

# Yearly Syringe Service Report:

## What can syringe services do in a year?



July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020

**~55,119**  
New  
Syringes  
Distributed  
Every Month

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year 661,429 new syringes were distributed through syringe service programs supported by the Utah Department of Health.

For every 113 new syringes that are given out, 100 used syringes are returned and disposed of properly.

Table 1. Basic Syringe Service Metrics

Metric	Year
	N
Syringes In	583,473
Syringes Disposed Elsewhere*	4,330
Syringes Out	661,429
Return Ratio**	1.13
Return Ratio (with disposed)	1.13
Total Unique Clients Served	2,287
Total Encounters	13,331
New Participants	1,440

**2,287**  
Unique  
clients  
served

Unique clients served is a measure of how many individual clients are accessing syringe services throughout the year. Participants may stop using syringe services for different reasons. In the next fiscal year UDOH will implement better tracking of referrals from syringe services to analyze how many participants stop utilizing services and enter substance use treatment programs.

**13,331**  
Total  
Encounters

Total encounters describes the number of syringe visits. From July 2019 to June 2020, there were 13,331 total syringe visits.

**6**  
Syringe  
Service  
Providers

The Utah Department of Health works with six different providers of syringe services in the state. Three syringe service providers were added this fiscal year.



**293**  
HIV  
Tests Con-  
ducted

An important service syringe services provides is testing for HIV and Hepatitis C(HCV).

5 of the 6 syringe service providers offer free testing.

Table 2. HIV Testing

HIV Testing	YTD
Reported <b>HIV</b> positive at intake	21
Tested	293
Tested Positive	2
Positivity Rate	0.7%

**247**  
Hepatitis C  
Tests  
Conducted

When individuals enroll in syringe services, they are also able to report current positivity for HCV or HIV. This allows syringe service providers to link individuals to treatment and support.

Table 3. HCV Testing

HCV Testing	YTD
Reported <b>HCV</b> positive at intake	231
Tested	247
Tested Positive	64
Positivity Rate	25.9%

**43,571**  
syringes  
disposed in  
kiosks

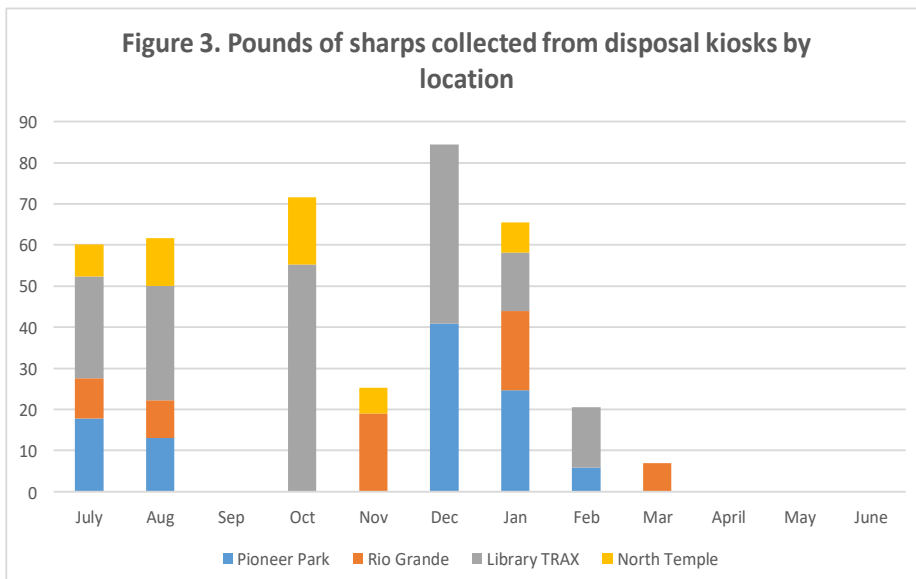
DOH syringe services also supports Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCoHD) in collecting syringe waste from kiosks around the Salt lake City downtown area. The kiosks provide safe syringe and sharps disposal options for individuals who may not have a personal sharps container, or visit syringe service providers regularly. Kiosks are located near Pioneer Park, the Rio

Table 4. Kiosk Location & Collection

Location	lbs. Collected in Year
Pioneer Park	102
Rio Grande	64.3
Library TRAX	180.6
North Temple	49.2
Total Pounds	396.1

Data was not collected for Sept 2019, nor April, May June 2020.

\*1 pound=approximately 110 syringes.



**3747**  
Active  
Referrals

Active referrals include physical explanations of naloxone administration, warm hand-offs to substance abuse treatment, and alternative options for testing and treatment for HIV and Hepatitis C.

Syringe service providers may also provide written or verbal referrals for the same topics, depending on the individual needs of each client.

Table 5. Referrals

Referrals (Year)	Written	Verbal	Active
Substance Use Treatment	12303	6716	80
HIV/HCV Testing	12242	12301	179
Naloxone	11953	11942	3488

**9987**  
Sharps  
Containers  
Distributed

Syringe service providers are often able to give participants small sharps containers. These sharp containers allow individuals to safely store used syringes and needles until they are able to dispose of them at a syringe service visit or through another option for proper disposal.

**7201**  
Individuals  
received  
Safe Sex  
Supplies

Providing materials for safe sex is another harm reduction service syringe service providers support. Individuals who want safe sex supplies, like condoms, are able to receive them during syringe service visits.

