

Updates on Syringe Exchange Program from the Department of Public Health and Wellness

- For 10 weeks of operation, we have:
 - Total number of participants: 435
 - Returning participants: 155
 - Participants voluntarily requesting HIV testing: 64
 - Participants referred for treatment: 29
 - Rate of return on syringes:
 - Week 1: 7 to 1 ratio
 - For the week ending July 25: 3 to 1
 - For the week ending August 1: 2 to 1.
- New RV hours will be:
 - Monday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. // 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 - Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 - Friday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Updates from Volunteers of America

- Volunteers of America has provided HIV prevention services in this community for 20 years.
- Volunteers of America's role within the Syringe Exchange includes providing the in-field, outreach approach, where we go to pockets of the community outside of the city-center and set up a temporary syringe exchange operation.
- Councilwoman Jessica Green, is partnering with Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness and Volunteers of America to set up our first outreach operation in her district. We have identified the location and are in the process of seeking permission from the property owner.

Engagement opportunities

- We invite you to sit at the table with us and determine where else we can take the outreach syringe exchange to.
- If you know of sections in your district, whether that is alley ways, parks or other gathering places that need a syringe clean up, we have groups of volunteers ready and waiting.
- We are also available to come to your district to speak and answer questions at town hall meetings.

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LOUISVILLE METRO SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW Volunteers of America has partnered with Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) to provide sterile syringes to as many people who inject drugs (PWID) in the Metro Louisville community as possible in order to decrease the spread of HIV and ensure a healthier community.

As part of the program, Volunteers of America has hired a Harm Reduction Specialist who has specialized knowledge about HIV and Hepatitis C prevention and harm reduction and is solely dedicated to the Syringe Exchange program. Through grass roots efforts, this person engages on a first person basis with populations at a high risk for contracting HIV and Hepatitis C and areas of Louisville where heroin use is known to be widespread particularly in the southwest region of the county. Working 40 hours per week, the specialist operates syringe exchange and is accompanied by a STOP staff member who can provide HIV testing if needed. In addition, the specialist directs participants that are in need of more comprehensive services to the permanent mobile unit.

The heart of the program is run from a mobile unit on Gray Street where participants are provided with sterile syringes as well as comprehensive information on our addiction recovery and HIV testing/prevention facilities which educate on harm reduction tactics and provide HIV prevention materials.

Volunteers of America has been providing HIV education and prevention strategies to the Louisville community for 20 years and addiction recovery services for 34 years. Last year alone, Volunteers of America reached 14,000 people through our outreach services. The Syringe Exchange program has become yet another bridge to the community through which we can deliver our expertly cultivated addiction recovery treatments and HIV prevention tools.

- EXPECTED PROGRAM OUTCOMES**
- Data is being produced and then analyzed after each syringe exchange with a participant so that we can quickly assess the benefits of this ongoing project.
 - Other syringe programs across the nation have been widely successful.
 - In 2002, exchange programs reported removing nearly 25 million used syringes from communities and according to the Centers for Disease Control, the one-time use of sterile syringes remains the most effective way to limit HIV transmission associated with injection drug use.
 - Exchange programs throughout the country have reduced HIV transmission rates by one-third to two-fifths and data shows that those who participate in syringe exchange programs are more likely to seek help for their addiction.

YEAR ESTABLISHED 2015



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Volunteers of America creates positive change in the lives of individuals and communities through a ministry of service.