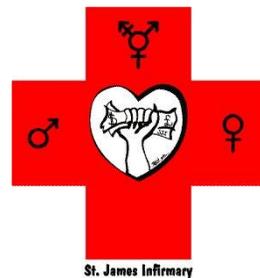


# Syringe Access & Disposal Services



# Presentation Goals

- To inform Council on Syringe Access & Disposal Services
- To update Council on Syringe Disposal options
- To highlight the Harm Reduction/Overdose Services at Glide and SFAF

# FACTS ABOUT INJECTION DRUG USE IN **SAN FRANCISCO**



THE ESTIMATED **24,492** PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS (PWID) IN SAN FRANCISCO ARE...\*

**71%**  
MALE

**55%**  
AGES 41-60

**50%**  
USING HEROIN

**34%**  
USING  
METHAMPHETAMINE



AND RESIDE IN...

**31%**  
TENDERLOIN

**24%**  
SoMA

**9%**  
MISSION

**8%**  
BAYVIEW-  
HUNTERS POINT

\*2015 estimates

## PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS ARE AT HIGH RISK FOR...



OVERDOSE



SUBSTANCE USE  
DISORDER



HIV



HEP C



OTHER  
BLOODBORNE  
DISEASES

# SF Syringe Access & Disposal History

- **1988:** Underground “Needle Exchange” run by volunteers
- **1993:** Mayor Frank Jordan declares State of Emergency
- **1993:** Syringe programs formally sanctioned in SF
- **2005:** Law changed to allow counties and cities to authorize SPs in their jurisdictions without declaring a state of local emergency
- **2007:** SF Policies & Guidelines developed to regulate programs



# Syringe Programs in San Francisco are Successful

- San Francisco's early adoption of syringe access services has contributed to the low level of HIV among PWID
- The number of new infections among PWID has dropped from 110 (2010) to 38 (2016) per year.
- San Francisco can get to zero because of early adoption of syringe programs.

## Why?

**SF's early adoption of syringe services, beginning in the 1980s and formally sanctioned by the Mayor in 1993**



# Syringe Programs are Evidence-based

- Research demonstrates that syringe programs that are needs-based (a.k.a. “distribution” models) :
  - Have a larger impact on reducing syringe sharing and unsafe injection practices than one-for-one exchanges
  - Reduce transmission of HIV and HCV
  - Do *not* increase syringe litter
  - Are more effective than one-for-one exchange, which limit the number of syringes and make it more likely that people will end up re-using or sharing injection drug equipment.



# Syringe Access Programs are a Gateway to Care

Syringe programs provide education, information, and services:

- Access to Narcan to reverse overdose
- Access to test strips for fentanyl testing
- HIV/HCV testing, linkage, and treatment
- Medically-assisted substance use treatment
- Linkage to detox and drug treatment programs
- Links to medical, dental, and mental health services
- Case management, counseling, and referrals
- Referral and linkage to housing services
- Community building



# Syringe Programs are Provided by Community Partners

- The SFDPH funds the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) to provide syringe access and disposal. SFAF subcontracts with:
  - San Francisco Drug User's Union
  - Homeless Youth Alliance
  - St. James Infirmary
  - Glide
- Community services:
  - Fixed site
  - Venue-based
  - Pedestrian
  - Satellite Syringe Access

