

Jefferson County Syringe Exchange Program (SEP)

Annual Report 2013

Jefferson County Public Health has provided a Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) since 2000 as part of a State effort to reduce the risk of HIV and other blood-borne infections among injection drug users, their families and communities. SEP services include access to clean syringes, disposal of used syringes, prevention supplies, risk reduction education, and referral services. Education includes verbal and printed information on HIV, hepatitis, STDs, overdose prevention, encouraging one time use of needles, health alerts (for example, wound botulism and recent heroin overdoses/deaths), and immunizations. Internal referrals include STD, HIV, and Hepatitis C screening and counseling, tuberculosis screening, family planning and immunizations. External referrals include drug and alcohol treatment, medical care, mental health care, domestic violence, food, clothing and shelter.

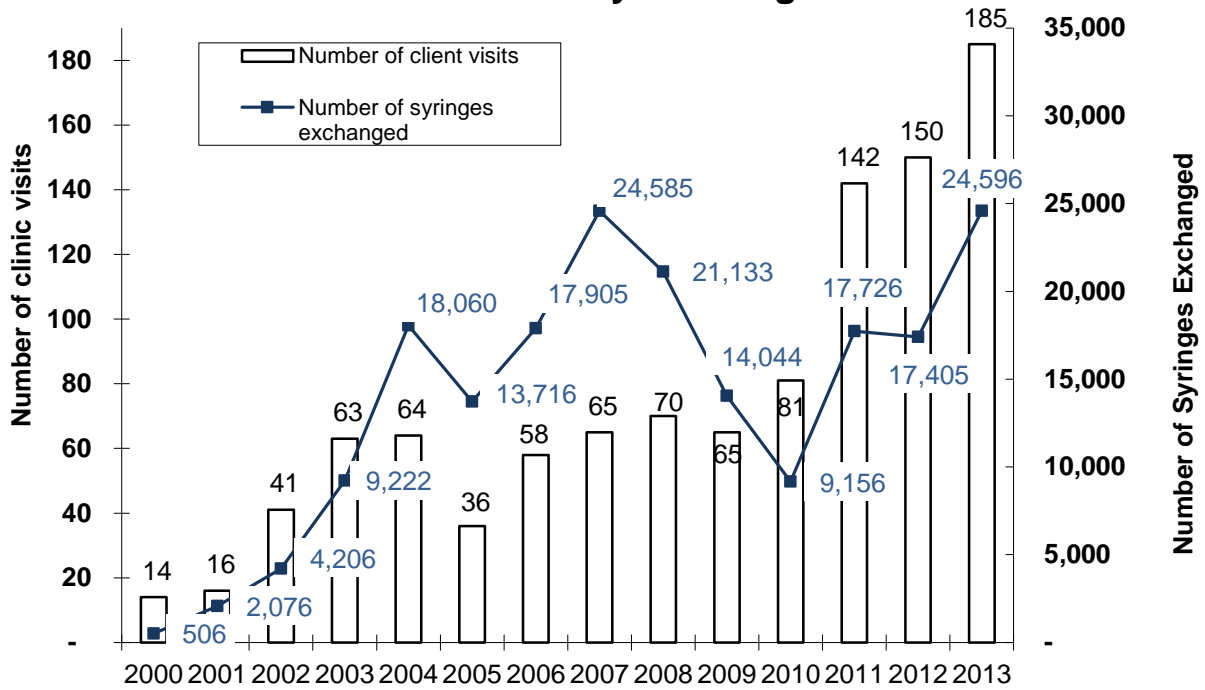
JCPH funded the SEP from 2000 – 2011 with State HIV prevention dollars. The CDC guidelines shifted in 2011 to focus funding for HIV Prevention Programs on high risk populations based on local HIV prevalence. Jefferson County is classified as a low prevalence county so it does not qualify for funding. There was no State funding available for 2012 or 2013 and there is none for 2014. There is some discussion at the State level about finding a way to reinstitute funding for SEPs statewide.

The syringe exchange program success is not easily measured in disease prevention numbers but the number of clients seen and syringes exchanged reflects the disease transmission prevention capacity of this program. SEP utilization increased in 2013, with 185 visits, up from 150 visits in 2012. The number of syringes dispensed was 24,596, up from 17,405 in 2012. The number of IDU prevention materials dispensed increased from 11,535 to 15,984. See tables and graphs on following pages.

