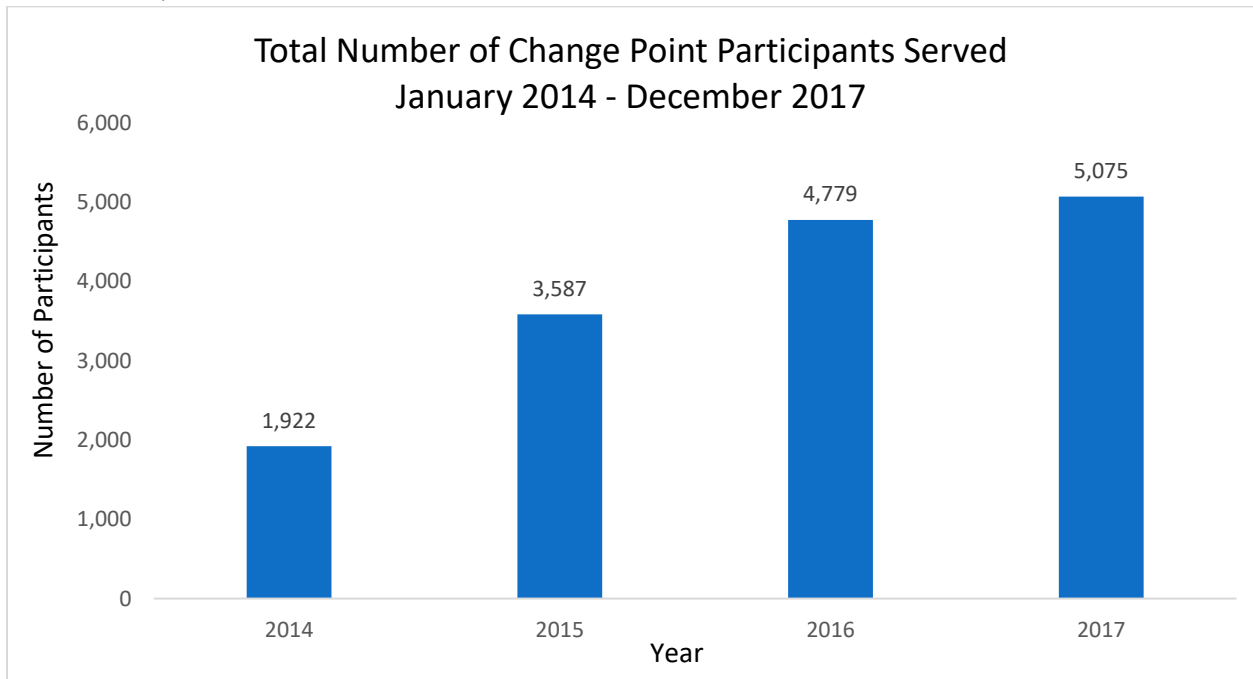
## Data

### Change Point

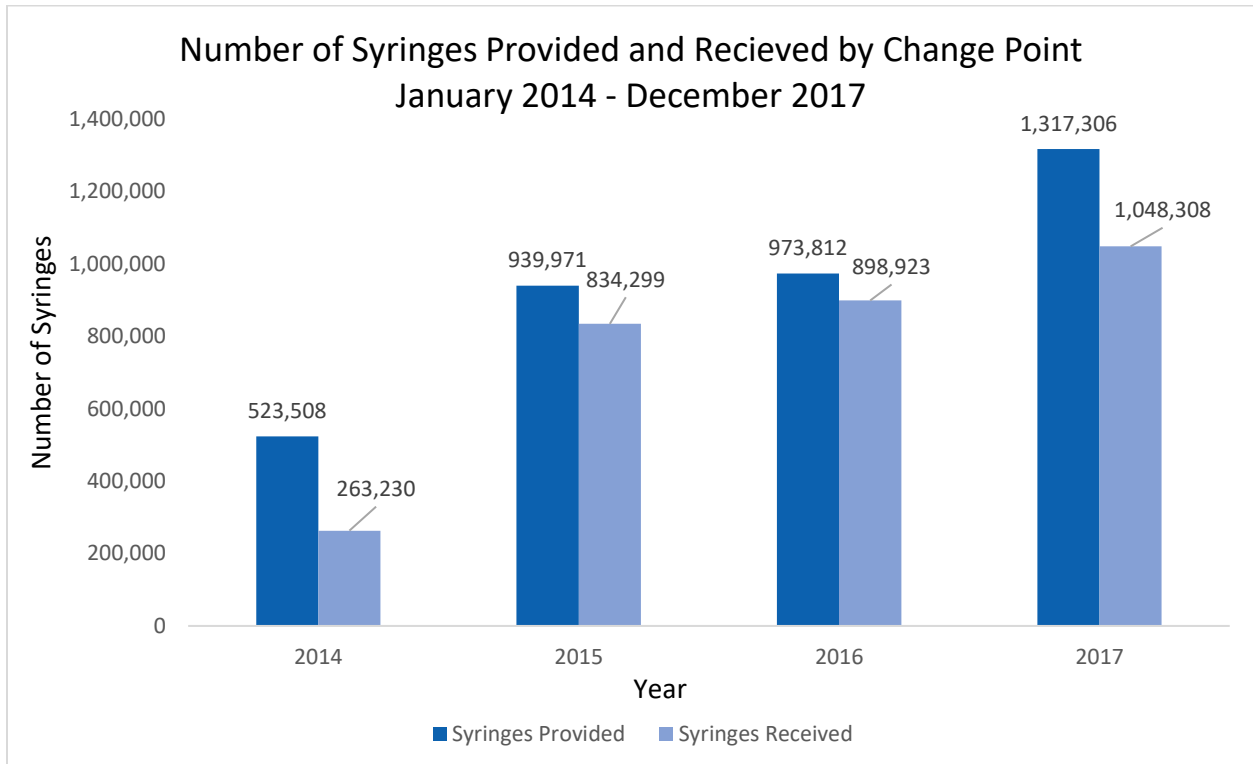
#### Data Limitations

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.

