

Fargo Cass Public Health Syringe Services Program

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Meeting
ND State Capitol, Sakakawea Room
June 27, 2024

Fargo Cass



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Fargo Cass Public Health



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Definition
- Efficacy
- History
- Determination of need
- SSP information
- SSP statistics

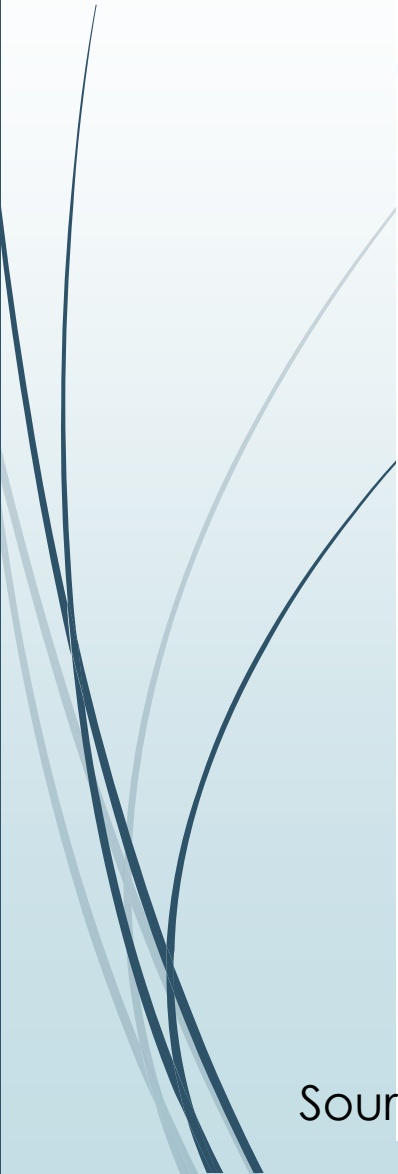


Definition

Syringe services programs (SSPs) are proven and effective community-based prevention and harm reduction programs that provide a range of services to persons who inject drugs (PWID), including access to sterile syringes and injection equipment, syringe disposal, vaccination, testing, and linkage to infectious disease care and substance use treatment.



Principles of Harm Reduction



Accepts, for better or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them

Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being – not necessarily cessation of all drug use – as the criteria for successful interventions and policies

Ensures that people who use drugs and those with a history of drug use routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them

Recognizes that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination, and other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm

Understands drug use as a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe use to total abstinence, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others


Calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing attendant harm

Affirms people who use drugs (PWUD) themselves as the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use and seeks to empower PWUD to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use

Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger that can be associated with illicit drug use



EFFICACY



*“Several studies have found that providing sterilized equipment to people who inject drugs substantially reduces the risk of HIV infection, increases the probability that they will initiate drug treatment, and **does not** increase drug use.”*

National HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategy for the United States, 2010

EFFICACY

- 30 years of research on comprehensive SSPs concludes:
 - safe
 - effective
 - cost-saving
 - do not increase illegal drug use
 - do not increase crime
- SSPs are associated with an approximately 50% reduction in HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) incidence
- Users of SSPs are 5x more likely to enter drug treatment & about 3x more likely to stop using drugs than those who don't use an SSP



HISTORY

- Moorhead SSP opened in 2015
- Legalized in ND during 2017 legislative session
- First ND SSP opened January 2018
- FCPH's opened April 2018
- 5 in ND
- All run by public health



NEED

- Opioid epidemic
- Overdoses & overdose deaths
- Significant increase in HCV among PWID
- SUD & related consequences

Fargo Cass Public Health Harm Reduction Center



510 5 St N, Fargo

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FCPH Harm Reduction Services

Low Barrier

- Free
- Anonymous
- Walk in service; first come, first served
- Can opt out of enrollment questions
- Needs-based model
- Secondary exchangers

ANY POSITIVE CHANGE

SYRINGE SERVICES PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Participating in syringe services helps to reduce needlestick injuries and injection-related disease. Protect yourself and those you care about with our free service.

**Monday and Thursday 4-8pm
Tuesday and Wednesday 1-5pm
Friday 8am to noon**

510 5th Street N, Fargo, ND 58102 | 701-298-6982
fargocasspublichealth.com

Public Health
Fargo

HOURS

- Mon & Thu- 3:00pm – 8:00pm
- Tue & Wed- 1:00pm – 6:00pm
- Friday- 8:00am – 1:00pm
- By appointment
- Vending machine @ DEC
 - 8am-5pm, 7 days a week



Waiting/Resource Area



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Consultation/Supply Room



go Cass



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SUPPLIES

- Syringes
- Safer injection supplies
- Wound care supplies
- Naloxone
- Fentanyl test strips
- Xylazine test strips
- Sharps containers
- Safer sex supplies
- COVID-19 at home tests



SERVICES

- Safer injection education
- Overdose prevention & response training
- Naloxone use training
- Safer sex education
- HIV/HCV/STI education
- Rapid HIV/HCV testing
- Immunizations
- 24/7 sharps disposal
- Referrals



Pop in for a free HIV rapid test & freezer pop!



