

HSA, Public Health



Public Health

County of Santa Cruz Syringe Services Program (SSP) Advisory Commission Program Updates

August 09, 2022

Current Activities

Goals: Prevent disease, link to treatment and services, improve public safety

- 1) Syringe Litter Abatement data collection
- 2) Outreach
- 3) Participant Anecdote

Extending a thank you to our community partners who continue to send in monthly reports of syringe litter collection

- **Downtown Streets Team**
- **Save Our Shores**
- **County Roads Crews**
- **Continuing to work to collect Syringe Litter Reports from other jurisdictions and organizations**

Outreach Efforts

City of Santa Cruz

San Lorenzo Park/Benchlands on Wednesdays:

- We support HCV testing efforts in collaboration with HPHP and the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County
- Tent to tent outreach including supply distribution and syringe collection/disposal education
- Considering outreach at the other encampments as populations move

Outreach Efforts

Watsonville

Salvation Army Mondays:

- Provide HCV testing support in the afternoon prior to exchange shift

Pajaro River levee Mondays and Thursday:

- Outreach with HPHP, County MAT, Salud Para La Gente, Healing the Streets, Watsonville Works

Loaves and Fishes Tuesdays and Wednesdays:

- Outreach with HPHP, Healing the Streets and other organizations

Ramsey/Slough trails Friday:

- Outreach with Healing the Streets

Meeting someone where they are

What does that mean?

- Bridging the gap between your own expectations and where the other person is coming from

Who Are our Participants?

June 2022

- 69% housed and 31% unhoused
- 81% of visits to Emeline Exchange 19% to Watsonville Exchange

Drugs Injected

Heroin 67%

Methamphetamines 55%

Cocaine 4%

Other 10%

Unknown 7%

Summary of one participant's experience

- First visited County Exchange in 2013
- Over 100 visits to our exchanges
- Exchanging for himself and others
- Education on Medi-Cal/Housing/SUD treatment, etc.

Summary of one participant's experience

- He is currently housed
- He has been sober for 60 days
- He feels comfortable and confident in his sobriety
- He brought in the remnant syringes he has collected from others and himself over the years
- He took a picture that he wants to show to his son one day when he is ready to discuss his experience with him



Questions?

Thank You

