

Syringe Access & Disposal Services in SF



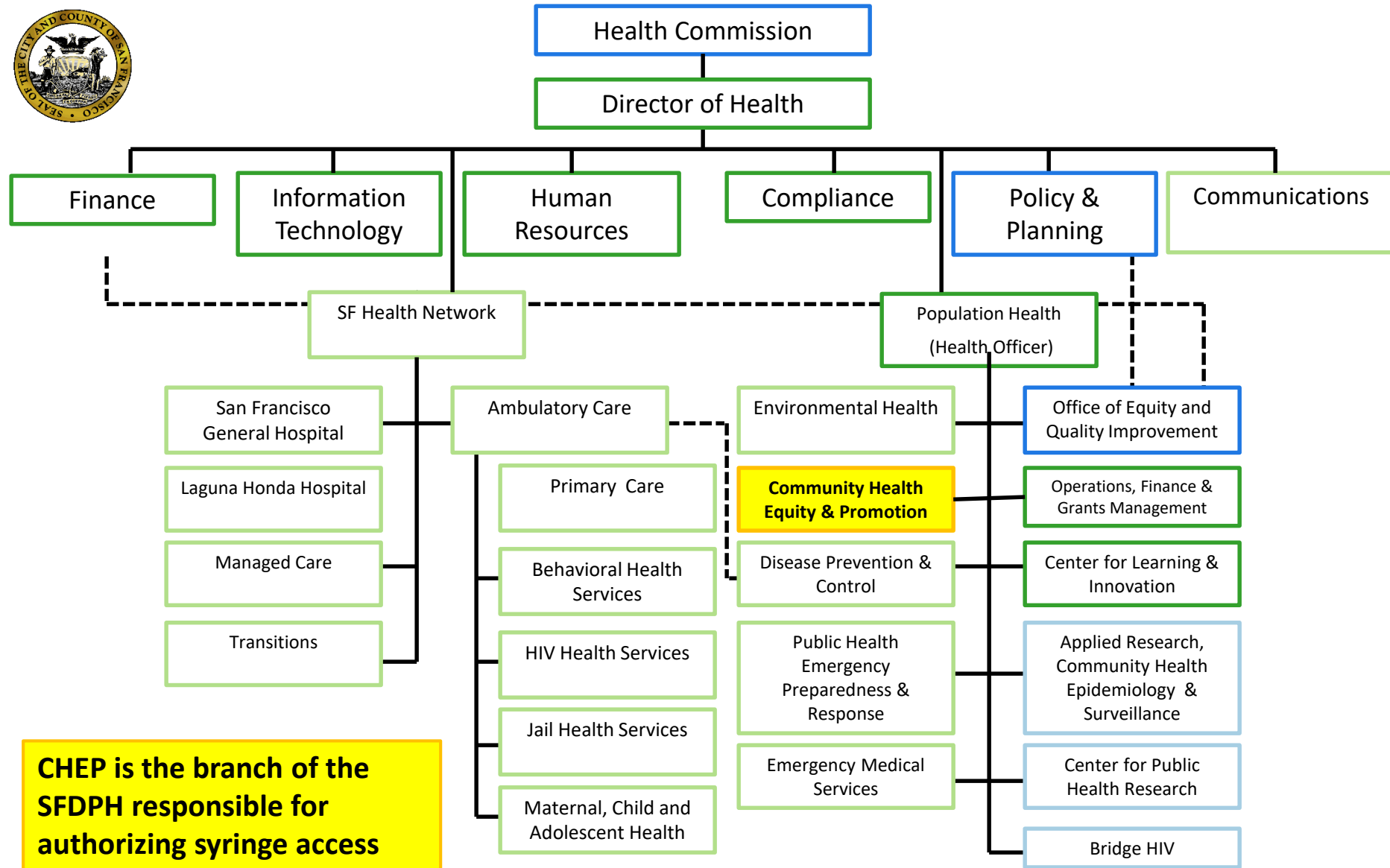
POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Community Health Equity & Promotion Branch

Presented by: Eileen Loughran

Program Manager for Syringe Access and Disposal Programs





CHEP is the branch of the SFDPH responsible for authorizing syringe access and disposal programs in SF.

