

# Nevada Syringe Services Program Guidelines

Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology

Brian Sandoval  
Governor

Romaine Gilliland  
Director



Richard Whitley, MS  
Administrator

Tracey D Green, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

# *Outline*

- Nevada Syringe Services Program Guidelines
- Results from a National Survey of Existing Syringe Services Programs
- Resource Guide for New Programs in Nevada

# ***Nevada Syringe Services Program Guidelines***

Five sections:

1. Syringe services programs
2. Safe collection and disposal of hypodermic devices
3. Training of staff and volunteers
4. Highly encouraged trainings
5. Reporting procedures

To view the guidelines: <http://health.nv.gov/PUBLICATIONS/SyringeServicesProgram.pdf>

# Syringe Services Programs<sup>1</sup>

Goal: furnish new, sterile hypodermic devices to participants and enable those individuals to use a new, sterile hypodermic device for every injection

Syringe Services Programs should:

- respect cultural diversity in their participants
- assure that hypodermic devices and other sterile injection supplies are not deemed illegal
- operate in mutual harmony with drug courts and law enforcement
- provide semiannual reports to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- collect and dispose of devices according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations

# Safe Collection and Disposal of Hypodermic Devices<sup>1</sup>

- Participants should be provided with harm reduction and educational materials
- Instructions for safe disposal of hypodermic devices should be provided
- Participants should be instructed to return used hypodermic devices to the syringe services program, whether or not they were furnished by the program
- Participants should be educated about proper disposal of devices when they are unable to come to the syringe services program

# Training of Staff and Volunteers <sup>1</sup>

Each syringe services program must provide staff and volunteers who collect or furnish hypodermic devices with a proper course of training as appropriate to their level of involvement in program activities

Topics to be covered include:

- Approved protocols
- Procedures that ensure secure storage, handling, and disposal of syringes
- The hierarchy of risks
- Education on HIV/AIDS and hepatitis
- Procedures for making referrals
- Overdose prevention, recognition, and response
- Information on employment and vocational training services

Upon implementation of the program, the syringe services program must provide an in-house training plan to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health

# Highly Encouraged Trainings for Staff and Volunteers <sup>1</sup>

- Orientation to the syringe services program's available services and eligibility requirements
- Nevada State sterile hypodermic device exchange statutes (NRS 439 and NRS 453.336)
  - To view NRS 439: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-439.html>
  - To view NRS 453.336: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-453.html#NRS453Sec336>
- Methods of outreach to engage target populations
- Maintenance of training logs and attendance sheets for all trainings provided to all staff and volunteers
- Client confidentiality procedures

# Reporting Procedures <sup>1</sup>

Semiannual reports will be submitted to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health by the end of January and July

These reports will include, but are not limited to:

- the number of participants served during the time period since the last report
- aggregate demographic data for participants
- number of syringes collected in total and the average number per participant per transaction
- number of syringes distributed in total and the average number per participant per transaction

Each program will notify the Division of Public and Behavioral Health if any changes were made to the staff and volunteer training program since the last report





# Results<sup>2</sup>

- 62% reported experiencing issues with law enforcement
- 49.3% reported experiencing issues with community buy in
- 57.7% reported experiencing issues linking participants with available services

# Recommendations from Programs<sup>2</sup>

## Law Enforcement

- education and ongoing training
- regular meetings
- community clean ups

# Recommendations from Programs<sup>2</sup>

## Community Buy In

- promotion and outreach events
- community meetings
- community clean ups

# Recommendations from Programs<sup>2</sup>

## Linking Participants with Services

- create positive relationships with services
- full time case manager
- friendly but professional relationship with participants
- offer services in house

# *Tool for New Programs*<sup>2</sup>

The survey resulted in the creation of a tool for new syringe services programs in Nevada



# Contents<sup>2</sup>

- In depth survey results
- Nevada Syringe Services Program Guidelines
- Documents from participating programs:
  - Intake forms
  - Exchange logs
  - PowerPoint presentations
  - Staff protocol
  - Fact sheets
  - Memorandums of Understanding
  - Client forms
- Available contacts for other advice and resources

# Citations

1. Ariyakumar, D., Chamberlain, S., Mcquie, H., & Flores, M. (2013). Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology. Syringe services program guidelines.
2. Flen, J. (2014). A Survey of National Syringe Services Programs: Issues, Experiences, and Resolutions. University of Nevada, Reno. School of Community Health Sciences.



For further information, please contact:



Stephanie Robbins

srobbins@health.nv.gov

or



Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Attn: Stephanie Robbins, DCS  
1665 Old Hot Springs Rd, Ste 157  
Carson City NV 89706

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