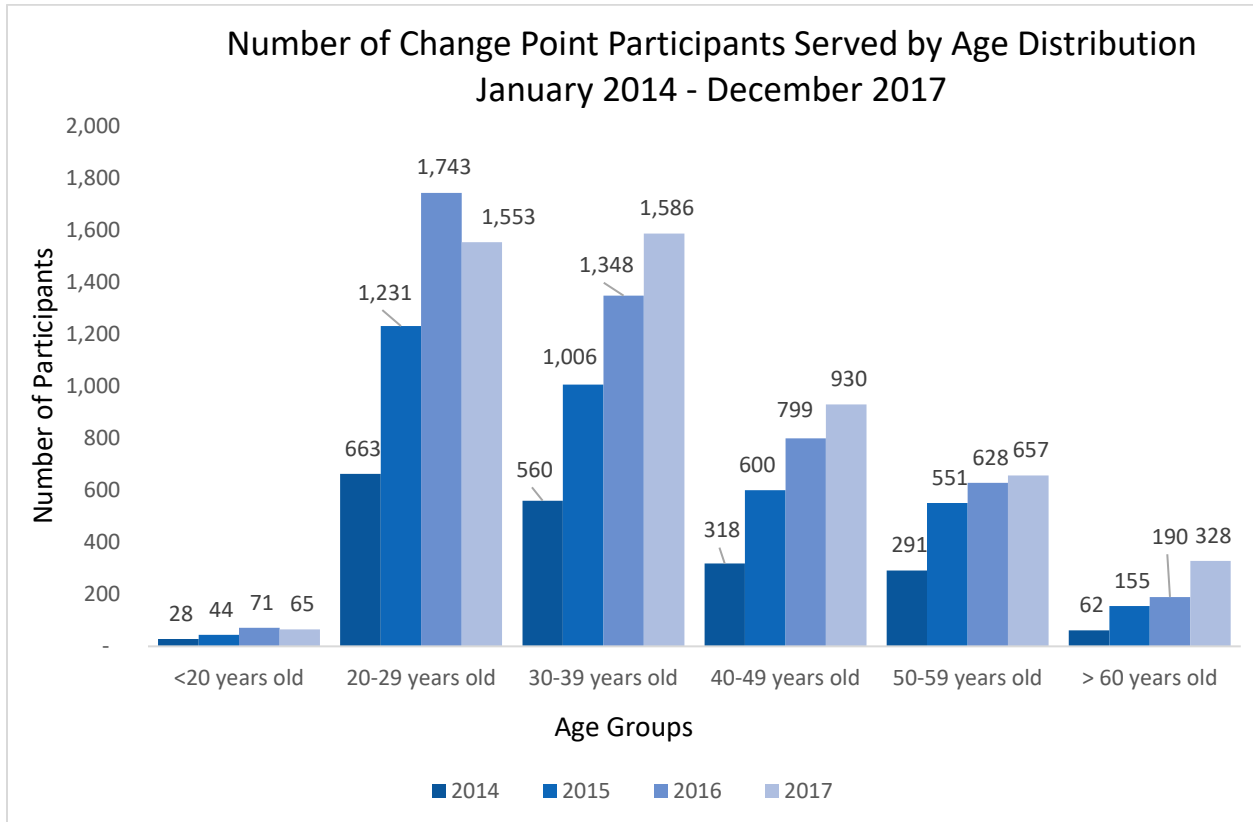
#### Total Participants Served



Syringe Summary

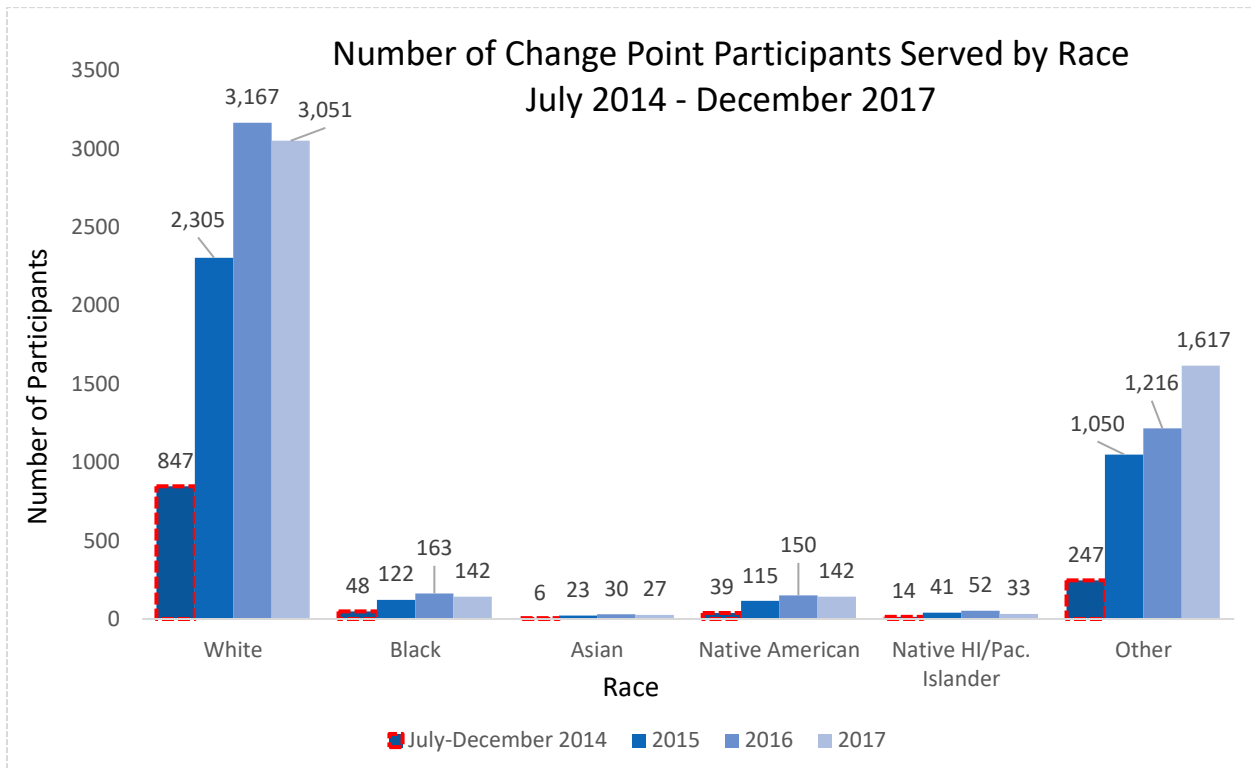


Age





Race

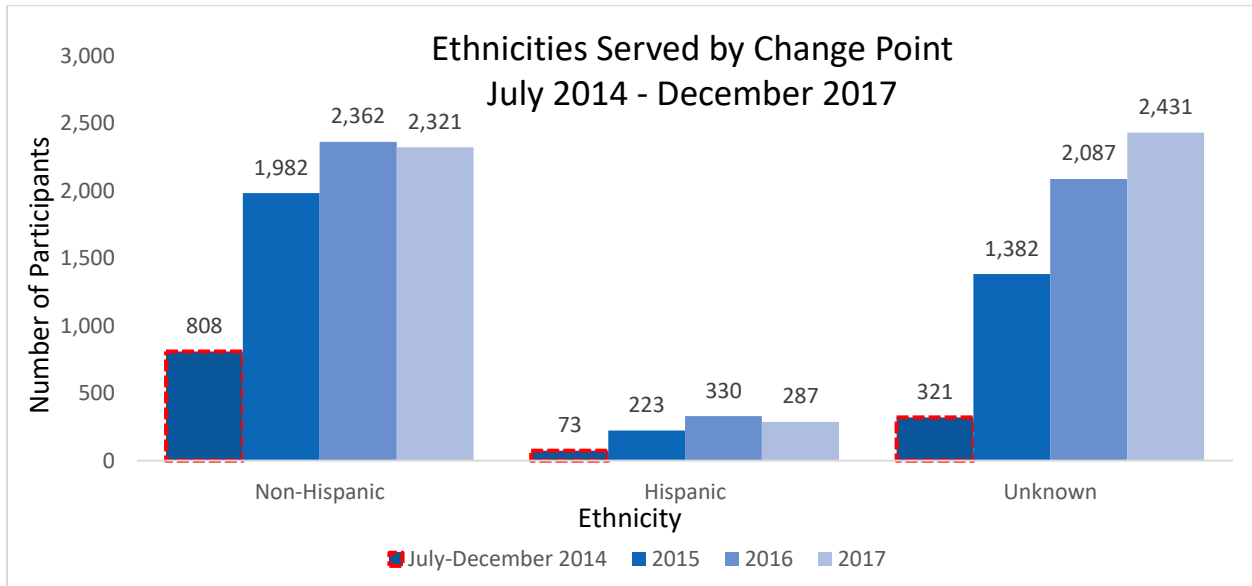