Presentation Overview: Syringe Access

- Harm reduction and disease prevention
- Global best practice
- A major reason that SF can pledge to get to zero new HIV infections
- Sites do much more than provide clean needles
- Part of a bigger picture of care for people who inject drugs
- Needle disposal is a key component of the program

Program Overview: Syringe Programs

- SFDPH is responsible for managing syringe access and disposal for San Francisco as an effective HIV/Hepatitis C prevention intervention for people who inject drugs (PWID).
- Syringe access and disposal programs in San Francisco are governed by State law.
- Community engagement and collaboration are conducted by SFDPH to ensure the programs are successful.

FACTS ABOUT INJECTION DRUG USE IN **SAN FRANCISCO**



THE ESTIMATED **22,500** PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS (PWID) IN SAN FRANCISCO ARE...*

71%

MALE

55%

AGES 41-60

50%

USING HEROIN

34%

USING
METHAMPHETAMINE

AND RESIDE IN...



31%

TENDERLOIN

24%

SoMA

9%

MISSION

8%

BAYVIEW-
HUNTERS POINT

*2015 estimates

PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS ARE AT HIGH RISK FOR...



OVERDOSE



SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER



HIV



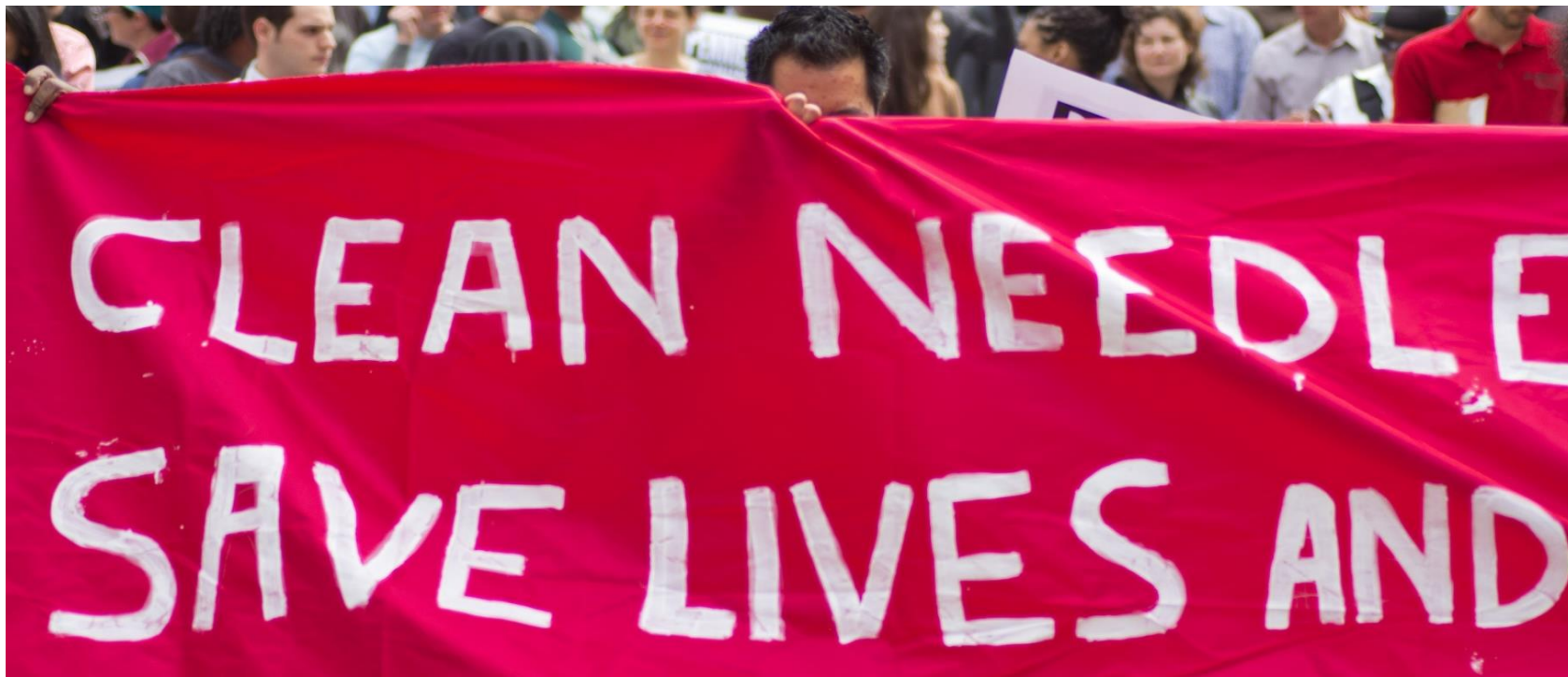
HEP C



OTHER
BLOODBORNE
DISEASES

SF Syringe Access & Disposal History

- 1988: Underground “Needle Exchange” run by volunteers
- 1993: Mayor Frank Jordan declares State of Emergency
- 1993: Syringe programs formally sanctioned in SF
- 2010: Syringe Police Bulletin signed



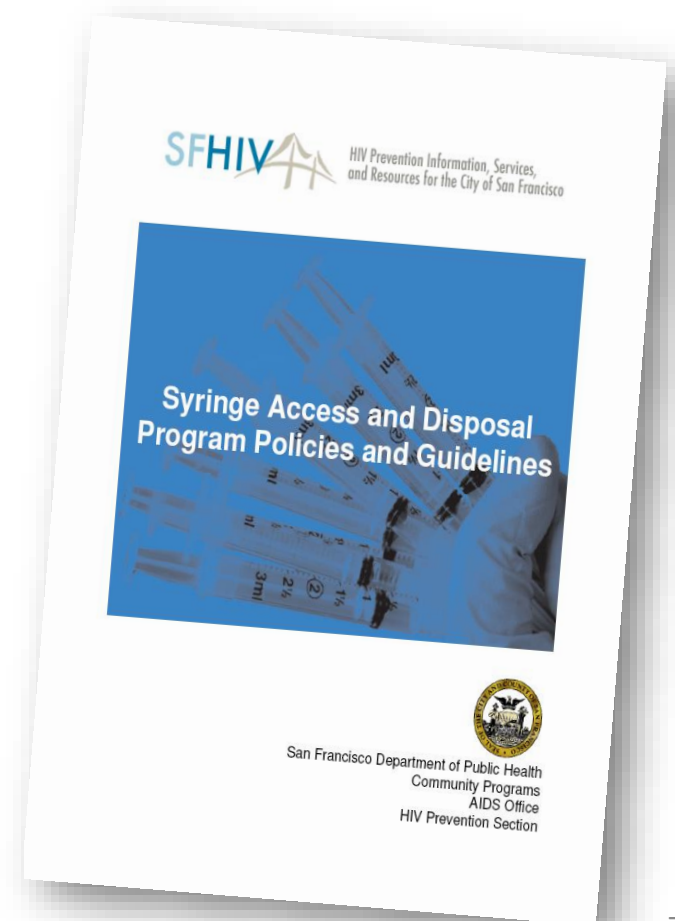
Syringe Access & Disposal Programs follow DPH Program Policies & Guidelines

Objective of Syringe Programs:

To reduce risk behaviors that may lead to the transmission of bloodborne pathogens among people who inject drugs and their sexual partners.

Strategies:

- *Provide access to sterile syringes and injection equipment and safer sex supplies.*
- *Promote safe disposal of syringes and injection equipment, including collection and disposal of used syringes.*
- *Develop and deliver education and health promotion activities relevant to the goal.*
- *Provide information about and referrals to other ancillary services.*



SF Police Bulletin illustrates partnership for health:

- Describes the service as disease prevention and overdose prevention
- Lists supplies participants may carry
- Explains authorization of syringe programs
- Provides format for Roll Call trainings conducted by DPH



Hypodermic Syringe Access and Disposal Programs (Re-issue DB 15-006)

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) continues to fund Syringe Access and Disposal Programs. There are several programs that operate services throughout the city. Refer to the back of this bulletin for a list of programs locations and schedules.

Members should be aware that the syringe program is a place where injection drug users bring their used syringes and access sterile equipment. Many injection drug users cannot visit a site themselves and instead have a friend or partner access services for them. This individual may be carrying many syringes to or from a site because they are accessing services for multiple persons.

