



JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

615 Sheridan Street • Port Townsend • Washington • 98368
www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org

Jefferson County Syringe Exchange Program (SEP)

Annual Report 2008

Jefferson County has provided a Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) since 2000, as part of a state and regional effort to reduce the risk of HIV infection in our communities. This program also reduces the risk of Hepatitis A, B and C infections. Syringe Exchange Program clinic hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm, with drop-in exchange based on staff availability, Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:30pm. SEP is staffed by multiple nurses trained in the program and it would be rare that a nurse would not be available. Clinic hours are posted; however, most clients drop in at other times. This has been consistent over past years despite offering clinics on various days and times.

Risk reduction education and referrals are routinely offered at each visit. Education includes verbal and printed information on hepatitis, HIV, STDs, health alerts (for example, wound botulism), care of abscesses, street drugs, intravenous drug use safety (including one time use of needles), and immunizations. Internal referrals include STD, HIV, Hepatitis B & C screening and counseling, tuberculosis screening, family planning and immunizations. External referrals include drug treatment, medical care, mental health care, domestic violence, food, clothing and shelter.

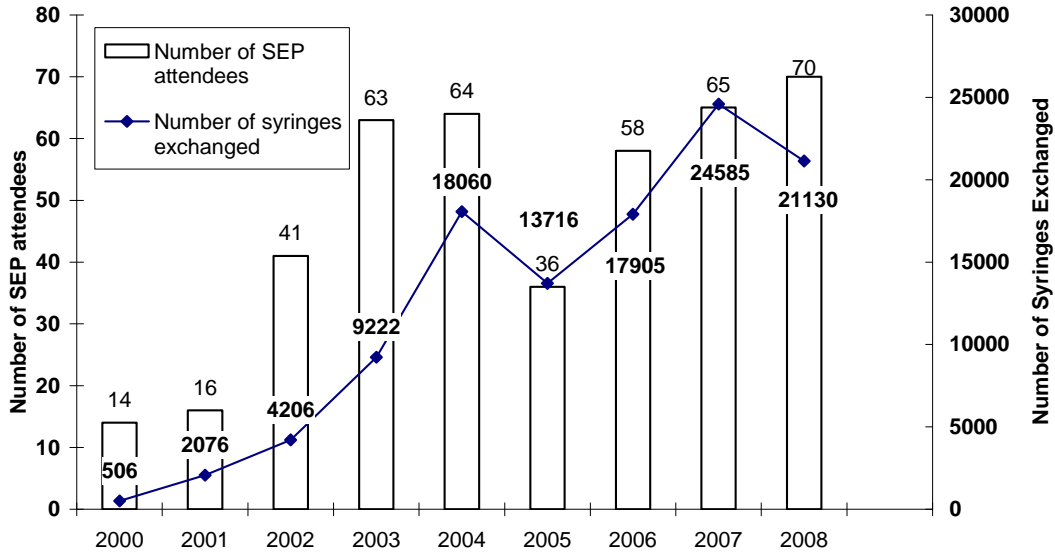
Clients are informed of two free programs which began in mid-2008 and are continuing in 2009: Hepatitis C testing and counseling and Hepatitis A and B immunization in a combination product, Twinrix. These programs are being provided for at risk clients through the Washington State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control. These are excellent services which many clients would unlikely be able to obtain due to limited income. Free HIV testing and counseling continues to be offered, as in past years.

SEP utilization is up slightly from 2007, as evidenced by an increase in numbers of visits. There were more visits the first six months of 2008, with decreasing numbers in the second six months. However, the majority of new clients were seen in the second half of the year. See Syringe Exchange Utilization graph.

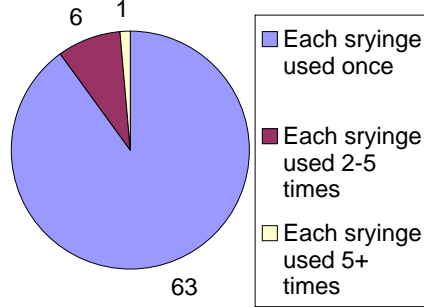
Data from intake interviews with clients indicates that SEP has been very successful in its goal of reducing reuse of syringes/needles through education and availability of free syringes/needles in a safe, anonymous environment. This, in turn, achieves the ultimate goal of reducing the transmission of the blood borne communicable diseases HIV and Hepatitis B & C. This is newly reported this year in the SEP Visits by Reported Syringe Use graph.

