

**THE CONNECTICUT SYRINGE EXCHANGE SUMMARY**  
**STATE FISCAL YEAR**  
**JULY 1, 2006– JUNE 30, 2007**

This report summarizes the services delivered by Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) in Connecticut during the state fiscal year 2006-2007. The five programs established and monitored by the Department of Public Health AIDS and Chronic Diseases Division are located in Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven and Stamford. The agencies that were contracted to administer these programs during 2006-2007 were the, AIDS Project Greater Danbury, AIDS Project Hartford, Bridgeport Health Department, New Haven Health Department and Stamford Health Department. As of June 30, 2007, there were 1,402 unduplicated clients enrolled in the five programs. The total number of syringes distributed as of June 30, 2007, decreased by 5,798 (3%) compared to June 30, 2006. The number of syringes collected decreased also by 5,529 (3%) compared to June 30, 2006. There was a decrease in the number of client visits as of this fiscal year, 5217 compared to 6079 in FY 05-06 (a 14% decrease). There was also a decrease in the total number of referrals made by the SEPs to other services, such as substance abuse treatment, medical care, STD clinics (5710 in FY 06-07 versus 6453 in FY 05-06, a 12% decrease).

All of the syringe exchange programs are integrated into HIV/AIDS prevention and street outreach activities that exist within their host agencies. This offers clients the opportunity to receive information regarding how to prevent HIV as well as services such as HIV counseling and testing. HIV counseling and testing is offered on the van at all five programs. Free condoms are distributed.

Upon enrollment to the syringe exchange programs, an intake is done to determine the nature and frequency of each client's substance and syringe use. This intake also helps to determine what additional services clients may benefit from. In addition, periodic assessments are conducted with returning clients in order to update the status of their circumstances. Connecticut legislation allows for new clients to be provided with an early intervention packet of 30 syringes. Returning clients must then exchange one dirty needle for each clean needle received.

HIV positive clients identified by the program may also be linked to Ryan White Case management programs. The syringe exchange programs have formal relationships with health care facilities enabling clients to receive evaluation and treatment of medical concerns.

As of June 30, 2007, 305 syringe exchange clients were referred to substance abuse treatment programs. This represents a 33% decrease from last year. These referrals are based on the client's readiness to participate in drug treatment.

The Department of Public Health AIDS and Chronic Diseases Division convenes quarterly meetings of the Syringe Exchange Program staff to discuss programmatic issues, client trends, interventions and to provide support and networking opportunities for the program staff. This year the syringe exchange programs met with representatives from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to discuss issues regarding treatment referrals. The purpose of this meeting was to learn, from the frontline syringe exchange staff, of any barriers their clients have experienced with getting into treatment for future system improvements. A follow-up meeting with DMHAS will be scheduled in FY 06-07.

Some of the syringe exchange programs experienced problems such as police presence in certain neighborhoods, which resulted in low-client utilization of the program. Some programs also lost clients due to incarceration and in some instances, death. The decrease in clients, during this fiscal year, is attributed to these factors. One program, AIDS Project Hartford, was able to add evening hours two nights a week (8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.), which resulted in an increase in enrollment and participation of clients. AIDS Project Hartford is a community-based organization and therefore, is not restricted by local government and union policies.

### **Program Utilization**

**From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007**

Syringes Distributed	170,878
Syringes Collected	176,813

### **Gender and Race Ethnicity Break Down**

**From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
New clients	<b>197</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>271</b>

**As of June 30, 2007**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Unduplicated Clients Enrolled	<b>1,036</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1402</b>

**Referrals to services from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007**

Substance Abuse Treatment	305
Medical/Health Services	211
HIV Counseling and Testing	37
HIV Health Education/Risk Reduction Services	3,837
HIV Case Management Services	75
Others (TB, STD's, family planning, etc.)	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,741</b>