Members should use discretion when they encounter possible syringe program participants and are advised that the intent of the Department is not to interfere with the program.

Members shall not confiscate syringes, alcohol wipes, naloxone, biohazard waste containers, or other sterile injection equipment, at or near access and disposal sites.

When in doubt, members should ask a supervisor to respond to the scene to ensure the policy is followed.

In 1993, San Francisco began funding syringe access after a local state of emergency was declared because of the HIV epidemic. SFDPH funds organizations to provide access to syringes, alcohol wipes, biohazard waste containers, as well as other sterile injection equipment to reduce the transmission of bloodborne viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis C. In addition because overdose is the leading cause of death among injection drug users, SFDPH supports overdose prevention by providing take-home prescriptions of naloxone.

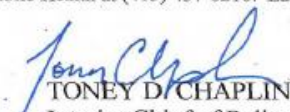
On January 1, 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill (AB) 136. The bill amends previous legislation to allow counties and cities to authorize syringe programs in their jurisdictions without the necessity to declare a state of local emergency.

Beginning January 2015, licensed pharmacists have the discretion to sell hypodermic needles and syringes to adults age 18 and older without a prescription to reduce the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne diseases. **There is no longer any limit** on the number of needles and syringes that an adult may purchase and possess. These changes to California law were made by Assembly Bill 1743 (Ting, Chapter 331, Statutes of 2014).

California code specifies that pharmacists, physicians and syringe exchange programs are all authorized sources for nonprescription syringes for disease prevention purposes.

Each syringe program site coordinator has a copy of this Bulletin readily available to present to any police officer.

Please direct questions about the programs to Eileen Loughran, Community Liaison, Community Health Equity & Promotion Branch, San Francisco Department of Public Health at (415) 437-6218. Each program supported by the SFDPH will have a copy of this bulletin.


TONEY D. CHAPLIN
Interim Chief of Police

Per DB 15-141, sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge this Department Bulletin in HRMS.

Syringe programs in San Francisco are successful

- San Francisco's early adoption of syringe access services has contributed to the low level of HIV among PWID
- The number of new infections among PWID has dropped from 110 to 38 per year.
- San Francisco can get to zero because of early adoption of syringe programs.

Why?

SF's early adoption of syringe services, beginning in the 1980's and formally sanctioned by the mayor in 1993



Syringe Programs are evidence based

- Research demonstrates that syringe programs that are needs based (or “distribution” models) :
 - have a larger impact on reducing syringe sharing and unsafe injection practices than one-for-one exchanges
 - Reduce transmission of HIV and HCV
 - Do not increase to syringe litter
- And one-for-one exchanges limit the number of syringes and make it more likely that people will end up re-using, or sharing, injection drug equipment.



Syringe Access Programs are a global best practice

- Research has shown that syringe access and disposal programs are the most effective, evidence-based HIV prevention tool for people who use drugs.
- In cities across the nation (including SF), people who inject drugs have reversed the course of the HIV epidemic by using sterile syringes and harm reduction practices.
- Harm reduction (including needle/syringe program and opioid substitution therapy) is an evidence-based approach to HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who inject drugs and is strongly supported by WHO and other UN agencies.



Syringe Access Programs are a gateway to care

Syringe Programs provide education, information, and services:

- Access to Narcan to reverse overdose
- Access to test strips for fentanyl testing
- HIV/HCV testing, linkage, and treatment
- Medically assisted substance use treatment
- Linkage to detox and drug treatment programs
- Links to medical, dental, and mental health services
- Case management, counseling, and referral
- Referral and linkage to housing services
- Community building



Syringe programs are provided by community partners

- The SFDPH funds the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) to provide syringe access and disposal. SFAF subcontracts with:
 - San Francisco Drug User's Union
 - Homeless Youth Alliance
 - St. James Infirmary
 - Glide
- Community services:
 - Fixed Site
 - Venue Based
 - Pedestrian
 - Satellite Syringe Access



Best Practice: Multiple Access Points, Multiple Disposal Options⁺

Access Points

- 13 community sites
- For purchase at pharmacies



Disposal Options

- Disposal at every syringe program sites
- Syringe programs conduct regular community sweeps
- Community Health Response Team
- Walgreens Pharmacies
- Community Sharps Disposal Kiosks
- Citywide Hotline (311)
- DPW street cleaning and pit stops
- Residential biohazard pick-up
- Training of Community Partners
- **10 NEW Syringe Clean-up staff**



