

SAFE INJECTION FACILITIES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 7TH, 2017



SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



INJECTION DRUG USE IN SF

- Estimated 22,500 people who inject drugs in SF
- SF has continued to see overdoses from heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl poisoning
- People who inject drugs are at-risk for
 - unhealthy substance use
 - acquisition and transmission of HIV and hepatitis C
 - serious physical and mental health conditions
 - premature death



OVERDOSES IN SF

- SF has continued to see overdoses from heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl poisoning
- Overdose deaths from opioids and stimulants in SF have been fairly stable

160
TO
200



RANGE OF OVERDOSE DEATHS IN SF PER
YEAR SINCE 2006



HARM REDUCTION

- Public health philosophy
- 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

Examples in San Francisco

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



SAFE INJECTION SERVICES

- Professionally supervised facilities where drug users can inject pre-obtained drugs in safer conditions
- Service models:
 - Integrated
 - Specialized
 - Mobile



SAFE INJECTION ROOM - MONTREAL



SAFE INJECTION ROOM - VANCOUVER



SAFE INJECTION ROOM - AUSTRALIA



TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION #123-17

- Introduced by Supervisor London Breed (passed April 2017)
- Urged SFPDH to convene a safe injection services (SIS) task force
- Task Force Purpose:
 - to investigate: the potential opportunities and obstacles associated with safe injection services; the community need for such services; and the feasibility of opening and operating such services.
 - to make policy recommendations



TASK FORCE COMPONENTS

- APRIL 2017 – SEPTEMBER 2017
- 15 TASK FORCE MEMBERS
- 3 TASK FORCE MEETINGS
- 3 SURVEYS
- 2 FOCUS GROUPS





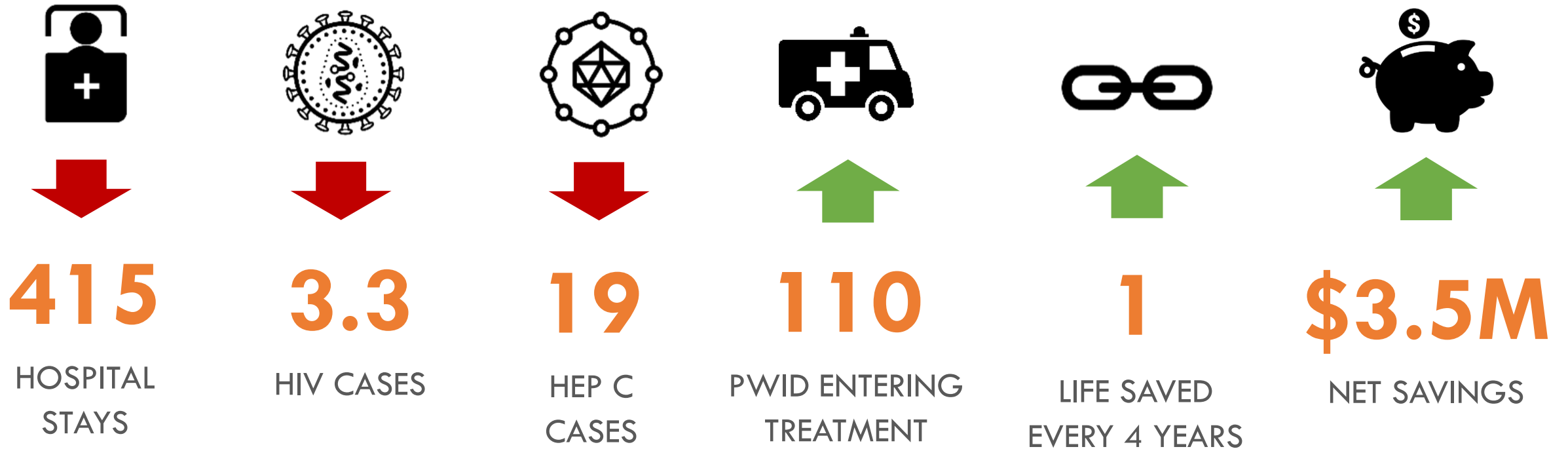
KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Support creation of safe injection services
in San Francisco



POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF SIS FOR SAN FRANCISCO

ANNUALLY



*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.



KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

PROGRAM PLANNING

- Plan for **legal and real estate barriers**
- Conduct **need and planning assessments**
- **Clear program goals, metrics, and program improvement processes**



KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

MODEL

- **Integrated model** with on-site services and linkages to other services, including **peer staff**



KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

LOCATION

- **Multiple sites** throughout San Francisco where **drug use** most often **occurs**
- **Locate where existing services are delivered** to people who inject drugs



KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

- **Strong community engagement with:**
 - Residents, business owners, and neighborhood groups
 - Law enforcement, probation, and parole agencies
 - City agencies and community organizations



TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Identify **populations at greater risk** for health disparities, barriers to services, and/or risk for experiencing violence related to drug use



NEXT STEPS

- LEGAL ANALYSIS
- ADVOCATE FOR AB 186
- INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE SITES
- DEVELOP WORK PLAN

QUESTIONS?

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