**Policy Impacts of Defunding Syringes on Local Organizations and HIV & Hepatitis C Risk Behaviors in People Who Inject Drugs**

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Syringe Service Programs (SSP) are evidence-based harm reduction interventions that have demonstrated reductions in HIV & HCV risk behaviors and incidence. In July of 2024, the mayor of the City of Philadelphia ended funding for syringes for harm reduction organizations. Scholars have estimated that this defunding will impact People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and may lead to a HIV and/or HCV outbreak. This project aims to assess the impact of this policy change on local organizations and the risk behaviors of PWID. Data was collected via a health behavior survey with PWID and interviews with harm-reduction leaders. Survey data revealed that majority of participants were injecting drugs, reusing syringes, and buying syringes on the street. Survey participants reported regularly sharing syringes and wanted more sterile syringes for injection needs. Participants who reported that they did not get enough syringes engaged in risk behaviors more. Interview data revealed that harm reduction leaders observed PWID picking up syringes off the street and reusing. Additionally, leaders reported their organizations were financially impacted which led to changes in human resources and service provision. These findings suggest access to syringes impact likeliness to engagement in risk behaviors. Furthermore, the data shows a high prevalence in behaviors associated with HIV & HCV transmission while simultaneously having limited resources to address HIV & HCV incidence. Researchers suggest a restoration of government funding for syringe provision, an increased and diverse availability of syringes and syringe services for PWID, and increased HIV/HCV prevention efforts to avoid potential outbreaks.