

SUBJECT: Needle and/or Syringe Exchange Programs
SUBMITTED BY: Mackenzie Denton, OMS II, Student Delegate, Kentucky Delegation
REFERRED TO: 2017 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 22

1 WHEREAS, IV drug users (IDU) commonly use and share nonsterile syringes and are
2 therefore at an increased risk of transmitting multiple blood-borne pathogens [1];
3
4 WHEREAS, the reuse of syringes increases the risk of contracting many infections such as
5 endocarditis, cellulitis, abscesses [1]; and,
6
7 WHEREAS, needle exchange programs allow for additional services to be offered such as
8 HIV testing and information on drug rehab to be provided to clients [5]; and,
9
10 WHEREAS, the Surgeon General has determined that a demonstration needle and/or
11 syringe exchange program would be effective in reducing the risk of infection; now,
12 therefore be it
13
14 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) encourage
15 the ongoing efforts and creation of needle and/or syringes exchange programs
16 based upon the Department of Health and Human Services implementation
17 guidelines.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 16, 2017

References:

1. Strathdee, Steffanie A. and David Vlahov. (2001). The effectiveness of needle exchange programs: A review of the science and policy. *AIDS Science*. 1(16).
2. Zibbell, Joe E PhD, et al. (2015, May 8). *Increases in Hepatitis C Virus Infection Related to Injection Drug Use Among Persons Aged <30 years- Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, 2006-2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6417a2.htm>.
3. amfAR. (2012). *Syringe Exchange Program Coverage in the United States 2012*. Retrieved from [http://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/On the Hill/3 29 12 Sep Map Final.pdf](http://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/On%20the%20Hill/3%2029%2012%20Sep%20Map%20Final.pdf).
4. amfAR. (2013 March). *Public Safety, law Enforcement and Syringe Exchange Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from [http://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/Articles/On The Hill/2013/fact%20sheet%20Syringe%20Exchange%20031413.pdf](http://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/Articles/On%20The%20Hill/2013/fact%20sheet%20Syringe%20Exchange%20031413.pdf).
5. amfAR (2013 Jan). *Federal Funding for Syringe Services Program Saving Money, Promoting Public Safety, and Improving Public Health*. Retrieved from [http://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/Articles/On The Hill/2013/issue-brief-federal-funding-for-syringe-service-programs.pdf](http://www.amfar.org/uploadedFiles/amfarorg/Articles/On%20The%20Hill/2013/issue-brief-federal-funding-for-syringe-service-programs.pdf).
6. Perryman, Seleda. (2011, Feb 23). Determination That a Demonstration Needle Exchange Program Would be Effective in Reducing Drug Abuse and the Risk of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Infection Among Intravenous Drug Users. *Department of Health and Human Services Federal Register*. 76(36), 10038. Retrieved from <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2011/02/23/2011-3990/determination-that-a-demonstration-needle-exchange-program-would-be-effective-in-reducing-drug-abuse>.