

Syringe Exchange in North Carolina

**North Carolina Association of
County Commissioners**

August 11th, 2016

Leading the Charge to a Healthier Chatham

Chatham County Public Health Department • L. Layton Long, Health Director

www.chathamnc.org/publichealth

House Bill 972

Any **governmental or nongovernmental organization**, including a local or district health department or an organization that promotes scientifically proven ways of mitigating health risks associated with drug use and other high-risk behaviors, may establish and operate a **needle and hypodermic syringe exchange program**.

Effective October 1, 2016

Program Objectives

- ❑ Reduce spread of HIV, AIDS, viral hepatitis, and other bloodborne diseases
- ❑ Reduce needle stick injuries to law enforcement and emergency personnel
- ❑ Encourage individuals who inject drugs to enroll in evidence-based treatment



Required Program Offerings

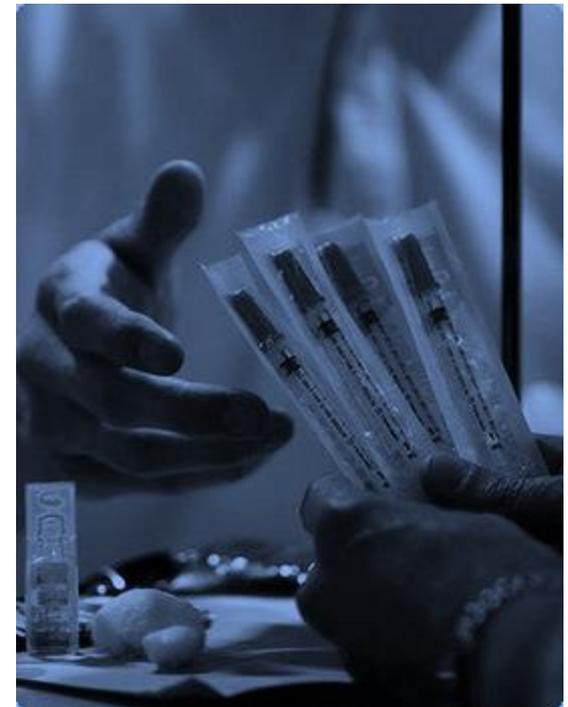
- Disposal of used needles/syringes
- Needles, hypodermic syringes, and other injection supplies at no cost
- Educational materials
- Security of program sites, equipment, and personnel
- Access to naloxone kits
- Personal consultations concerning mental health or addiction treatment



No public funds may be used to purchase needles, hypodermic syringes, or other injection supplies

Limited Immunity

- Needles, hypodermic syringes, or other injection supplies **obtained from or returned to a program established under the law**
- Residual amounts of a controlled substance in used needles, hypodermic syringes, or injection supplies **obtained from or returned to a program**



Initial Reporting

- Legal name of the organization or agency operating the program
- Areas and populations to be served by the program
- Methods in which the program will meet the requirements specified in the law



Annual Reporting

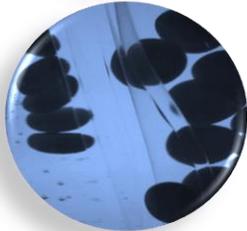
- Number of individuals served
- Number of needles, hypodermic syringes, and needle injection supplies dispensed and returned
- Number of naloxone kits distributed
- Number and type of treatment referrals



Benefits (1 of 2)



Lower incidence of HIV infection by up to **80%**



Lower incidence of Hepatitis C infection by up to **50%**



Decrease law enforcement needle-stick injuries by **66%**



Participants more than **five times** more likely to enter drug treatment

Benefits (2 of 2)

- HIV/AIDS costs between **\$385,000 and \$620,000** per person to treat
- Hepatitis C costs between **\$100,000 and \$500,000** per person to treat

A **\$0.07** syringe can prevent a **\$620,000** HIV infection



QUESTIONS?

