



2024 Annual Syringe Exchange Program Report

October 1, 2024

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

As directed by section 381.0038(4)(b)7, Florida Statutes, also known as the Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA), the Florida Department of Health is required to submit a compilation report encompassing data reported directly from all syringe exchange programs annually by October 1 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Per section 381.0038(4)(b)7, Florida Statutes, “State, county, or municipal funds may not be used to operate an exchange program. Exchange programs shall be funded through grants and donations from private resources and funds”.

During the reporting period, two new syringe exchange programs (SEP) initiated services in Leon County (Big Bend Cares Inc.) and Alachua County (IDEA Alachua), thereby increasing the number of operational SEPs in the state to eight. The eight operational SEPs or syringe service programs (SSPs) operating in the state are: 1) IDEA Miami (University of Miami, Miami-Dade County); 2) IDEA Tampa (Tampa General Hospital/University of South Florida, Hillsborough County); 3) IDEA Orlando (Hope and Help of Central Florida, Orange County); 4) FLASH Exchange (Palm Beach County); 5) IDEA Fort Lauderdale (Broward County); 6) IDEA Pinellas (Pinellas County); 7) Big Bend Cares Inc. (Leon County); and 8) IDEA Alachua (Alachua County). Annual aggregate-level data included in this report is reflective of these eight programs.

Florida - Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	8,992
Number of used syringes/needles received	1,134,338
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	1,101,395
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	2,130
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	713
Number of participants tested for HIV	1,912
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	111
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	1,840
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	508
Number of naloxone kits distributed	47,123
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	184
White	902
Asian	8
Native American/Alaska Native	14
Pacific Islander	1
Multiracial	81
Unknown	41
Refused	0
Total	1,231
Hispanic	292
Non-Hispanic	926
Unknown	12
Refused	1
Total	1,231
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	56
25–29 years	105
30–39 years	474
40–49 years	348
50–59 years	160
60+ years	81
Unknown	7
Refused	0
Total	1,231

IDEA Miami (Miami-Dade County)

Currently, 2,438 people are enrolled at IDEA Miami. Since 2016, they have conducted 38,162 client syringe exchange visits in which they collected 2,038,785 used syringes and distributed 2,021,573 new sterile syringes (i.e., they have collected 17,212 more syringes than they have distributed). They have performed anonymous HIV rapid testing on a total of 1,818 individuals and 151 (8.3%) tested HIV positive. Additionally, they have performed anonymous hepatitis C virus (HCV) rapid testing on 1,726 individuals, with 614 (35.6%) testing HCV positive.

Linkage to care for participants living with HIV and HCV is a top priority of the program. The IDEA Miami's collaboration with South Florida AIDS Network, Jackson Health System, and the Florida Department of Health on linkage to care for HIV-positive participants has been very successful as clients are linked to medical services and improve their health outcomes.

IDEA Miami's efforts to distribute naloxone has continued to have an impact on overdose mortality in Miami and beyond. They have distributed 7,274 boxes of Narcan (naloxone) and have reported 3,987 overdose reversals. Additionally, 687 individual participants have been linked to treatment for substance use disorder (e.g., detox, residential, outpatient, or medication-assisted treatment).

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting period:

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	734
Number of used syringes/needles received	388,599
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	383,397
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	165
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	165
Number of participants tested for HIV	227
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	21
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	220
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	128
Number of naloxone kits distributed	1,446
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	27
White	141
Asian	2
Native American/Alaska Native	3
Pacific Islander	1
Multiracial	14
Unknown	2
Refused	0
Total	190
Hispanic	83
Non-Hispanic	106
Unknown	1
Refused	0
Total	190
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	9
25–29 years	24
30–39 years	74
40–49 years	44
50–59 years	26
60+ years	11
Unknown	2
Refused	0
Total	190

IDEA Tampa (Hillsborough County)

Since 2021, IDEA Tampa has conducted 18,027 syringe exchange visits in which they collected 809,540 syringes and distributed 802,907 new sterile syringes (i.e., they collected 6,633 more syringes than distributed). They have performed a total of 2,548 anonymous HIV rapid tests, with 61 (2.4%) testing positive and being linked to care. They have also performed a total of 2,773 HCV rapid tests, and of the 2,773 HCV rapid tests, 471 tested positive. Once a patient tests positive for the HCV rapid test, an HCV RNA viral load test is conducted. Of the 471 HCV RNA viral load tests, 262 (55.6%) tested positive and were linked to care.

Naloxone distribution continues to make an impact in overdose mortality in Hillsborough County. IDEA Tampa has distributed 16,335 boxes of Narcan, with 12,643 overdose reversals reported. Additionally, 239 clients have been enrolled in opioid use disorder treatment, and 1,418 other individual participants have been linked to treatment and services (e.g., detox, residential, outpatient, primary care, PrEP, wound care, housing, insurance, mental health, pregnancy care, nutrition, and transportation).

