

Clean Works Needle Exchange Program

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Plan For Session

- History of NEPs
- Why Are There NEPs
- Clean Works
- What is Clean Works?
- Accessing Clean Works

Goal of Needle Exchange Programs



- Helps to reduce the spread of HIV, Hepatitis B & C by increasing the access to sterile needles and syringes
- Helps to remove used needles and syringes from the community

Where Did It All Begin?

- **Early 1970's:** Illegal establishments working underground
- **1984:** Opening of the first official NEP in Amsterdam
- **1989:** First official **Canadian site** in Vancouver
- **1997:** NEP were mandated by the Province of Ontario
- **2004:** 28 Health Units with NEP and another 80 satellite sites.
- **2008:** Health Unit mandates were broadened to include other equipment based on local need
- **2010:** 36 Health Unit had a NEP and approx. 137 satellite sites

Make Good Public Health Sense, Why?



Reduces the spread of HIV, Hep B & C



Reduces unsafe drug use and unsafe sexual behaviours



Reduces the number of used needles in the community



No cure for HIV and Hep C is very difficult to treat, cure is not a given



\$150, 000 to treat one case of HIV for a lifetime vs. \$ 2 for clean supplies

Benefits to Injection Drug User

- A positive contact with the health care system
- Non judgmental, respectful and caring venues where people are treated like equals
- Services are free and confidential
- Open to everyone and anybody regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, record of offenses, mental health illnesses and so on
- Clients receive education, referrals and counseling

How does Harm Reduction Fit in?

- Harm reduction strategies are present right across the substance use continuum
- Strategies are needed when prevention was unsuccessful, treatment is delayed, treatment was unsuccessful or the person is not ready to quit
- Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Law Enforcement must all be working together and at the same time if the community wants to reduce substance use.

Clean Works



Health Unit is mandated by the province through OPHS.

Sexual Health Program Standards

- # The board of health should engage community partners & priority populations in the planning, development and implementation of harm reduction programming.
- # The board of health shall ensure access to a variety of harm reduction program delivery models which shall include the provision of sterile needles & syringes and may include other evidence – informed harm reduction strategies in response to local surveillance.

Clean Works – What are we?

- We are a predominantly Health Unit based Needle Exchange Program.
- Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long term Care as well as municipalities.
- Operate under Best Practice Guidelines
- Focus on the priority populations of injection drug users and steroid users.

History of Clean Works

- Opened in 2005, first site was at the Brockville Health Unit
- By the end of 2006 all health unit offices had sites as well as 3 community pharmacies
- By 2007, 4 of the sites had active clients
- By 2008 we were down to 6 sites and 5 of them active
- 2009 – 2011 there were no changes to the number of sites but we saw a steady climb in the number of needles going out and coming in.



2010 Statistics

2010 Clean Work Numbers

OFFICE	Needles OUT	Needles IN
GRAND TOTALS	71, 208	32, 750
BROCKVILLE	58, 191	31, 950
SMITHS FALLS	5, 389	400
PERTH	5, 300	400
GAN PHARMA SAVE	2,328	
GANANOQUE	0	0
KEMPTVILLE	0	0
ALMONTE	0	0

As of 2011



- **Opened 2 new sites**
- **9 sites total and 6 active sites**
- **All Health Unit Offices and Clinics**
- **3 Community Partners; Gananoque Pharma Save, Smiths Falls Methadone Clinic, Kemptville Shoppers Drug Mart**

Clean Works – What do we do?

- Provide a wide variety of non judgmental and confidential services.
- Services are offered free to clients
- Encourage client involvement in the program through involving clients in the planning, development and implementation
- There are 4 components to our Needle Exchange;

1. **Education**
2. **Referrals**
3. **Counseling**
4. **Exchange**



Education

- Safer injection practices
- Safe Sex
- Prevention of BBI (HIV, HEP B & C)
- Treatment of BBI
- Community services and how to access them
- Keeping their families and children safe
- Updates on health warnings related to drug use (Levamisole)

Proper Disposal



NEVER put used equipment in the garbage or recycling



Do not leave used equipment in playgrounds



Do not leave used equipment on the ground



Always place used equipment in a sharps container and return it to the Health Unit

Referrals

- Staff provide referrals upon request by client
- Referrals to Health Care Providers such as CPHC Mobile Clinic
- Referrals to Methadone Maintenance Clinics
- Referrals to treatment and detox centres
- Referrals to HU Clinics for STI testing & treatment and immunizations
- Referrals to other community services such as hospitals, food banks, housing, Street Health Kingston, HIV/AIDS Regional Services, social services and so on and so on

Counseling

- On variety of topics; drug treatment options, medical care options, HIV and Hepatitis treatment options, social services
- Assist clients in problem solving many issues such as accessing food, shelter, transportation, other issue with social services
- Provide a venue for open dialogue, facilitate trusting relationships with our clients.

Exchange

- We provide clients with clean 1 ml syringes in unlimited quantities
- We encourage clients to return used syringes in either sharps containers or puncture proof containers such as bleach bottle
- We do not require a 1:1 exchange for clients to access the program
- We have a variety of clients ranging from occasional users to multiple injections a day users to steroid users
- Other supplies that we hand out free of charge and in unlimited quantities include; ties, sterile water, cookers, filters, Vit C, alcohol swabs, sharps containers and condoms
- Clients are encouraged to take enough supplies so that they are using new equipment for every hit.

Exchange Equipment



Resources



Clean Works

- Accessing the program
- What can people expect when they come to access the program.