Also, new in this report this year is the number of individuals indirectly utilizing SEP through secondary exchange. Of the 70 client visits to SEP in 2008, all but 3 (and 1 unknown) reported exchanging syringes for others. These clients reported exchanging for 2-5 other people at each visit. This significantly expands the reach and success of SEP in the community.

Syringe Exchange Utilization, 2000-2008 Jefferson County Washington



SEP Visits by Reported Syringe Use



SEP Visits by Zip Code

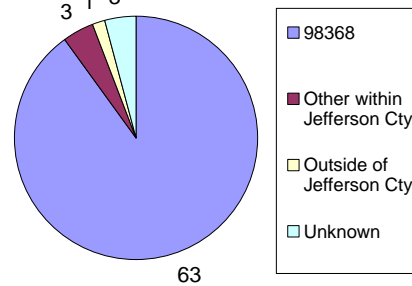


Table 1 Materials Distributed by Jefferson County SEP

	Syringes Exchanged	IDU Prevention Materials ¹	Prevention Kits ²	Condoms/Latex Barriers	HIV Tests Offered	Educational Materials ³	Referral Information ⁴	Outreach Education ⁵
2008	21,330	7,941	0	140	27	32	35	32
2007	24,585	9,988	0	20	22	18	23	N/R ⁷
2006	17,905	9,000	0	0	2	3	2	N/R
2005	13,716	7,611	0	20	0	6	11	N/R
2004	18,060	7,265	6	228	N/O ⁶	48	11	N/R
2003	9,222	1,424	38	800	N/O	42	18	N/R
2002	4,206	1,026	35	427	N/O	50	NA	N/R
2001	2,076	3	9	14	N/O	9	5	N/R
2000	506	11	15	33	N/O	10	2	N/R

Notes

¹IDU Prevention Materials include: same as prevention kit with individual items given on an as needed basis

²Prevention Kits include: tourniquets, cookers, cottons, sterile water, sharps containers, alcohol preps, antibiotic ointment, bandaids and sterile pads for wounds, tape, antiseptic towelettes, hand sanitizer, hygiene items (toothbrush, soap, comb, razor)

³Educational Materials include information on hepatitis, HIV, STDs, health alerts (ex. wound botulism), care of abscesses, street drugs, tattoo safety, needle reuse, IDU safety, domestic violence, immunizations

⁴Referrals: Internal referrals include STD, HIV and Hepatitis B & C screening and counseling, tuberculosis screening, family planning and immunizations. External referrals include drug treatment, medical care, mental health care, domestic violence, food, clothing and shelter.

⁵Outreach education is defined as face-to-face education on safe injecting practices, vein care, blood borne pathogens, risk reduction methods, and other as needed

⁶N/O: Not offered

⁷N/R: Not reported

Table 2 Jefferson County SEP Clinics/Demographics

	Clinics Offered	Clinic and Drop-In Visits ¹	New Clients	Returning Client Visits ¹	Clients Reporting Secondary Exchange ¹
2008	99	70	6	64	67
2007	97	65	9	56	58
2006	126	58	8	50	49
2005	119	36	6	30	29
2004	136	64	12	48	45
2003	119	63	9	55	53
2002	108	41	11	29	25
2001	98	16	6	9	5
2000	33	14	3	7	3

Note:

¹Represents duplicate clients

2009 Goals

- Continue anonymous, safe services to promote revisits by clients and to encourage clients to tell their friends and contacts about SEP
- Continue to inform and refer clients for substance abuse assessment and treatment
- Inform clients, on an as needed basis, about the Jefferson Aids Services (JAS) incentive program
- Offer free HIV testing and counseling at each visit
- Offer free Hepatitis C testing and counseling and Hepatitis A & B vaccine at each visit
- Provide each new client with a prevention kit, hygiene materials and condoms, educational materials and referral information
- Increase distribution of condoms and hygiene materials
- Review intake data forms and update/revise as needed
- Revise quarterly reports to reflect all data collected on the intake data forms

Data Source: Jefferson County Public Health SEP Intake Records
Prepared by Carol Burwell, PHN, Jefferson County Public Health

02/02/2009

COMMUNITY HEALTH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
MAIN: 360-385-9400
FAX: 360-385-9401

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
WATER QUALITY
MAIN: 360-385-9444
FAX: 360-379-4487