

SAN FRANCISCO SAFE INJECTION SERVICES TASK FORCE



MEETING 1 • JUNE 15TH, 2017 • 9AM-11AM • 25 VAN NESS AVE RM 610



SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AGENDA

- WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
- INTRODUCTIONS
- TASK FORCE PROCESS & OVERVIEW
- OVERVIEW OF ISSUE BRIEF
- DISCUSSION
- PUBLIC COMMENT
- CLOSING & NEXT STEPS



INTRODUCTIONS

- NAME
- AFFILIATION

TASK FORCE PROCESS & OVERVIEW

- Board of Supervisors resolution #123-17, introduced by Supervisor London Breed
- Passed April 21st, 2017
- Urges SFPDH to convene a safe injection services (SIS) task force to make recommendations regarding
 - The potential opportunities and obstacles associated with safe injection facilities
 - The community need for such facilities
 - The feasibility of opening and operating such facilities.

TASK FORCE ROLE

ADVISORY

To develop recommendations to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and City departments

TASK FORCE KEY DATES 2017

ACTIVITIES



TOPICS



JUNE 15

MEETING 1

JULY 21

MEETING 2

AUGUST 10

MEETING 3

SEPTEMBER 2017

RELEASE FINAL REPORT

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

■ DISCUSSION

- Injection Drug Use and Harm Reduction in San Francisco
- About Safe Injection Services
- Benefits and Risks

■ DEVELOP POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- PWID Survey Results
- Safe Injection Service Models
- Operations and Service Considerations

■ DEVELOP & FINALIZE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Business & Neighborhood Focus Group Results
- Location and Siting Considerations

TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

COMPONENTS PER B_oS RESOLUTION #123-17

- **Information on individuals who inject drugs in SF**
- **Information on safe injection services** in other jurisdictions, including program models, effectiveness, outcomes
- **Potential risks and benefits** of safe injection services
- **Considerations** for SF regarding safe injection services, **including legal, community, and operational** considerations
- **Policy recommendations** for consideration

TASK FORCE INPUT & OUTREACH

- TASK FORCE MEMBERS' EXPERTISE
- PUBLIC COMMENT (@ 3 TASK FORCE MEETINGS)
- COMMUNITY SURVEY WITH PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS (PWID)
- BUSINESS & NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS GROUPS
- SIS TASK FORCE WEBPAGE
- DEDICATED SIS TASK FORCE EMAIL (SIS.TASKFORCE@SFDPH.ORG)

MATERIALS

- BOARD OF SUPERVISOR RESOLUTION #123-17
- PRESENTATION SLIDES
- ISSUE BRIEF
- INJECTION DRUG USE IN SF (INFOGRAPHIC)
- TASK FORCE ROSTER
- 3 X 5 CARD

INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

The estimated **22,500*** people who inject drugs (PWID) in SF are:

71%

MALE

55%

AGES 41-60

69%

HOMELESS

50%

**USING
HEROIN**

34%

**USING
METHAMPHETAMINE**

**2015 estimates*

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health: Community Health Assessment and Impact Unit