The State Public Health Lab provides a limited number of free HIV tests for high risk clients. Though there is no state funding for staff time for HIV counseling and testing services, JCPH staff will continue to provide this service for low income high risk clients with no medical coverage. Others requesting testing will be tested through the Quest lab and the cost of the testing will be billed to the client/insurance. In the last quarter of 2013, staff began encouraging uninsured clients to sign up for health insurance through www.wahealthplanfinder.org and offered appointments to assist clients.

Funding for State and federal programs for free Hepatitis C testing for high risk clients ended in 2012. Three free Hepatitis C tests were provided in 2013 with the remaining test kits. The State is planning a new Hepatitis C testing program that will be available some time in 2014. Twenty doses of free Hepatitis A/B vaccine were received from the State in August 2013. Twelve doses of vaccine were administered in 2013.

Syringe Exchange Utilization, 2000-2013 Jefferson County Washington



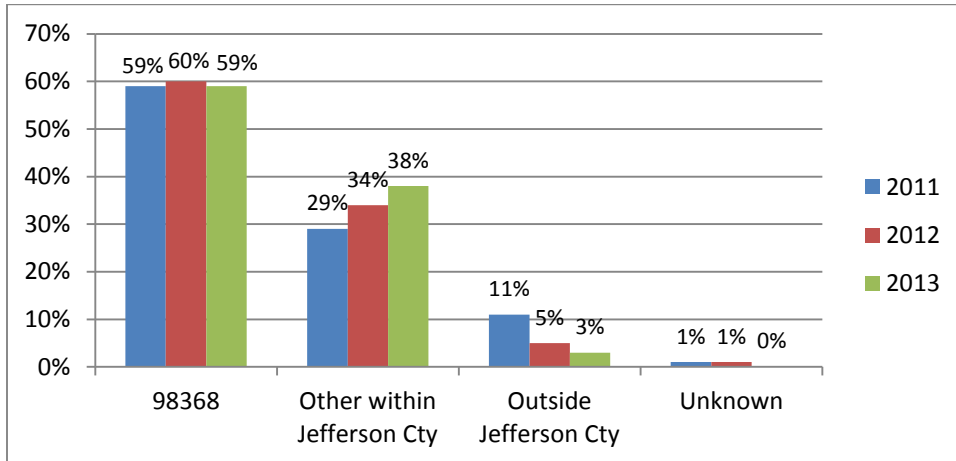
Jefferson County SEP Clinics/Demographics

	SEP Visits ¹	New Clients	Returning Client Visits ¹	Female Client Visits ¹	Male Client Visits ¹
2013	185	28	157	115	70
2012	150	18	132	NA	NA
2011	142	19	123	NA	NA
2010	81	13	68	NA	NA
2009	65	12	53	NA	NA
2008	68	6	64	NA	NA
2007	65	9	56	NA	NA
2006	54	8	50	NA	NA
2005	36	6	30	NA	NA
2004	64	12	48	NA	NA
2003	63	9	55	NA	NA
2002	41	11	29	NA	NA
2001	16	6	9	NA	NA
2000	14	3	7	NA	NA

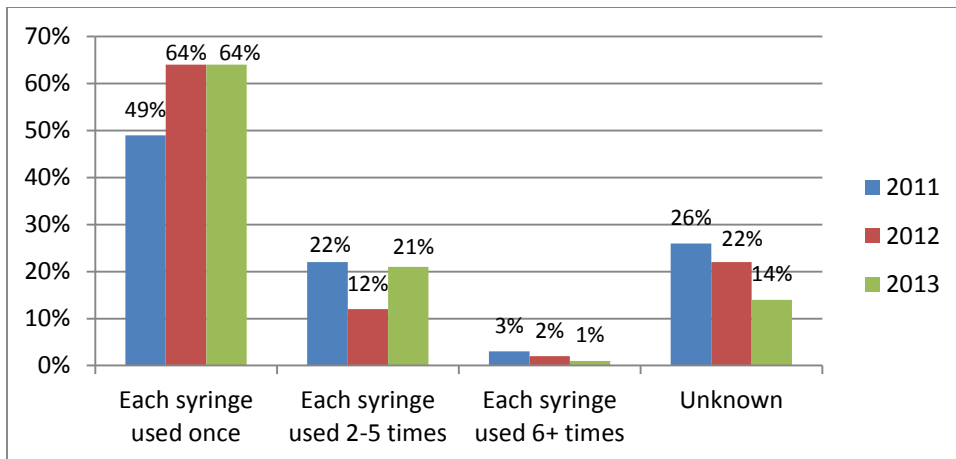
Note:

