


HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

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BEGINNING / SUNRISE

County offers needle exchanges



TIFFANY BROWN/Gazette-Times James Reid a... ▲

Jan 24, 2003

f t w d e

Program aims to stop drug users' spread of diseases

By THERESA HOGUE

Gazette-Times reporter

James Reid wants to make a contribution to his community by helping people he understands very well.

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- Benton County's Harm Reduction Program grew out of their HIV prevention program, and needle exchange started in 2003 with a needs assessment based on rates of Hepatitis C in 2003.

BEGINNING / SUNRISE

☰ **Los Angeles Times**

Clean Needles Put Into War on AIDS : Health: L.A. group serves about 150 heroin addicts weekly, swapping new syringes for dirty ones in controversial approach to fighting disease.

BY AMY PYLE
SEP. 9, 1992 12 AM PT

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Last June, AIDS activists handing out free hypodermic syringes to heroin addicts in South-Central Los Angeles were confronted by an angry group of community leaders who believed the giveaway promoted drug use.

Undaunted, the distributors--a committee of the militant ACT-UP LA group that calls itself Clean Needles Now--temporarily shifted

- Los Angeles' Harm Reduction Program, Clean Needles Now, was founded by artists and activists from ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) in 1992.



INITIAL PLANNING

You don't have to lead with syringe services, you can start with other components that will build community support, such as:

- Overdose prevention
- Condom distribution
- HIV / HCV testing
- Sharps drop box



Drop box outside Jackson Street Youth Services in Corvallis

PLANNING AND BUILDING SUPPORT

- LGBTQ organizations / individuals
- Public Health programs
- Direct Action groups
- Recovery organizations
- Students / Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) chapters
- Faith Based organizations
- Cannabis dispensaries

PLANNING AND BUILDING SUPPORT

Speak to different stakeholders differently, and focus on what matters to them

- City, county or state government might react positively to information on the cost savings a syringe exchange program provides when compared to lifetime treatment costs for a person with HIV.
- Law enforcement officers are worried about needle sticks, so showing them data on how syringe service programs can lower the potential for needle sticks among law enforcement officers.

PLANNING AND BUILDING SUPPORT

Speak to different stakeholders differently, and focus on what matters to them

- Public Health programs may support the fact that syringe service programs can reduce or eliminate new HIV or Hepatitis infections.
- Remind recovery organizations that dead people don't recover, and harm reduction programs keep people alive through sterile supplies and overdose prevention, and that they do not increase drug use.
- Community members need to know syringe programs (and drop boxes) can reduce the number of improperly disposed of needles / syringe litter, without increasing crime.

KEY PLAYERS

- People who use drugs
- Community members
- HIV activists
- Public Health
- Politicians
- Doctors
- Community Based Organizations
- People in all forms of recovery



FUNDING

- Benton County does not have a lot of funding options, but we have gotten some support from OHA for syringes, cookers and sharps.
- OHA's End HIV Oregon grant is funding my job position through 2023, but not covering any supplies related to needle exchange.
- Our injectable naloxone is free and comes from a program called Direct Relief.
- Our county general revenue is also used if needed to cover gaps for supplies
- Non-profit organizations can apply for funding through private foundations.

References

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Early 1990's HIV Prevention
Art from Clean Needles Now

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