Please note: the above graph shows data in full years except the first bar in each race, which represents a half year's data due to changes in Race categories.

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.

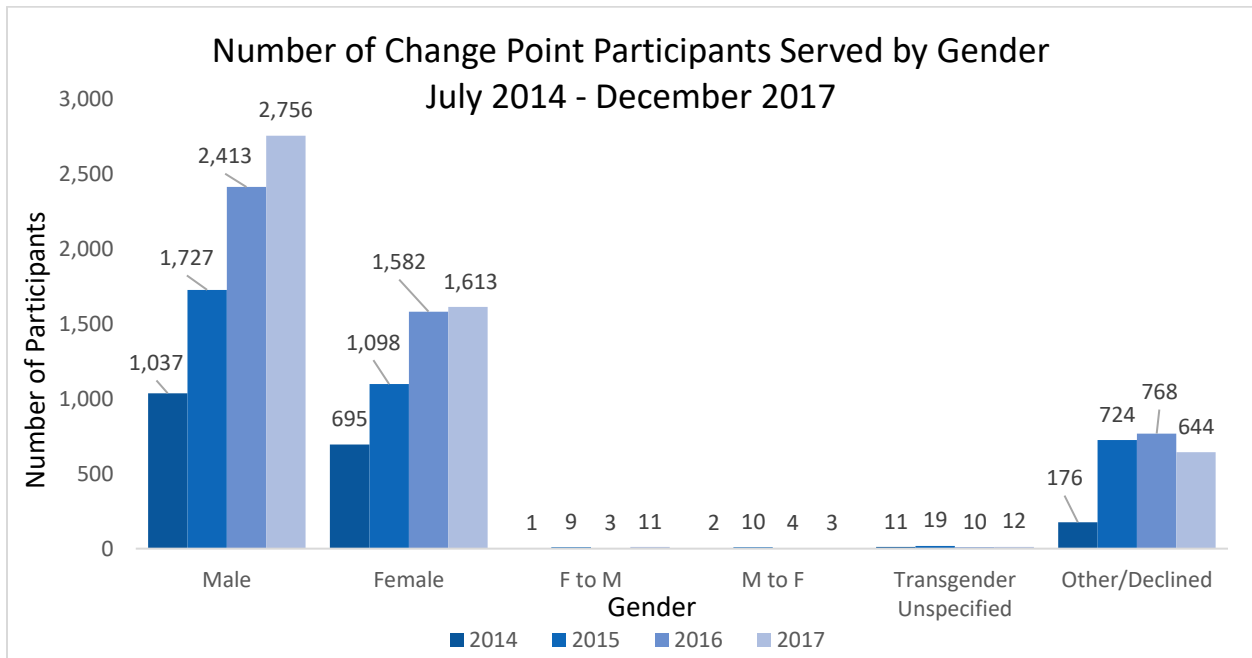
June - December 2014 Race categories were: White, Black, Asian, Native American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Other.

