

# **SAFE POINT SAN DIEGO CLEAN SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

ANNUAL REPORT  
FY 10



# PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

- Inform the Council and the Public
- Comply with State Reporting Requirements
- Highlight Successes, Concerns, Trends

# WHY SYRINGE EXCHANGE?

- **Scientifically Proven Public Health Program To Reduce HIV/AIDS And HCV**
  - Numerous respected institutions endorse
  - SD 3<sup>rd</sup> highest AIDS rate in CA
  - 2000+ HCV diagnoses last year in SD
- **Prevent Re-use Of Syringes; Spread Of Infection Among Injection Drug Users**
  - Second leading cause of HIV transmission
  - #1 cause of HCV transmission

# WHY SYRINGE EXCHANGE?

- Protect the public, police, emergency and environmental services personnel from infection from syringes improperly discarded in trash, parks, beaches
- A gateway for referral to drug treatment, HIV counseling, health care, and other services

# SAFE POINT SAN DIEGO

- Mobile unit operated by Family Health Centers  
Downtown and North Park  
3 hours Thursday evening and Friday morning
- 2001 – 2005 bi-weekly emergency declaration
- 2006 – State law changes to permit establishment through a single legislative act. July 06 Council resolution.

# SAFE POINT SAN DIEGO

## Initial Visit

- 2 syringes
- Identification card
- Demographic data

## Ongoing

- One for one exchange up to 50
- Harm reduction and health kits
- Referrals

# FISCAL YEAR 2010

- 44% increase in use
- 30% more syringes collected
- 46% reduction in referrals

# DEMOGRAPHICS

- 75% Male
- Median age 33. Down from 41 in FY06.
- 69% White
- 74% High School or more
- 31% Employed
- 65% have own place to live

# TRENDS AND CONCERNS

## Increased utilization

- Word of Mouth
- Economy?

## Declining median age

- Increased 18-24 age group

## Reduction in Referrals

- Increased utilization
- Reduced funding
- Cuts to other service providers

# FUNDING

- Alliance Healthcare Foundation
  - Shift in philanthropic priorities
- FHCSO Commitment
  - Continue to provide the program at no cost to the City
- Federal Ban
  - Lifted, but no new funds
  - Uncertain future

# OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Council Siting Authority Clarified
- Police Briefings
- Facilitation Committee Re-established

# FACILITATION COMMITTEE

- 2006 Council Resolution called for it to be re-established. Mayoral appointments this June.
- 7 Members and 2 Ex Officio Reps
  - Emergency Medical Services Director (Chair)
  - SANDAG
  - Private Foundation
  - 2 Public Health Experts
  - At Large Community Member
  - Program Operator
  - Police Department

# FACILITATION COMMITTEE

- Review the status of the program and issues relevant to its operation;
- Approve recommendations to adjust or add days/hours of service
- Recommend new sites to City Council as needed

# CONCLUSION

- A proven successful public health and safety strategy
- Improper disposal of more than 1.3M syringes prevented
- Need continues to increase
- The challenge is to find adequate resources