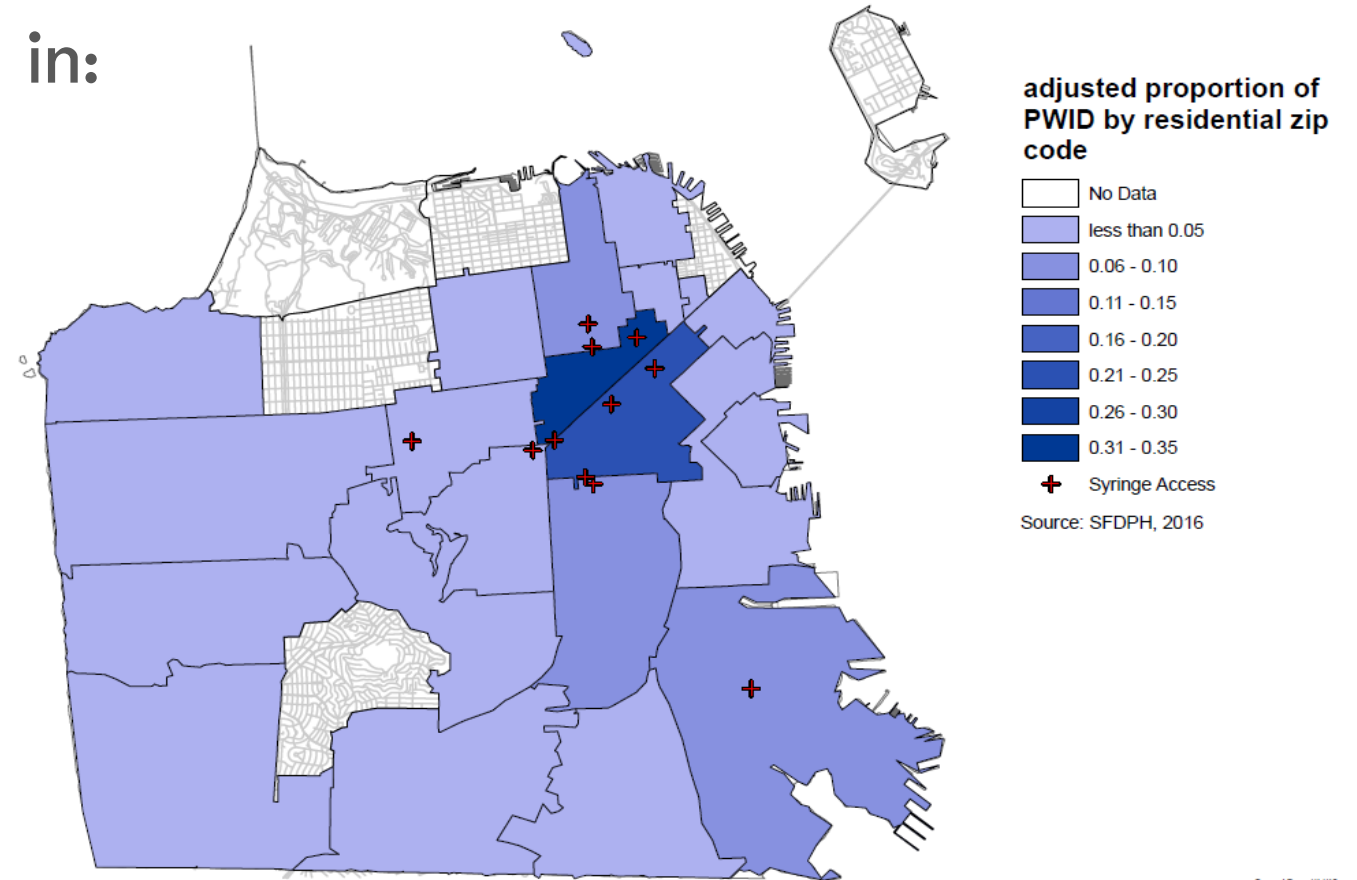
PWID in SF primarily reside in:

31%
TENDERLOIN

24%
SoMA

9%
MISSION

8%
BAYVIEW-
HUNTERS POINT



Created Date: 4/14/15

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

- A **medical disorder** that is a primary, chronic disease of brain reward, motivation, memory and related circuitry
- Characterized by:
 - inability to consistently abstain
 - impairment in behavioral control
 - cravings
 - diminished recognition of significant problems with one's behaviors and interpersonal relationships
 - dysfunctional emotional response
 - cycles of relapse and remission

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

PWID have **multiple health needs** that must be addressed in order to support their health and well-being, including:

- High prevalence of other health problems
- High prevalence of mental health issues
- High prevalence of trauma
- Poor social supports
- Poor relationship with healthcare system
- Higher level of homelessness
- Higher level of previous incarceration

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

- PWID account for **21% of people living** with HIV in SF
- **less likely to be virally suppressed** than the overall populations living with HIV
- **lowest five-year survival** out of all others living with HIV

HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

23,000

estimated SF residents who
have antibodies to HCV

13,000

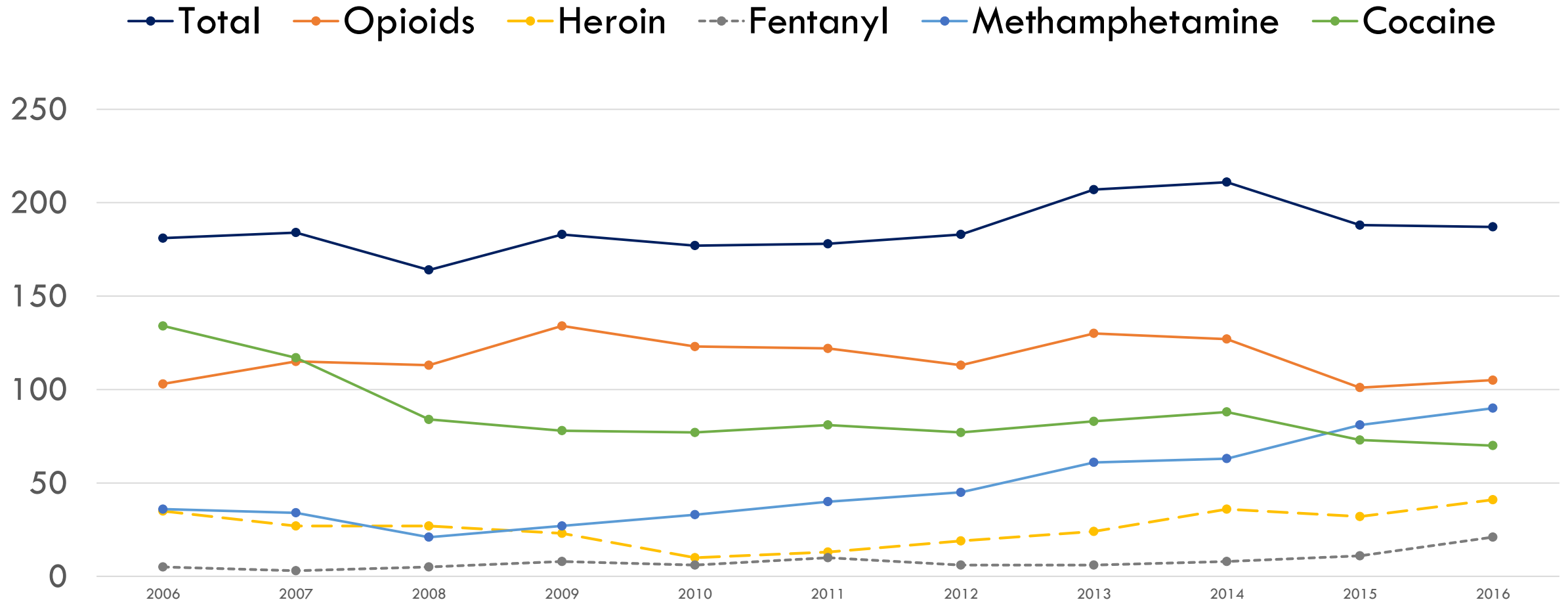
estimated SF residents
with active HCV virus in
their bodies

70%

active HCV infections
are among PWID

OVERDOSE DEATH

DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN SAN FRANCISCO (2006-2016)





ISSUE BRIEF

HARM REDUCTION

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

- public health philosophy that promotes methods of reducing the physical, social, emotional, and economic harms associated with harmful behaviors that impact individuals and their community
- free of judgment and directly involve clients in setting their own health goals

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

HISTORY OF HARM REDUCTION IN SAN FRANCISCO:

- **1993** – SF formally sanctioned syringe access
- **1997** – SFDPH launched its Treatment on Demand initiative
- **2001** – DOPE Project began piloting training of community and government partners on overdoses
- **2000** – SF Health Commission unanimously passed a resolution adopting a Harm Reduction Policy
- **2003** – SFDPH began to provide prescriptions for Naloxone

ISSUE BRIEF: INJECTION DRUG USE & HARM REDUCTION IN SF

EXAMPLES IN SF:

- Syringe Access & Disposal
- Naloxone
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine)
- Sobering Center

ABOUT SAFE INJECTION SERVICES

ISSUE BRIEF: ABOUT SAFE INJECTION SERVICES (SIS)