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



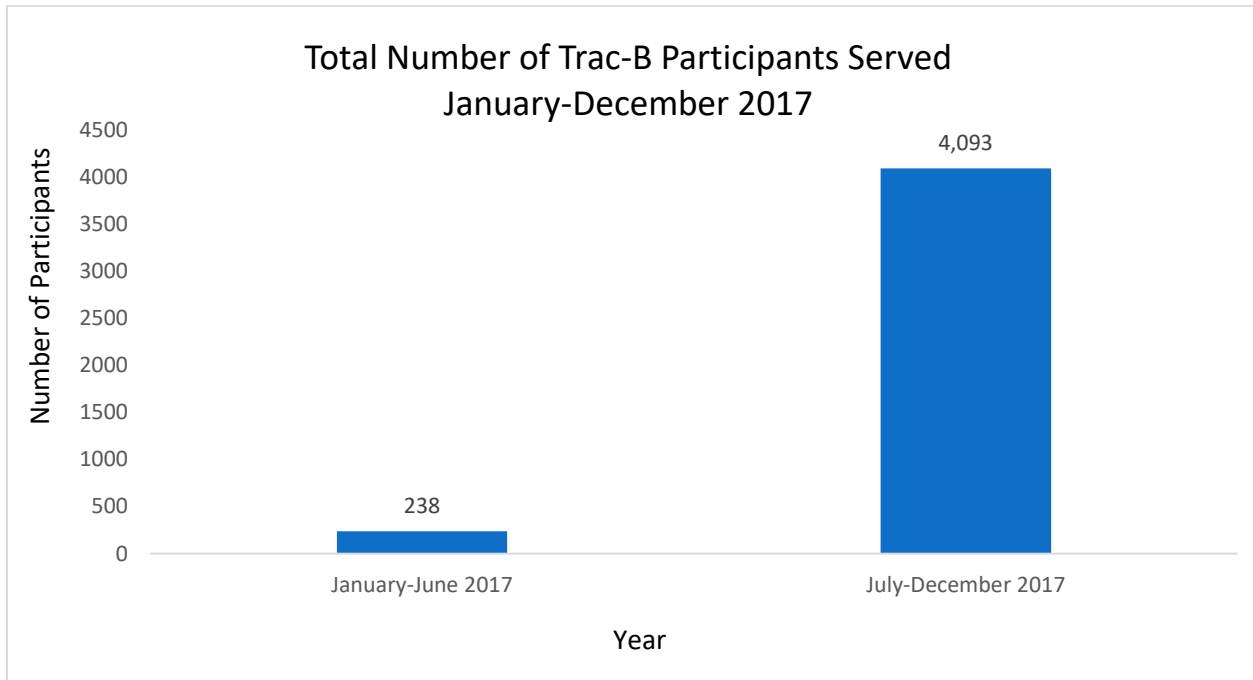
\* Transgender data was not collected in the January-June 2014 reporting period. "Male to Female," "Female to Male," and "Transgender Unspecified" was added beginning in the July-December 2014 reporting period.

