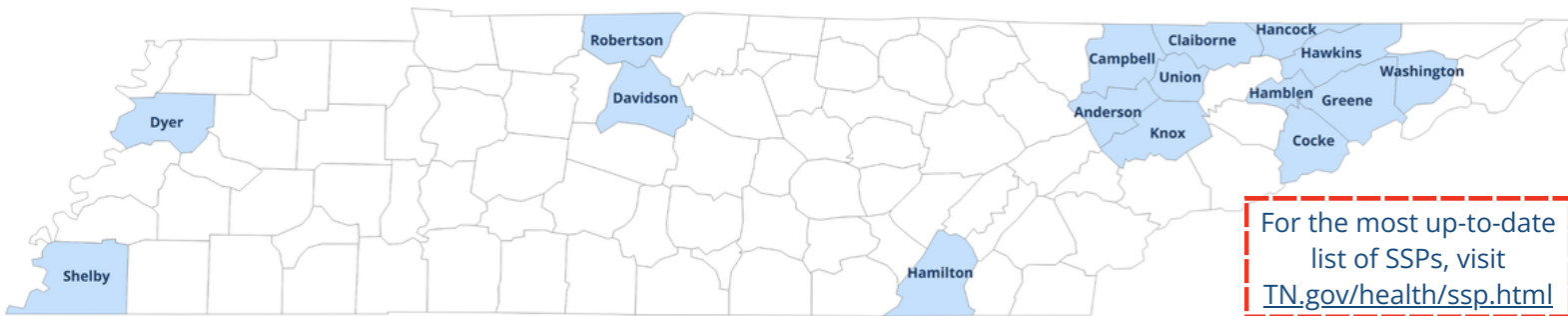


BENEFITS OF SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS IN TENNESSEE

31 SSP sites currently operate across 15 counties



Since SSPs were legalized in Tennessee in 2017, their reach has expanded statewide, improving access to infectious disease prevention, enhancing community safety, connecting individuals to substance use and mental health services, and saving lives.

SSPs PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING RESOURCES

Since 2018



Over 41,000 new participants have been reached



Over 353,000 unique visits to a Tennessee SSP

SSPs offer referrals to substance use treatment. Research has found that new SSP users are...

5x

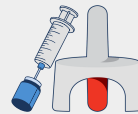
more likely to enter drug treatment

3x

more likely to stop using drugs



In 2025,



94,826 overdose reversal kits distributed

with 9,703 reported overdose reversals.

That means almost 10,000 times a life was saved!

In partnership with TDMHSAS, Tennessee SSPs receive in-kind overdose reversal medication for participants and benefit from overdose prevention training.

Since 2018



Over 24,000 Tennesseans directly connected to substance use disorder treatment.



Over 42,000 SSP participants connected to mental health services.

“ Our success is not the fact that we're reporting these great numbers... **our biggest success is when we get someone moving from one stage in their recovery or in their life to the next place.** We have countless stories of people who have been navigated from being unhoused and chronically homeless and back into the lives of their children and being successful members of the community. So that is, like, where the real successes are. ”



SSP Staff Member

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION AND CARE

SSPs provide sterile syringes to reduce sharing and prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens like HIV and hepatitis C. They also prevent costly infections like endocarditis by reducing syringe reuse.

SSPs are associated with a

50% reduction in HIV and hepatitis C transmission

In Tennessee, for nearly every syringe distributed, one was returned which is evidence of decreased syringe sharing.



Research has found that areas with SSPs have 86% fewer syringes in places like sidewalks & parks.



Nearly all Tennessee SSPs provide point-of-care HIV and hepatitis C testing, and all ensure participants are directly connected to testing and infectious disease treatment and care if needed.

Since 2018



Over 14,600 rapid HIV tests conducted

Since 2018



Over 9,400 hepatitis C antibody tests conducted

FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY

SSPs enhance public safety and protect first responders, law enforcement, and waste management staff.



1 in 3 police officers face a risk of needlestick injuries.



SSPs keep first responders safe by reducing police needlestick injuries by 67%.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

SSPs are highly cost-effective, offering a return on investment by reducing preventable healthcare costs.



Preventing one case of...

HIV
Hepatitis C
Endocarditis

saves...

\$420,000

\$84,000

\$250,000

...in healthcare costs.

SSP Success Story

An example of cost savings from SSPs comes from Scott County, Indiana, a rural community similar to many in Tennessee, that experienced a severe HIV/hepatitis C outbreak among people who inject drugs. After SSP implementation the county saw...

88% reduction in syringe sharing

96% reduction in HIV cases
76% reduction in hepatitis C cases

Taxpayer savings estimated at \$120 million