SIS are part of the continuum of evidence-based harm reduction services and are shown to:

- promote safer drug injection practices
- enhance health-related behaviors among PWID
- connect PWID with external health and social services
- attract hard-to-reach populations of drug users
- reduce morbidity and mortality
- reduce drug use in public
- improve public spaces in areas surrounding urban drug markets

ISSUE BRIEF: ABOUT SAFE INJECTION SERVICES

SIS AROUND THE WORLD:

- Five countries (**Spain, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark**) reported having multiple locations (ranging from five to 37) with varying services at each.
- Spain and Denmark each reported having one mobile drug consumption room in addition to fixed sites.
- Norway and Switzerland reported restricting eligibility to person 18 years or older
- Spain and the Netherlands reported that eligibility differed based on the location.

ISSUE BRIEF: ABOUT SAFE INJECTION SERVICES

SIS AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED):

- Five countries (**Australia, Canada, Luxemburg, Norway, and France**) reported having only one location.
- Australia, Luxemburg, and Norway restrict eligibility to person 18 years or older.
- All five are in fixed locations using an integrated model with a mix of services and linkages to other community services.

ISSUE BRIEF: ABOUT SAFE INJECTION SERVICES

SIS IN THE US:

- Jan 2017 – **Seattle, King County**, Washington State approved opening safe consumption facilities in their jurisdiction
- Published *Safe Consumption Facilities: Evidence and Models*
- Opposition by some members of the community seeking to ban heroin injection sites



ISSUE BRIEF

BENEFITS & RISKS

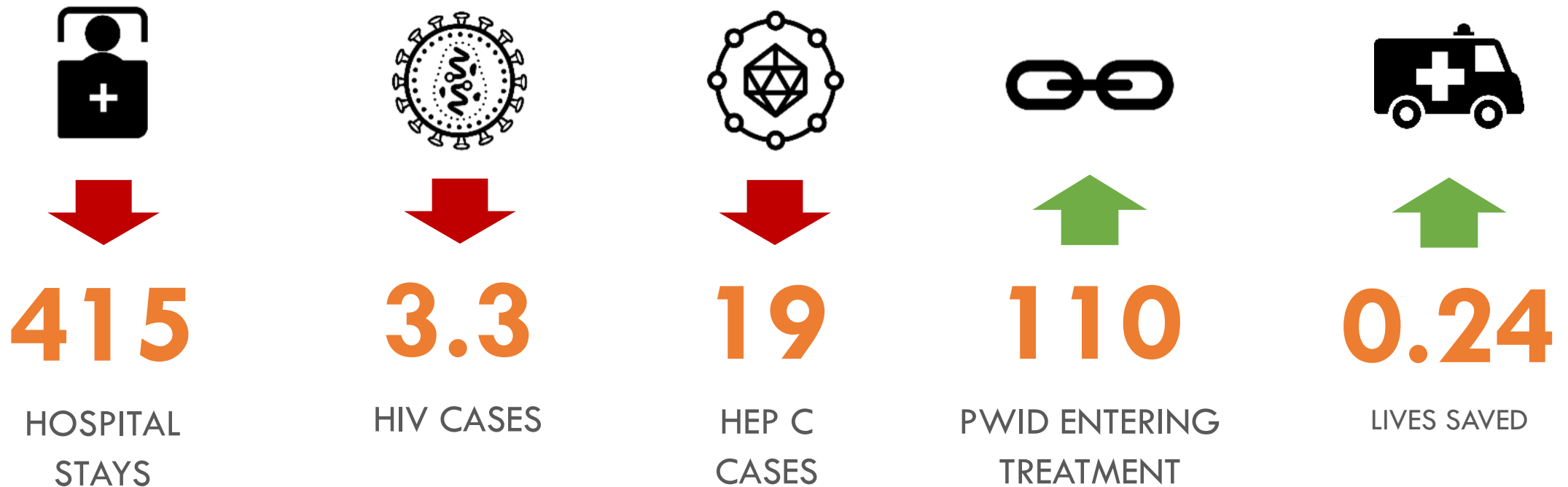
ISSUE BRIEF: BENEFITS & RISKS

BENEFITS

- effective in attracting the most marginalized PWID
- promoting safer injection conditions
- enhancing access to primary health care
- reducing overdose frequency
- not found to increase drug injecting, drug trafficking or crime in the surrounding environments
- associated with reduced levels of public drug injections and dropped syringes
- provide greater opportunities for health workers to connect with injectors