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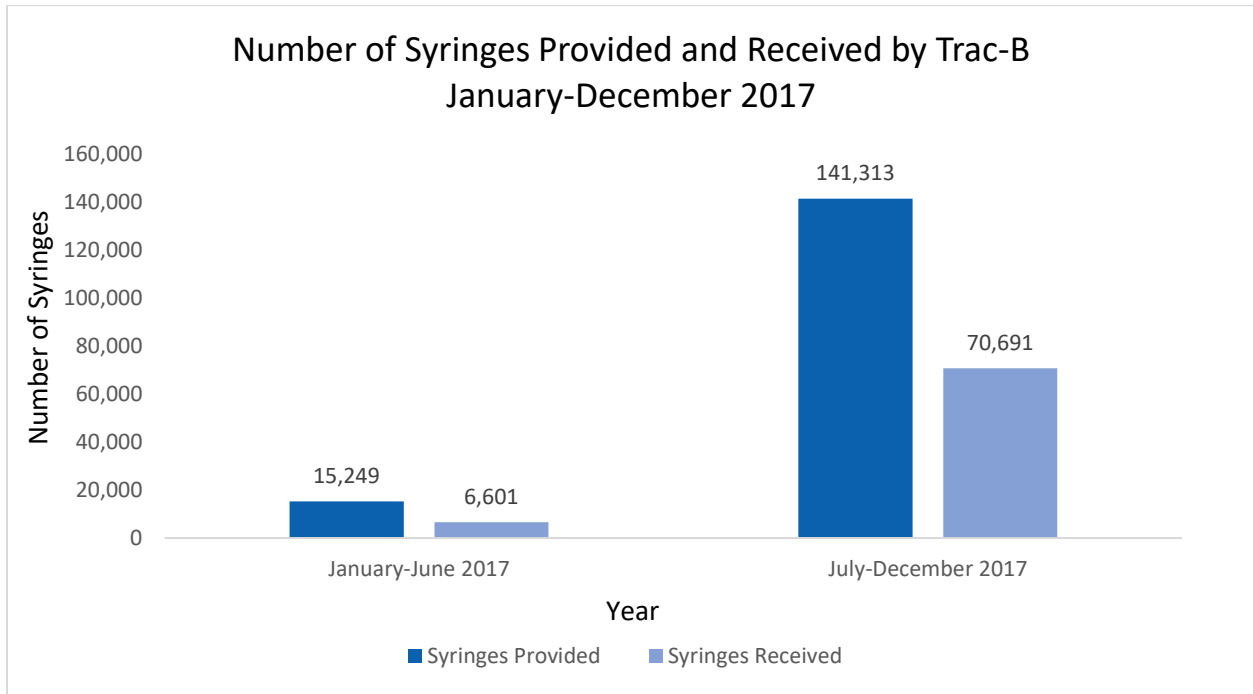
### Trac-B

