



# The Infectious Disease Elimination Act: What it means for Jacksonville

## The Problem

- Since 2005, the number of newly reported Hepatitis C (HCV) cases has tripled in the US. Half are injection-related.<sup>1</sup>
- 20% of HIV cases are caused by sharing/reusing needles.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2019, Duval County had 4<sup>th</sup> highest rate of new HIV diagnoses in the state.<sup>3</sup>
- Hepatitis C infections in Duval County quadrupled from 2014 to 2019.<sup>4</sup>
- The estimated lifetime treatment costs for HIV is \$326,500.<sup>5</sup>
- The cost for a 12-week course of treatment for Hepatitis C is \$84,000.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2017, the cost for injection-related infections in Duval was \$28 million.<sup>7</sup>
- One in every three police officers may be stuck by a used needle.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2020, JFRD responded to 5,050 overdoses, a 22% increase from 2019.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2020 there were 545, drug-related deaths in Duval County, a 64% increase from 2018.<sup>10</sup>

## The Solution

The IDEA Act: Under the Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA), signed into law by Governor DeSantis in July 2019, City Council can pass a local ordinance to permit a safe syringe program to operate in Duval County. The goal of the program must be disease elimination.<sup>11</sup> A Safe Syringe Program (SSP) provides:

- An agreement/input from DOH Duval
- Reporting on outcomes
- Education, screening, HIV/HCV testing
- On-site counseling
- One sterile syringe in return for used one
- Overdose kits (Narcan)
- Referral to drug use treatment
- Safe disposal of used syringes
- No use of state or county funds
- Funded privately or via grants

## The Benefits

- 50 – 67% ↓ in HIV and HCV infections<sup>12</sup>
- Needle sharing decreased 62%<sup>13</sup>
- Used needles discarded in public ↓ 49%<sup>14</sup>
- 45% of participants remain engaged<sup>15</sup>
- 5 times more likely to enter treatment<sup>16</sup>
- Reduces risks to police officers<sup>16</sup>
- Anyone can participate
- Reduces overdose deaths<sup>17</sup>
- Reduces skin/tissue infections<sup>18</sup>
- Mobile targeted outreach

## Where are SSPs already Operating?

Nine Florida counties have passed a local ordinance to allow an SSP to operate. Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, and Palm Beach currently have operating SSPs. Orange County is expected to open their SSP in Summer 2021. The remaining counties are in the process of planning and developing agreements.

## Partners and Advocates

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Florida Department of Health (DOH)
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)
- LSF Health Systems
- Drug Free Duval (DFD)
- UNF Students for Sensible Drug Policy (UNF SSDP)
- Underground Recovery Jax
- Florida Harm Reduction Collective
- Jacksonville Area Sexual Youth Minority Network (JASMYN)
- Community Coalition Alliance (CCA)
- Inspire to Rise

## What SSPs do not Do

- SSPs do NOT increase crime<sup>16</sup>
- SSPs do NOT encourage drug use<sup>19</sup>

## What can Council Do?

- Continue to convene and engage with stakeholders
- Finalize and introduce legislation
- Pass an ordinance
- Hold us accountable

## Once Approved

- Identify the organization that will operate the Safe Syringe Program
- Secure funding
- Enter into letters of agreement
- Finalize program procedures and operations (fixed and mobile sites)
- Hire staff, order supplies, conduct training, and publicize
- Ribbon cutting
- Constant feedback, updates and continuous improvement

**This is a public health crisis with an  
evidence-based public health solution**





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