

Utah Syringe Exchange Network

Who we are...

The Utah Syringe Exchange Network (USEN) comprises state and local agencies, nonprofits, law enforcement, healthcare organizations, and concerned individuals working together to bring about healthier communities by reducing the spread of disease and other health concerns among people who inject drugs.

What we do...

USEN promotes practical solutions for individuals and communities to reduce harm associated with substance injection. We work toward this goal by advocating for public-health and policy reforms, educating stakeholders, and creating relationships that bring about opportunities to broaden the reach of syringe exchange services across the state.

Why we do it...

We believe that it is crucial to provide educational opportunities for people who inject drugs so they can make informed, healthy lifestyle choices. We also strive to uphold every individual's right to health and well-being. We understand that people who inject drugs are the primary agents for reducing the harm from their drug use. Our goal is to empower these individuals to share information and support each other using strategies that meet their actual conditions of drug use. We strongly support teaching individuals how to reduce their risk of contracting lifelong, blood-borne diseases by distributing sterile supplies, providing valuable health connections, and linking interested individuals with treatment opportunities. We believe these steps are all necessary components toward a healthier life for people who inject drugs.

We recognize that illicit drug use is a part of our world, and we choose to work to minimize its harmful effects, rather than simply ignore the issue and condemn those in our community who use drugs. However, in no way do we attempt to mask the real and tragic harms and dangers associated with illicit drug use.

Finally, we support a compassionate and proactive approach to healthcare services for people who inject drugs, and we maintain that syringe exchange is just one component to providing people who inject drugs with opportunities for a healthier future. We are committed to working with communities, organizations, and agencies throughout Utah to develop viable solutions to addressing the broader issues surrounding injection drug use.

For more information on syringe exchange in Utah, please contact syringeexchange@utah.gov.

UTAH SYRINGE EXCHANGE NETWORK
WORKING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

