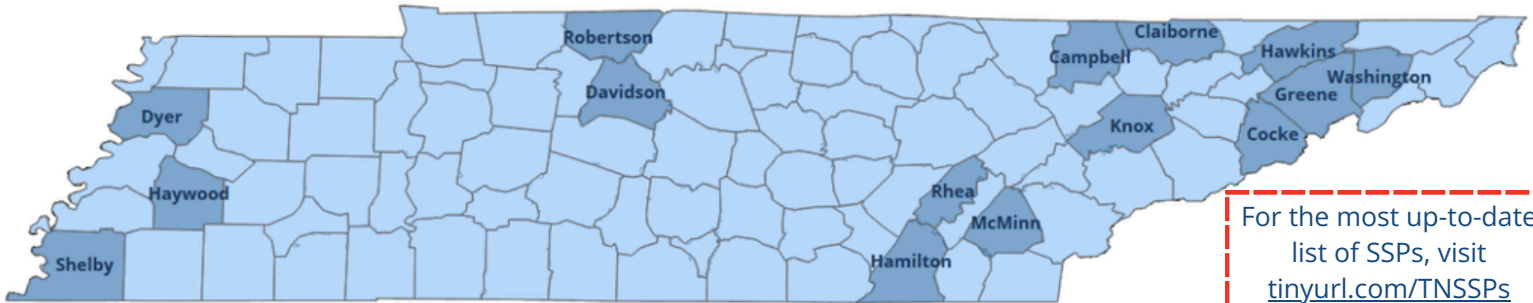


# BENEFITS OF SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS IN TENNESSEE

38 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

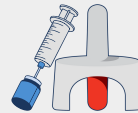


**23,000 new participants** have been reached during



**243,000 unique visits** to A Tennessee SSP

In 2023,



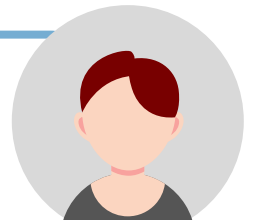
**84,591 overdose reversal kits** distributed

**with 13,292 reported overdose reversals.**

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

“

**You're saving lives.  
Thank you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.  
My wife was dead. Blue.  
Your Narcan gave me my wife back.**



SSP Participant

”

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



Since 2018



**Over 22,000** Tennesseans directly connected to substance use disorder treatment.



**Over 40,000** SSP participants connected to mental health services.

# 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 **8,900** HIV tests provided

Since 2018



Over **6,000** hepatitis C tests provided

## 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**