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

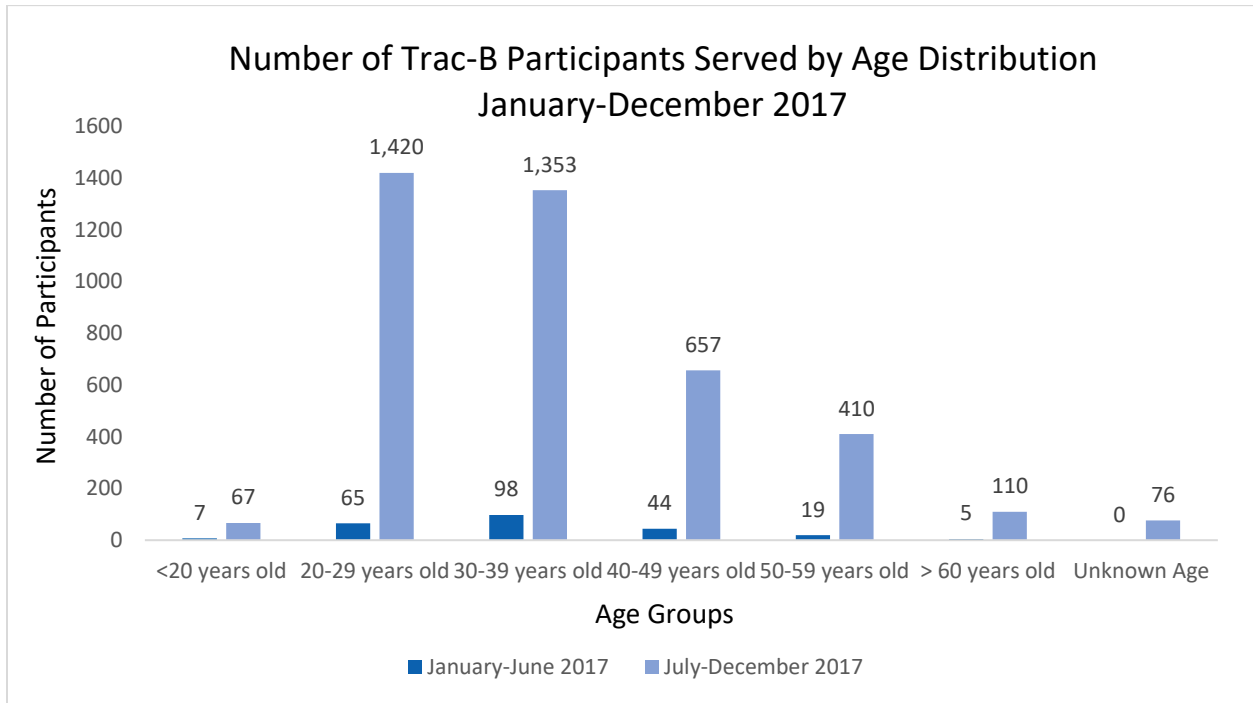
### Total Participants Served



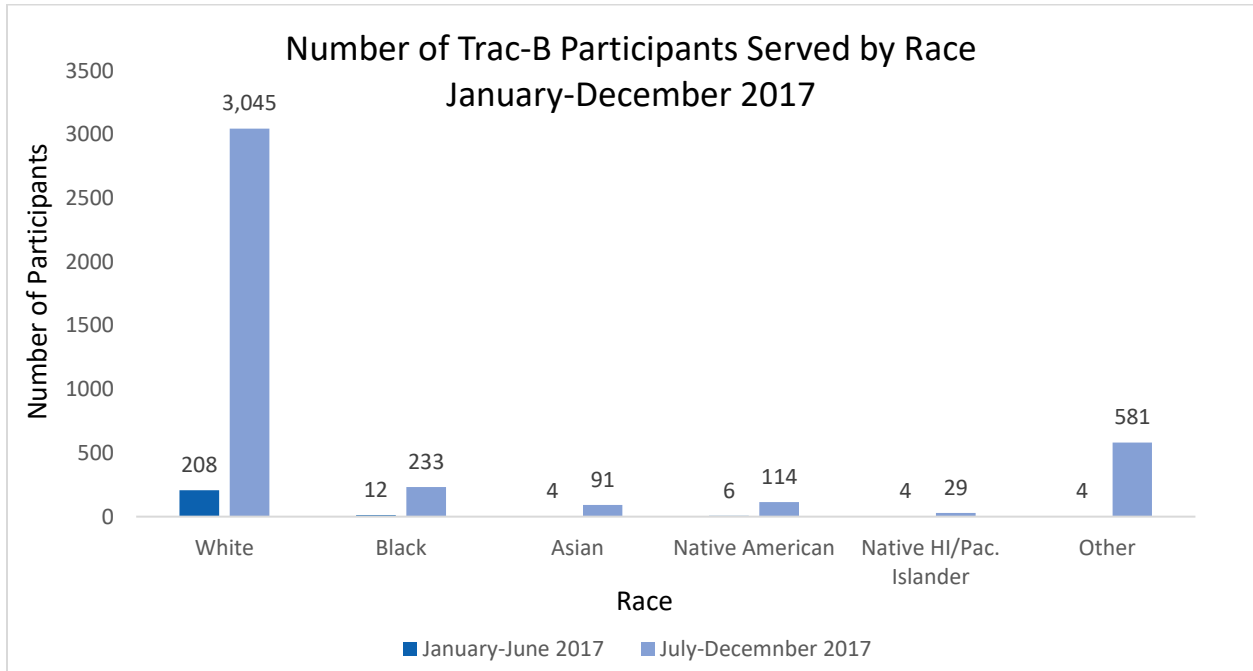
### Syringe Summary



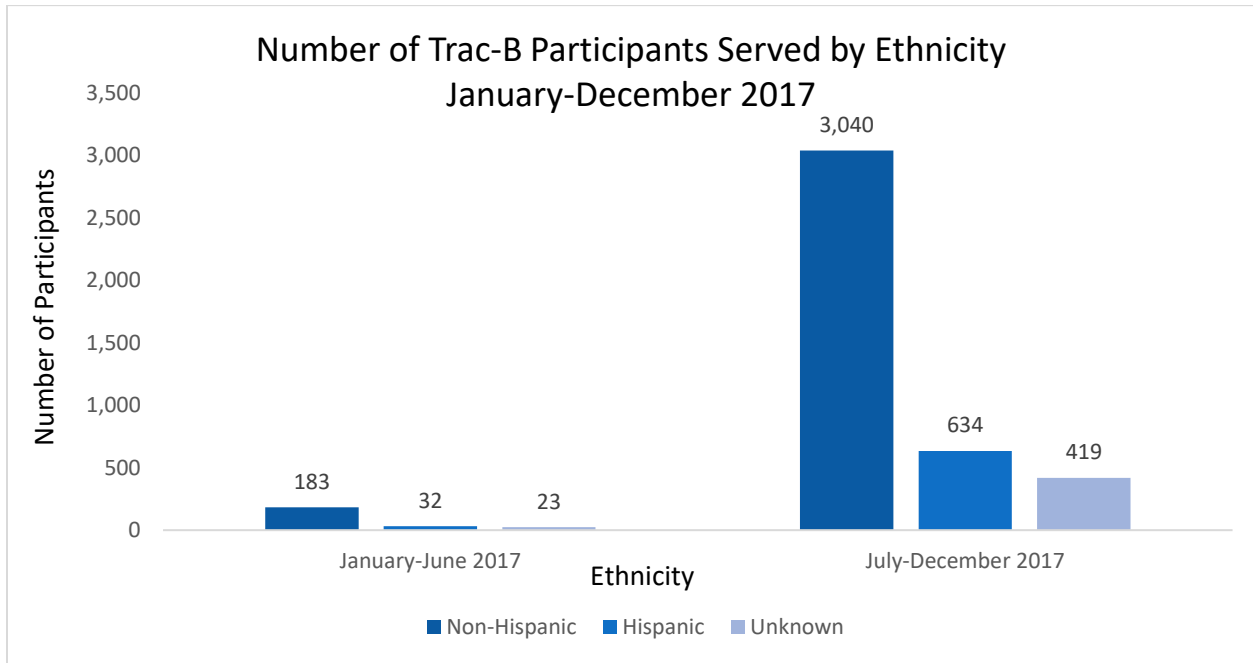
Age



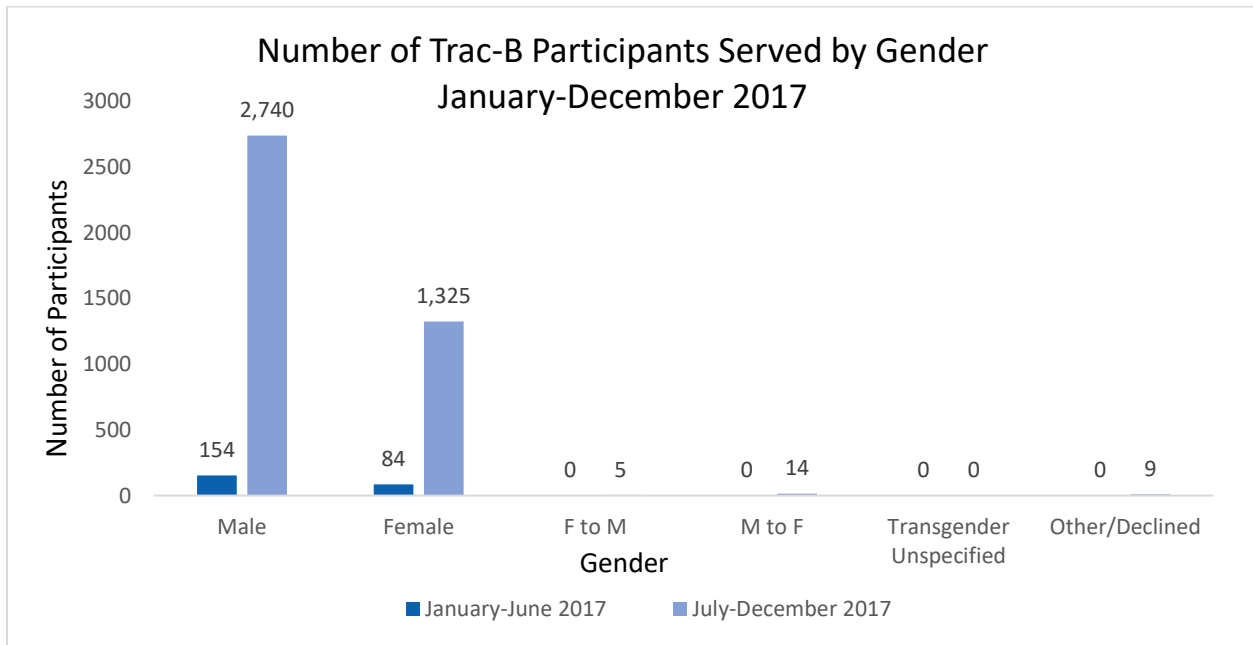
Race



Ethnicity



Gender



## Point of Contact

For additional questions regarding this publication, please contact:

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775-684-5290

Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology (775-684-5911)

## Recommended Citation

Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology. Division of Public and Behavioral Health. Syringe Services Program Report: March 2018. Carson City, Nevada. March 2018.

## 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 9/1/17
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

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**Agency Information**

Name of Agency:  Date:

Completed by:  Contact Phone #

Contact E-mail

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**Reporting Period**

January - June  
Year

July - December

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**Population summary data**

Total number of participants served during this period:

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**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

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**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.