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting period:

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	7,143
Number of used syringes/needles received	327,836
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	321,158
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	418
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	239
Number of participants tested for HIV	1,195
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	40
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	1,191
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	125
Number of naloxone kits distributed	6,431
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	49
White	309
Asian	5
Native American/Alaska Native	4
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	10
Unknown	27
Refused	0
Total	404
Hispanic	74
Non-Hispanic	330
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	404
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	22
25–29 years	26
30–39 years	147
40–49 years	136
50–59 years	49
60+ years	24
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	404

FLASH Exchange (Palm Beach County)

Since 2021, Rebel Recovery Florida Inc. has provided SEP services through the Florida Access to Syringe and Health Services (FLASH) Exchange program. FLASH Exchange has operated since April 1, 2021 as the first and only community-based syringe services program in Florida. Participants receive services exclusively through a mobile unit with rotating service locations in West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Riviera Beach, and South Bay.

During this reporting period, FLASH Exchange provided direct services to 257 unduplicated clients. FLASH Exchange collected 93,720 used syringes and distributed 85,929 clean/unused syringes, resulting in a net decrease of 7,791 syringes. In addition, 1,271 cases of naloxone were distributed resulting in 455 reported overdose reversals.

During the reporting period, Rebel Recovery expanded FLASH Exchange's HIV and HCV testing capacity. FLASH Exchange linked 51 (19.8%) unduplicated clients to the Ending the HIV Epidemic agency to receive at least one HIV test during this reporting period. The FLASH Exchange also expanded access to other programs, using the mobile unit to enroll new clients into harm reduction and peer recovery support services.

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting period:

* Due to the anonymous nature of syringe services programs, the SEP staff members are unable to verify enrollment into drug counseling or treatment after referral.

Linkage to care for their participants living with HIV and HCV is a top priority for the program. The collaboration with the Florida Department of Health on linkage to care for HIV-positive participants has been highly successful.

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	257
Number of used syringes/needles received	93,720
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	85,929
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	114
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	Unknown*
Number of participants tested for HIV	51
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	5
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	46
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	17
Number of naloxone kits distributed	1,271
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	23
White	109
Asian	1
Native American/Alaska Native	0
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	6
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	139
Hispanic	27
Non-Hispanic	111
Unknown	0
Refused	1
Total	139
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	5
25–29 years	16
30–39 years	56
40–49 years	40
50–59 years	13
60+ years	9
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	139

IDEA Orlando (Orange County)

Currently, 733 people are enrolled at IDEA Orlando. Since 2021, IDEA Orlando has conducted 3,924 client syringe exchange visits in which they collected 444,090 used syringes and distributed 399,415 new sterile syringes (i.e., they have collected 44,675 more syringes than they have distributed). They have performed anonymous HIV rapid testing on a total of 452 individuals and 25 (5.5%) tested positive. They also have performed anonymous HCV rapid testing on 375 individuals, with 188 (50.1%) testing HCV positive.

IDEA Orlando's efforts to distribute naloxone has continued to have an impact on overdose mortality in Orlando and surrounding areas. Since 2021, they have distributed 6,249 boxes of Narcan and have reported 1,270 overdose reversals. Additionally, 687 individual participants have been linked to treatment for substance use disorder (e.g., detox, residential, outpatient, or medication-assisted treatment).

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting period:

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	392
Number of used syringes/needles received	189,122
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	185,765
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	22
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	22
Number of participants tested for HIV	196
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	8
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	160
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	76
Number of naloxone kits distributed	2,681
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	30
White	144
Asian	0
Native American/Alaska Native	1
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	33
Unknown	6
Refused	0
Total	214
Hispanic	71
Non-Hispanic	142
Unknown	1
Refused	0
Total	214
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	11
25–29 years	21
30–39 years	90
40–49 years	62
50–59 years	22
60+ years	7
Unknown	1
Refused	0
Total	214

IDEA Fort Lauderdale (Broward County)

As of 2024, 469 people are enrolled at IDEA Fort Lauderdale (The SPOT). Since 2021, they have conducted 4,017 client syringe exchange visits in which they collected 256,173 used syringes and distributed 218,624 new sterile syringes (i.e., they have collected 37,549 more syringes than they have distributed). They have performed anonymous HIV rapid testing on a total of 416 individuals and 58 (14%) tested positive. Additionally, they have performed anonymous HCV rapid testing on 403 individuals, with 217 (53.8%) testing HCV positive.

Linkage to care for participants living with HIV and HCV is a top priority. The collaboration between Care Resource and the Florida Department of Health on linkage to care for HIV-positive participants has been successful as clients are linked to medical services and improve their health outcomes.

IDEA Fort Lauderdale's efforts to distribute naloxone has continued to have an impact on overdose mortality in Fort Lauderdale and surrounding areas. They have distributed 93,176 boxes of Narcan and have 853 reported overdose reversals. Additionally, 435 individual participants have been linked to treatment for substance use disorder (detox, residential, outpatient, or medication-assisted treatment).