Disposal Boxes



Civic Center

- ★ Bill Graham Civic Auditorium (Larking @ Hayes)
- ★ Main Library (Fulton @ Hyde)
- ★ 76 50 Leach Walesa near *Please Touch Garden*

Tenderloin

- ★ 330 Ellis next to Glide
- ★ 149 Turk
- ★ 290 Turk
- ★ 146 Leavenworth between McAllister & Golden Gate
- ★ 45 Jones
- ★ 150 Golden Gate
- ★ 133 Golden Gate (ST. Boniface)

SOMA

- ★ 5th Street Between Harrison & Bryant
- ★ 1380 Howard
- ★ Stevenson Between 6th & 7th
- ★ Trainor between 14th & Division

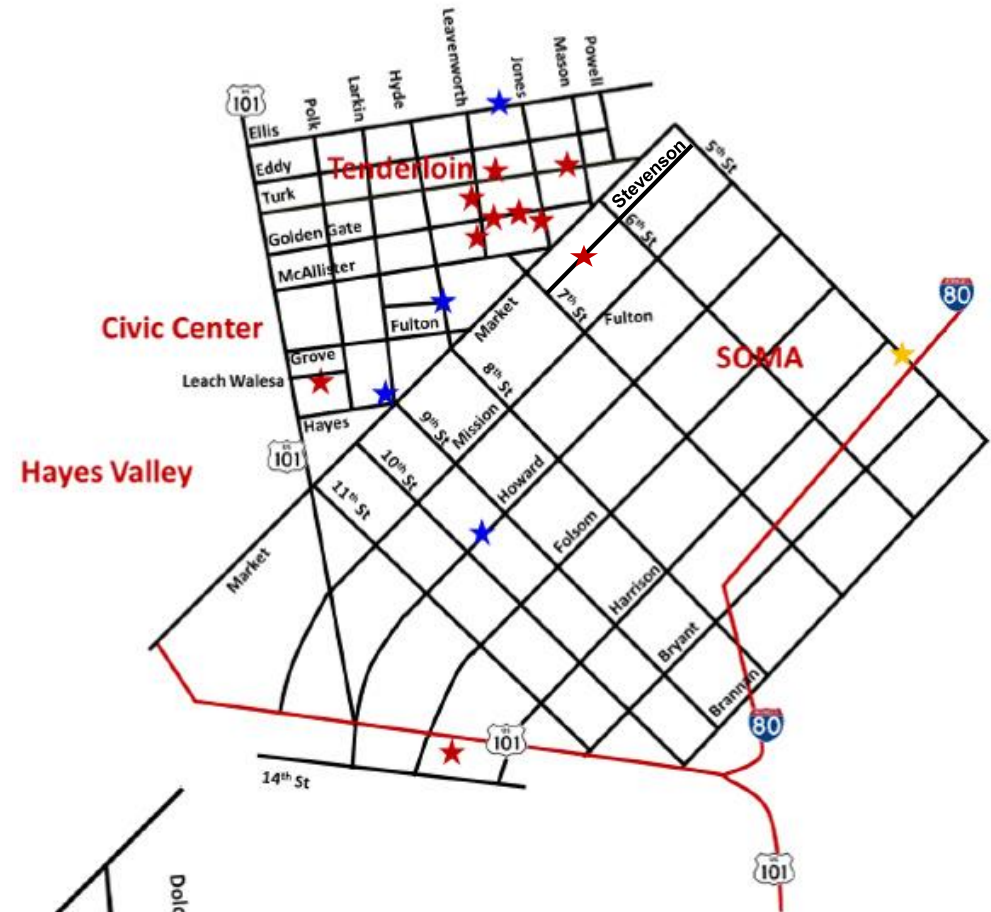
Castro

- ★ Eureka Valley Library Parking Lot @ Pond

Bayview

- ★ Evans @ Shelby

24 Hour Syringe Disposal Location (as of 05/10/18)



- ★ Kiosk
- ★ Small Disposal Box

Thank you



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17