MONDAY, JUNE 27, 12PM-7PM
HARM REDUCTION CENTER- 510 5 ST N, FARGO



SYRINGE SERVICES
VAX EVENT

7.19.22 1PM-3PM

HARM REDUCTION CENTER, 510 5 ST N, FARGO

FREE COVID VACCINATION & INCENTIVE!

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

*ENROLLED PARTICIPANTS ONLY



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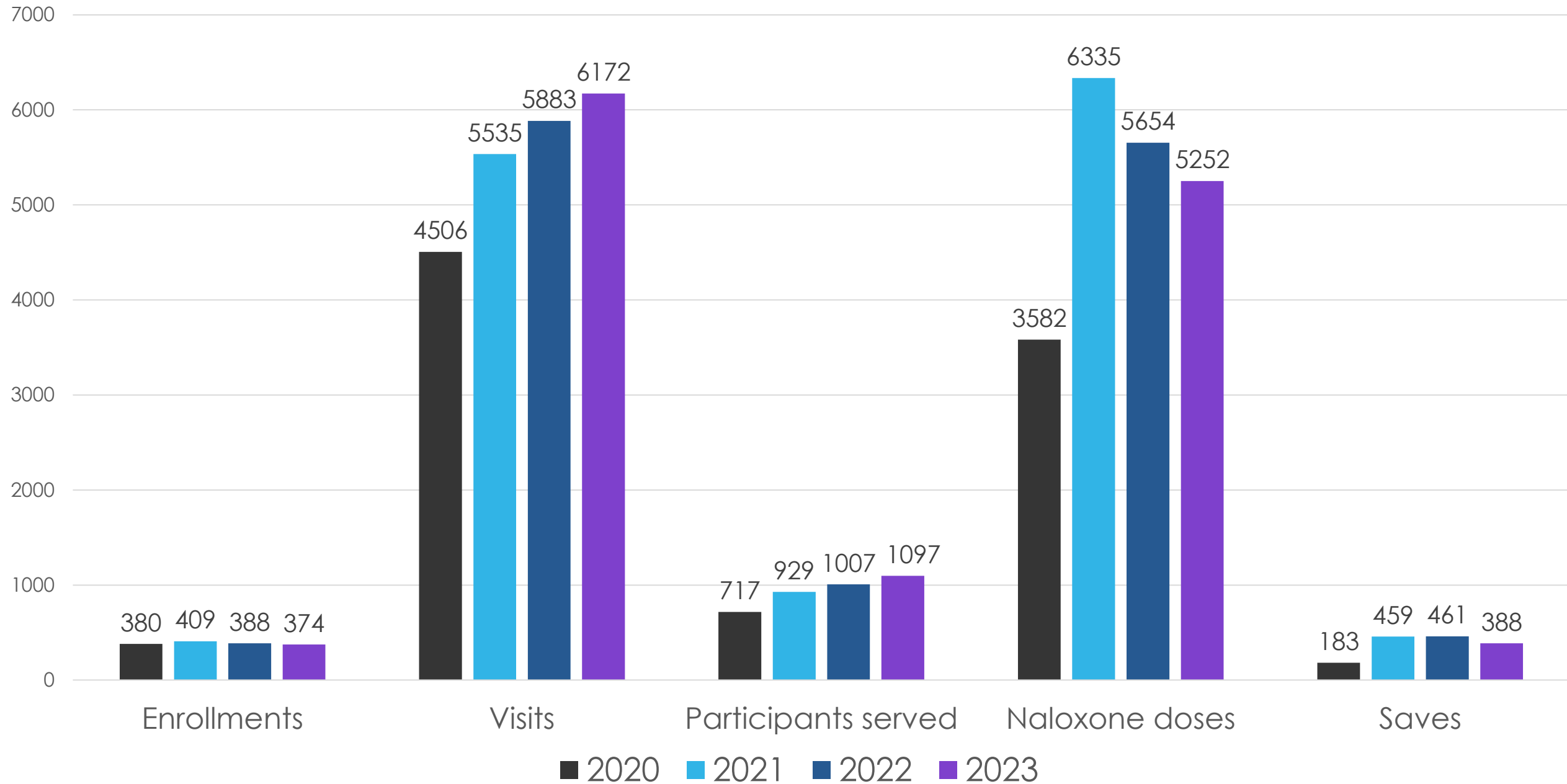


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SSP Outcomes

2020-2023 Data



REDUCTION IN HEPATITIS C CASES

- 46% reduction in new cases 2017-2019
 - 248 cases in 2017, 170 in 2019
- Further reduction of 25% from 2021-2022
- HCV treatment medication costs \$24,000-\$74,640 per person
 - Lifetime cost of treating one person with HIV is \$510,000



Naloxone Saves Lives
1,691 lives saved 2019-2023



Questions?



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