Who we are ...

The Utah Syringe Exchange Network (USEN) comprises state and local agencies, nonprofits, law enforcement, healthcare organizations, and concerned individuals working together to bring about healthier communities by reducing the spread of disease and other health concerns among people who inject drugs.

What we do ...

USEN promotes practical solutions for individuals and communities to reduce harm associated with substance injection. We work toward this goal by advocating for public-health and policy reforms, educating stakeholders, and creating relationships that bring about opportunities to broaden the reach of syringe exchange services across the state.

Why we do it ...

We believe that it is crucial to provide educational opportunities for people who inject drugs so they can make informed, healthy lifestyle choices. We also strive to uphold every individual’s right to health and well-being. We support a compassionate and proactive approach to healthcare services for people who inject drugs, and we maintain that syringe exchange is just one component to providing people who inject drugs with opportunities for a healthier future.

For more information about syringe exchange in Utah, please contact syringeexchange@utah.gov
A blood-borne disease is a blood infection that can be passed from one person to another through exposure to contaminated blood. In the past five years in Utah, the number of newly reported cases of blood-borne diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and hepatitis B (HBV), has risen. Increases in new cases correlate with increases in injection drug use. People who inject drugs and share syringes, needles, and other equipment put themselves at risk for contracting blood-borne diseases.

The primary goal of syringe exchange programs in accomplishing that goal. Syringe exchange programs also provide a point of contact to substance use treatment for people who inject drugs. The Utah syringe exchange program and other injection equipment and other social issues surrounding drug use are essential to minimizing the spread of disease by collecting and properly disposing used syringes. The Utah syringe exchange operators actively seek to help people who inject drugs make informed choices about their health and work to make communities safer by collecting and properly disposing of used syringes. Syringe exchange operators have connected with hundreds of individual clients.

Fast Facts about syringe exchange in Utah

1. Governor Herbert signed syringe exchange legislation into law in 2016.
2. Syringe exchange operators must provide participants with access to clean syringes and needles, clean injection practices, the spread of disease, opportunities for substance treatment, disease testing, and overdose prevention.
3. Syringe exchange operators have collected and properly disposed of more than 80,000 used syringes.
4. Syringe exchange operators have connected with hundreds of individuals.
5. Preliminary data, from the first six months of the syringe exchange program, show promising results. The program is on track to be a successful means of preventing outbreaks of HIV and HCV in Utah.

Utah syringe exchange in 2016

In Utah, the number of newly reported cases of blood-borne diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and hepatitis B (HBV), has risen. Increases in new cases correlate with increases in injection drug use. People who inject drugs and share syringes, needles, and other equipment put themselves at risk for contracting blood-borne diseases. Syringe exchange programs have proven to be highly effective in accomplishing their goal: syringe exchange programs provide a point of contact to substance use treatment for people who inject drugs. The Utah syringe exchange program and other injection equipment and other social issues surrounding drug use are essential to minimizing the spread of disease by collecting and properly disposing of used syringes.

In Utah, the number of newly reported cases of blood-borne diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and hepatitis B (HBV), has risen. Increases in new cases correlate with increases in injection drug use. People who inject drugs and share syringes, needles, and other equipment put themselves at risk for contracting blood-borne diseases. Syringe exchange programs have proven to be highly effective in accomplishing their goal: syringe exchange programs provide a point of contact to substance use treatment for people who inject drugs. The Utah syringe exchange program and other injection equipment and other social issues surrounding drug use are essential to minimizing the spread of disease by collecting and properly disposing of used syringes.