

SB 370/HB 556 WILL SAVE LIVES

SB 370/HB 556 will increase participation in “syringe services programs” (SSPs). SSPs, which have been legal in Maryland for more than 30 years, collect used syringes and distribute sterile ones. They also refer clients to substance use disorder services, provide overdose prevention and response education, distribute naloxone, and provide health care on-site.

Even though SSPs are legal, people are often afraid to access them because they fear arrest for paraphernalia possession. SB 370/HB 556 will help solve this problem by removing syringes from the list of criminalized paraphernalia.

SSPs reduce drug use.

5x more likely to enter drug treatment

SSP clients are...

3.5x more likely to stop using injection drugs¹

SSPs reduce syringe litter^{2,3}

10 million

Syringes returned by Baltimore City Health Department’s SSP clients since 2015⁴

SSPs save money

\$120 million

The amount SSPs saved Indiana taxpayers by limiting HIV and Hepatitis C transmission during a large outbreak in the state^{5,6}

SSPs keep people healthy

In 1994, when Baltimore City’s first SSP opened, **63%** of new HIV infections were among people who use injection drugs. As of 2023, they accounted for **less than 7%**⁷

References:

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4. Baltimore City Health Department Data.
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