**7922**  
Wound-  
Care Kits  
Distributed

Repeated injections in the same location or repeated use of the same needle can cause wounds in the skin that are difficult to treat. Individuals who face issues with medical care or housing may benefit from wound-care supply kits that syringe service providers can distribute.

**823**  
Naloxone  
Doses  
Distributed

823 doses of naloxone were distributed to clients during the year. 38 overdose reversals by naloxone were reported to syringe service providers.

Table 6. Naloxone

Naloxone	YTD
Doses Distributed	823
Reversals Reported	38

**1440**  
New  
Participants

1440 new individuals joined the syringe service program and access harm reductions services during the year.

Each new participant to syringe services will be given a risk assessment and answer basic demographic questions. This information allows to syringe service providers to target specific risks the individuals may want to address, like sharing or reusing needles, housing, or health care. Demographic information is used by the UDOH to understand what populations are utilizing the services most.

Table 7. Race

Race	Year (%)	Year (N)
Black	4.0%	99
White	82.5%	2042
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.8%	45
Asian	0.5%	12
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3.1%	76
Multiple	1.9%	48
Declined/Unknown	3.3%	81
Other	2.9%	71

Table 8. Gender

Gender	Year (%)	Year (N)
Male	61.4%	1520
Female	37.9%	937
Trans/Nonconforming	0.4%	10
Declined	0.3%	7

Figure 2. Clients served by race (Year)

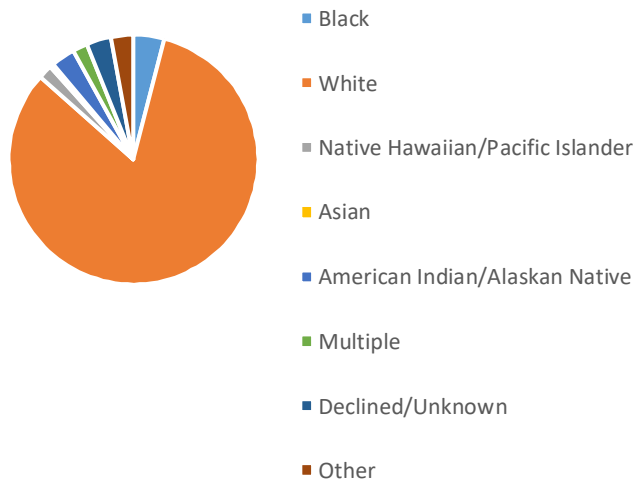
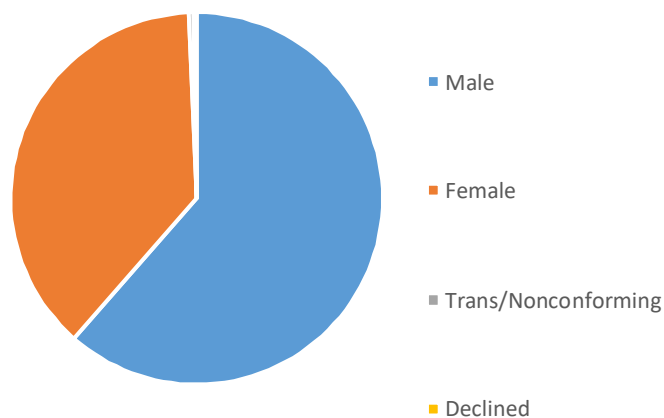


Figure 3. Clients served by gender (Year)



**1440**  
New  
Participants

When participants enroll in the program they are also asked to report all substances used in the past 90 days. As the drugs supply in Utah changes this information informs programming around fentanyl additions to drugs, and increased stimulant usage.

Table 9. Substances Reported at Intake

Substance	Year
Heroin	968
Crack/Cocaine	208
Meth/Speed	1119
Cannabis/Marijuana	370
Alcohol	215
Tobacco	252
Benzodiazepines	88
Prescription Pain Medicine	43
Methadone	21
Spice	43
Suboxone	58
Subutex	28
Gabapentin	26

Figure 4. Number of new clients by substances used (Year)

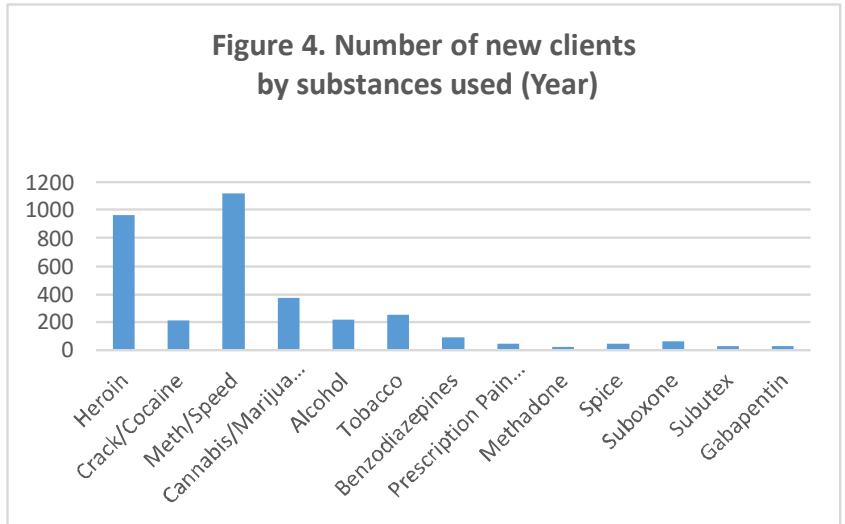


Figure 5. Percentage of Participants who Reported Using each drug at Intake 2019-2020

