# Harm Reduction: More Than Meets the Eye Good Neighbor Project Syringe Service Program (SSP)

March 18, 2025



# SSPs are a harm reduction intervention authorized by ND Century Code 23.01.44.

Scientifically proven to reduce the transmission of HIV, hepatitis B & C, and other bloodborne pathogens in persons who inject drugs.

Protect the public and first responders by facilitating the safe disposal of used needles and syringes. Addressing Drug Paraphernalia in NDCC

19-03.4-02. Drug paraphernalia - Guidelines. In determining whether an object is drug paraphernalia, a court or other authority shall consider, in addition to all other logically relevant factors:

16. Whether the object is a needle or syringe collected during the operation of a needle exchange program under chapter 23-01 to aid in the prevention of bloodborne diseases.

### What we provide to our SSP clients...

Maintain the health of people in active substance use

**Provide Peer Support Services** 

### Help program participants get connected to optional services



## 2024 Outcomes

- 851 total SSP encounters
- 15,898 used syringes were collected through the SSP program
- Best estimate: 33% of participants have sought treatment

#### Testimonials

Questions?? Holly Brekhus Executive Director First District Health Unit hibrekhus@nd.gov