



Trac-B Exchange - Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Program

TARGET POPULATION: People Who Inject Drugs

LOCATION: Las Vegas, NV

PROGRAM DESIGN: Syringe Service Program (SSP)

ESTIMATED COST: \$238,380

FUNDING SOURCE: Health Department Funds and Grassroots Contributions

CORE ACTIVITIES

CORE ACTIVITY 1

Trac-B Exchange is the first storefront syringe service program (SSP) in Southern Nevada. Our goal of setting up the storefront was to provide easier access to safe injection supplies for people who inject drugs (PWID). In Nevada, legislation has allowed SSPs to operate openly, free from restrictions on providing sterile syringes, injection supplies, and overdose reversal drugs. The syringe service storefront allows for PWID to be linked to other services such as wound care, medical testing and treatment, as well as other social services as needed, thereby addressing social determinates of health and reducing infectious disease transmission.

In “Various countries, including France, public health strategies to promote access to sterile syringes for injection drug users’ have included legal pharmacy sales without prescription and needle exchange programs. Another approach that has been described in Europe is the vending machine, which is similar to a coin-operated soda machine; this machine accepts contaminated syringes and mechanically provides sterile syringes in exchange.”

–[Syringe Vending Machines for Injection Drug Users: An Experiment in France](#)
American Journal for Public Health

Syringe services programs (SSPs) can play a role in preventing HIV and other health problems among PWID. They provide access to sterile syringes and should also provide comprehensive services such as help with stopping substance misuse; testing and linkage to treatment for HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C; education on what to do for an overdose; and other prevention services. State and local health departments can work with their lawmakers and law enforcement to make SSPs more available to PWID.

–CDC Vital Signs Report on HIV and Injection Drug Use, November 2016

DATA

In Nevada, 4% of new HIV diagnosis were associated with injection drug use (Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology, 2015). Nationally, up to 70% of hepatitis C infections are contracted through injection drug use. We will implement HIV testing as well as Hepatitis C and STD screenings at our location in February, 2017.

EVALUATION

Prior to opening the storefront location, a needs assessment was conducted by the Southern Nevada Health District to determine services needed for our target population. These qualitative surveys and focus groups were of great value in our planning process and have helped us to shape our program model. We will conduct

CORE ACTIVITY 2

This site will also be used as a sign up location for people in the community to be able to use one of three vending machines that will contain syringe service supplies, first aid supplies, and safer sex supplies. These machines will be the first to launch in mainland America. Syringe vending machines have been utilized as an infectious disease intervention with PWID in Europe and Australia (among others) for over a decade. The efficacy and innovation of the syringe vending machine intervention is that PWID can access sterile syringes at any time. The machines in Nevada are expected to debut in late February of 2017. The machines will be stocked and maintained by a collaborative effort with the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and Nevada Access to Research, Education, Social Support & Health Care Assistance (NARES) in a project called 'Impact Exchange.' Other aspects of impact exchange will include mobile syringe distribution and removal of publically discarded syringes. Combined, these efforts intend to provide holistic harm reduction services to PWID in Nevada.

FUNDING & COST

Our initial start-up costs were incurred for the laboratory buildouts, machines and art design. Additionally we will be funding monthly costs for the storefront space, staff, and utilities.

evaluations in the future to determine the success of both our storefront and vending machine models in reducing HIV and hepatitis C infections among PWID.

STAKEHOLDERS

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and Nevada Access to Research, Education, Social Support and Health Care Assistance (NARES).

STRENGTHS

Due to our effort being a collaboration with two larger entities (SNHD and NARES) as well as strong interest from the community, we were able to build the storefront and get policies and procedures as well as processes in place rather quickly.

LIMITATIONS

Currently we are only able to purchase three machines so they will be housed at community based organizations in the Las Vegas Valley. The machines need to be housed inside due to connections to power as well as software that will tell us when to refill the supplies. We would like to be able to expand to some of the more rural areas of Southern Nevada in the near future.

PROGRAM CONTACT

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