ISSUE BRIEF: BENEFITS & RISKS

POTENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS TO SF*



*Source: Irwin, A., Jozaghi, E., Bluthenthal, R. N., & Kral, A. H. (2017). A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Potential Supervised Injection Facility in San Francisco, California, USA. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 47(2), 164-184.

ISSUE BRIEF: BENEFITS & RISKS

POTENTIAL SAVINGS TO SF*

\$2.33

SAVINGS FOR EACH DOLLAR
SPENT ON SIS



\$3.5M

TOTAL ANNUAL NET SAVINGS FOR
A SINGLE 13-BOOTH SIS SITE

**Source: Irwin, A., Jozaghi, E., Bluthenthal, R. N., & Kral, A. H. (2017). A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Potential Supervised Injection Facility in San Francisco, California, USA. Journal of Drug Issues, 47(2), 164-184.*

RISKS

FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS PROHIBIT:

- possession of controlled substances, unless the possession is with the prescription of a licensed health professional
- building owners and operators from allowing the manufacturing, storing, or distributing controlled substances

ISSUE BRIEF: BENEFITS & RISKS

“Drug, narcotic, or chemical offense is defined: drug, narcotic, or chemical offense means any offense which proscribes the possession, distribution, manufacture, cultivation, sale, transfer, or the attempt or conspiracy to possess, distribute, manufacture, cultivate, sell or transfer any substance the possession of which is prohibited under this subchapter.”

TITLE 21 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE (USC) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ACT (CSA), SECTION 844 (C)

ISSUE BRIEF: BENEFITS & RISKS

““Except as authorized by this subchapter, it shall be unlawful to—

(1) knowingly open, lease, rent, use, or maintain any place, whether permanently or temporarily, for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using any controlled substance;

(2) manage or control any place, whether permanently or temporarily, either as an owner, lessee, agent, employee, occupant, or mortgagee, and knowingly and intentionally rent, lease, profit from, or make available for use, with or without compensation, the place for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing, storing, distributing, or using a controlled substance.”

TITLE 21 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE (USC) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ACT (CSA), SECTION 856

ISSUE BRIEF: BENEFITS & RISKS

- Federal laws are enforced by the US Attorney General
- On May 12, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions directed all federal prosecutors to pursue the maximum penalties under the law for all crimes, including mandatory minimum sentences

CALIFORNIA CODE HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, SECTIONS 11350 & 11377

Prohibits possessing certain controlled substances without a valid prescription. A "controlled substance" is a drug or chemical whose manufacture, possession and use are regulated by the government under the United States "Controlled Substances Act"

“No Unlawful Use or Unlawful Use Messages Regarding Drugs

Contractor agrees that information produced through these funds, and which pertains to drugs and alcohol - related programs, shall contain a clearly written statement that there shall be no unlawful use of drugs or alcohol associated with the program. Additionally, no aspect of a drug or alcohol related program shall include any message on the responsible use, if the use is unlawful, of drugs or alcohol (HSC Section 11999-11999.3). By signing this Contract, Contractor agrees that it will enforce, and will require its Subcontractors to enforce, these requirements.”

CALIFORNIA CODE, HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, SECTIONS 11999-11999.3



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW WOULD SIS IMPACT INJECTION
DRUG USE IN SAN FRANCISCO?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL OBSTACLES
ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING SIS
IN SAN FRANCISCO?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL
OPPORTUNITIES ASSOCIATED WITH
IMPLEMENTING SIS IN SAN FRANCISCO?



PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MINUTES PER PERSON

CLOSING COMMENTS & NEXT STEPS

NEXT MEETING

- PWID Survey Results
- Safe Injection Service Models
- Operations and Service Considerations

FRIDAY • JULY 21ST • 2017 • 9AM-11AM

25 VAN NESS AVE • ROOM 610