¹Represents duplicate clients

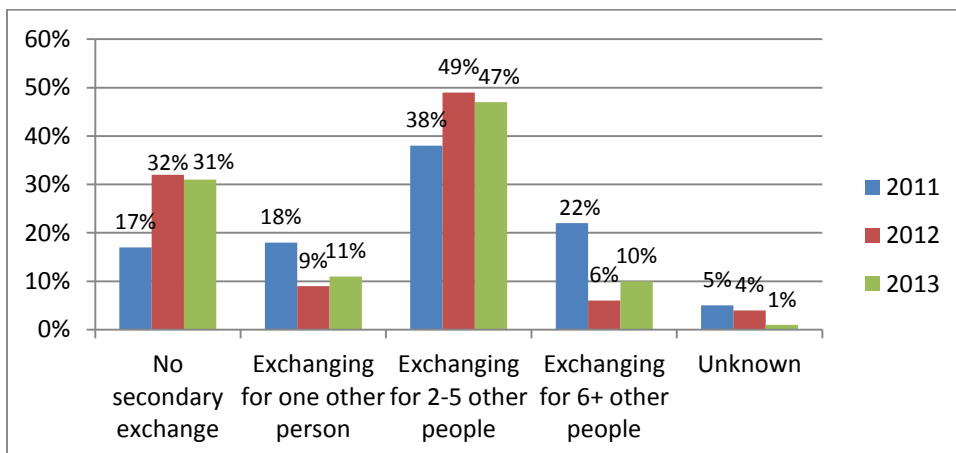
2011 – 2013 SEP Clinic Participant Visits by Zip Code



2011 – 2013 SEP Clinic Participant Reported Syringe Use



2011 – 2013 SEP Clinic Participant Secondary Exchange



Materials Distributed by Jefferson County SEP

	Syringes Exchanged	IDU Prevention Materials ¹	Condoms/ Latex Barriers ²	HIV Tests Offered	Educational Materials ³	Referral Information ⁴	Outreach Education ⁵
2013	24,596	15,984	377	90	18	129	105
2012	17,405	11,535	406	49	28	128	90
2011	17,726	16,512	319	41	10	142	86
2010	9,156	11,024	102	36	7	67	29
2009	14,044	7,098	271	31	26	51	33
2008	21,330	7,941	140	27	32	35	32
2007	24,585	9,988	20	22	18	23	N/R ⁷
2006	17,905	9,000	0	2	3	2	N/R
2005	13,716	7,611	20	0	6	11	N/R
2004	18,060	7,265	228	N/O ⁶	48	11	N/R
2003	9,222	1,424	800	N/O	42	18	N/R
2002	4,206	1,026	427	N/O	50	NA	N/R
2001	2,076	3	14	N/O	9	5	N/R
2000	506	11	33	N/O	10	2	N/R

Notes

¹ IDU Prevention Materials include: Tourniquets, cookers, cottons, sterile water, sharps containers, alcohol preps, antibiotic ointment, band aids and sterile pads for wounds, tape, hygiene items (toothbrush, soap, comb, and razor). Individual items are given on an as needed basis.

² This number is for condoms dispensed in SEP only and does not account for the number of condoms SEP clients pick up in the lobby where there is a free supply available.

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

⁴ Referrals: Internal referrals include STD, HIV and Hepatitis 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.

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

⁶ N/O: Not offered

⁷ N/R: Not reported

2014 Goals

- Continue anonymous, safe services to reduce the risk of HIV infection in our communities by promoting revisits by clients and to encourage clients to tell others about SEP.
- Continue to educate clients on the importance and rational of using each syringe one time only.
- Continue to explore options to start a program for overdose prevention and naloxone distribution.
- Continue to inform clients at each visit of resources available at JCPH and in the community.
- Continue to offer free HIV testing and counseling at each visit through the State laboratory for low income high risk clients without medical coverage.
- Encourage uninsured clients to sign up for health insurance through www.wahealthplanfinder.org
- Resume offering free Hepatitis C testing when State has new program in place; continue offering Hepatitis A & B vaccine.
- Offer free Tdap vaccine through the G.I.F.T. or state programs.
- Continue dialog with clients regarding improvement of SEP services
- Prioritize supplies to be stocked, keeping only those deemed necessary to maintain safe practices among IDU clients. Inform clients of alternative safe materials, such as using pop/soda bottles for the collection of used needles in lieu of sharps containers.