

**HEALTH COMMISSION**

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 1-92

**RESOLUTION ON THE ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PREVENT  
THE SPREAD OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) INFECTION  
AMONG INJECTION DRUG USERS IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 16,000 injection drug users in the City and County of San Francisco, 10,000 of whom are not in substance abuse treatment at this time; and,

WHEREAS, 1,431 of the total 11,668 AIDS cases reported as of December 31, 1991 were injection drug users; and,

WHEREAS, almost all the children in San Francisco reported to be infected with the HIV virus were born of a parent or parents who have history of injection drug use; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated percentage of HIV infection among injection drug users in San Francisco is 16%; and,

WHEREAS, the National Commission on AIDS released a report in July 1991 which states that:

- a) Drug treatment on demand is the most effective strategy for reducing HIV infection among IDU's; and
- b) Legal barriers to the purchase and possession of injection equipment should be removed because such legal barriers:
  - 1. Do not reduce illicit drug injection.
  - 2. Limit the availability of new or clean injection equipment and, therefore, encourage the sharing of needles which increases HIV transmission; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of vaccines or other antiviral agents require public health policy to continue to take extraordinary measures to prevent further transmission of HIV disease; and,

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco's Health Commission and Department of Public Health have identified substance-abuse-related HIV disease as one of the City's most serious health problems; and,

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Health Commission recognizes that some in the community have concerns about needle exchange but, nonetheless, concludes that it has valuable potential to reach a population in need of health services and to reduce AIDS transmission; and,

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RESOLUTION NO. 1-92 (Cont'd.)

WHEREAS, research done here in San Francisco, California; in New Haven, Connecticut; in Tacoma, Washington; in the State of Hawaii and in many other states and countries indicates that exchanging clean needles for dirty ones does significantly reduce the rate of HIV infection among injection drug users; therefore; be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission accepts and endorses the Department of Public Health's paper entitled "Comprehensive Plan to Reduce the Spread of HIV Infection Among Injection Drug Users in the City and County of San Francisco"; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission urges the Legislature of the State of California to enact a law which will permit a pilot needle exchange program in the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission directs the Department of Public Health to continue working with the community to finalize the design of the program visualized in the Comprehensive Plan, to begin implementing that program, and, as soon as legally feasible, include a needle exchange program as part of their efforts to reduce the rate of HIV infection in San Francisco.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, January 21, 1992.



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Sandy Ouye Mori

Secretary to the Health Commission