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting period:

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	255
Number of used syringes/needles received	97,003
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	89,405
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	1,369
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	245
Number of participants tested for HIV	146
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	33
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	132
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	89
Number of naloxone kits distributed	30,492
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	20
White	103
Asian	0
Native American/Alaska Native	1
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	7
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	131
Hispanic	23
Non-Hispanic	107
Unknown	1
Refused	0
Total	131
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	5
25–29 years	9
30–39 years	52
40–49 years	30
50–59 years	23
60+ years	12
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	131

IDEA Pinellas (Pinellas County)

Currently, 190 people are enrolled at the IDEA Pinellas. Since 2022, IDEA Pinellas has conducted 936 client syringe exchange visits in which they collected 35,321 used syringes and distributed 34,014 new sterile syringes (i.e., they have collected 1,307 more syringes than they have distributed). They have performed anonymous HIV rapid testing on a total of 86 individuals and two (2.3%) tested positive. Additionally, they have performed anonymous HCV rapid testing on 87 individuals, with 69 (79%) testing HCV positive.

Linkage to care for participants living with HIV and HCV is a top priority. The collaboration between Love the Golden Rule and the Florida Department of Health on linkage to care for HIV and HCV reactive participants has been very successful as clients are linked to medical services to improve their health outcomes.

IDEA Pinellas' efforts to distribute naloxone has continued to have an impact on overdose mortality in Pinellas and beyond. They have distributed 4,768 boxes of Narcan and have reported 305 overdose reversals. Additionally, 42 individual participants have been linked to treatment for substance use disorder (e.g., detox, residential, outpatient, or medication-assisted treatment).

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting period:

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	190
Number of used syringes/needles received	35,321
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	34,014
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	42
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	42
Number of participants tested for HIV	86
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	4
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	87
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	69
Number of naloxone kits distributed	4,768
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	32
White	86
Asian	0
Native American/Alaska Native	5
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	8
Unknown	1
Refused	0
Total	132
Hispanic	12
Non-Hispanic	120
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	132
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	3
25–29 years	9
30–39 years	51
40–49 years	28
50–59 years	24
60+ years	16
Unknown	1
Refused	0
Total	132

IDEA Alachua (Alachua County)

IDEA Alachua started operations on April 15, 2024. The Annual SEP report was conducted from April 15 through June 30, 2024. There are now 13 people enrolled at IDEA Alachua's SEP. They have conducted 33 client syringe exchange visits in which they collected 2,730 used syringes and distributed 1,720 new sterile syringes (i.e., they have collected 1,010 more syringes than they have distributed). They have performed anonymous HIV rapid testing on a total of five individuals and none were positive for HIV. Additionally, they have performed anonymous HCV rapid testing on four individuals. All of whom tested positive.

Linkage to care for participants living with HIV and HCV is a top priority. The collaboration between Grace Clinic, UF Homeless Outreach and Street Medicine Program, and the Florida Department of Health on linkage to care for HCV-positive participants has been very successful as clients are linked to medical services to improve their health outcomes. IDEA Alachua efforts to distribute naloxone has continued to have dramatic impact on overdose mortality in Alachua and beyond. They have distributed 21 boxes of Narcan during this reporting period.

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	13
Number of used syringes/needles received	2,730
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	1,720
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	0
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	0
Number of participants tested for HIV	5
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	0
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	4
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	4
Number of naloxone kits distributed	21
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	1
White	9
Asian	0
Native American/Alaska Native	0
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	3
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	13
Hispanic	2
Non-Hispanic	10
Unknown	1
Refused	0
Total	13
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	0
25–29 years	0
30–39 years	3
40–49 years	7
50–59 years	1
60+ years	2
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	13

period:

IDEA Exchange Leon County (Big Bend Cares Inc.)

IDEA Exchange Leon County was piloted in November 2023 and again in February 2024. First-year data is provided on the next page.

From December 2023 to January 2024, IDEA Exchange Leon County’s priority was seeking funding, which was secured in May 2024 from Broadway Cares to support the Mobile Health Unit home of the Exchange. From January 2024 to the present, a major focus has been establishing a stronger working relationship with DISC Village to ensure that the Exchange can efficiently and effectively provide linkage to treatment.

In June 2024, the Exchange reorganized its schedule and staffing plan, incorporating guidance and encouragement from the focus population and various partners. As the second year begins, the Exchange is able to advertise a schedule and rely on partners to assist with outreach while it continues to explore new sources of funding.

The following table illustrates the basic demographics of program participants for this reporting period:

Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Number of client interactions	8
Number of used syringes/needles received	7
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	7
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	0
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	0
Number of participants tested for HIV	3
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	0
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	0
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	0
Number of naloxone kits distributed	13
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)	
Black/African American	2
White	1
Asian	0
Native American/Alaska Native	0
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	0
Unknown	5
Refused	0
Total	8
Hispanic	0
Non-Hispanic	0
Unknown	8
Refused	0
Total	8
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	1
25–29 years	0
30–39 years	1
40–49 years	1
50–59 years	2
60+ years	0
Unknown	3
Refused	0
Total	8