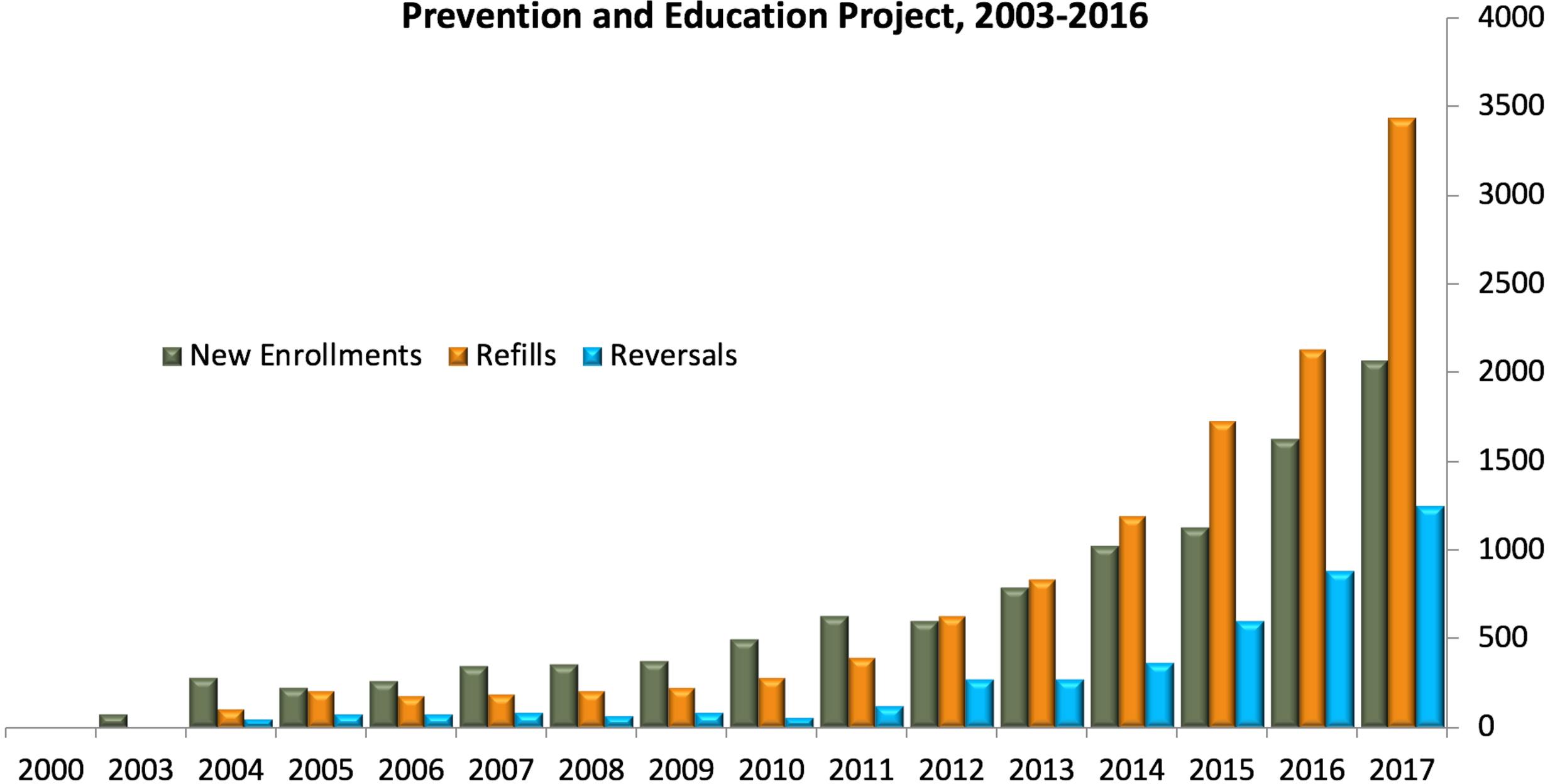


# Multiple Disposal Options



# Naloxone Enrollments, Refills, and Reversal Reports to the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education Project, 2003-2016

■ New Enrollments ■ Refills ■ Reversals



# Harm Reduction Drug User Health



## Street-based Outreach

Outreach is a crucial component of successful SAS programming. By bringing supplies to drug users literally “where they are at”, an outreach program establishes credibility with street-based drug users. Consistent outreach shows drug users you care about them and enhances the program’s street cred.

## Venue-based Outreach Services

Street-based outreach programs should look to partner with other organizations, where high risk clients can be located. For example, with Glide we partner with adult shelters, navigation services, SRO hotels, Jail Services and community street health fairs.

**Sharing equipment  
spreads Hep C**  
**Come get sterile stuff**



**There is new hope for people with Hep C**  
**Come visit us to get tested**

Glide Harm Reduction Program - 5th floor  
330 Ellis Street (between Taylor & Jones)  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 674-5188 / [hepc@glide.org](mailto:hepc@glide.org)  
For more info, visit [www.sfhiv.org/hcv](http://www.sfhiv.org/hcv)

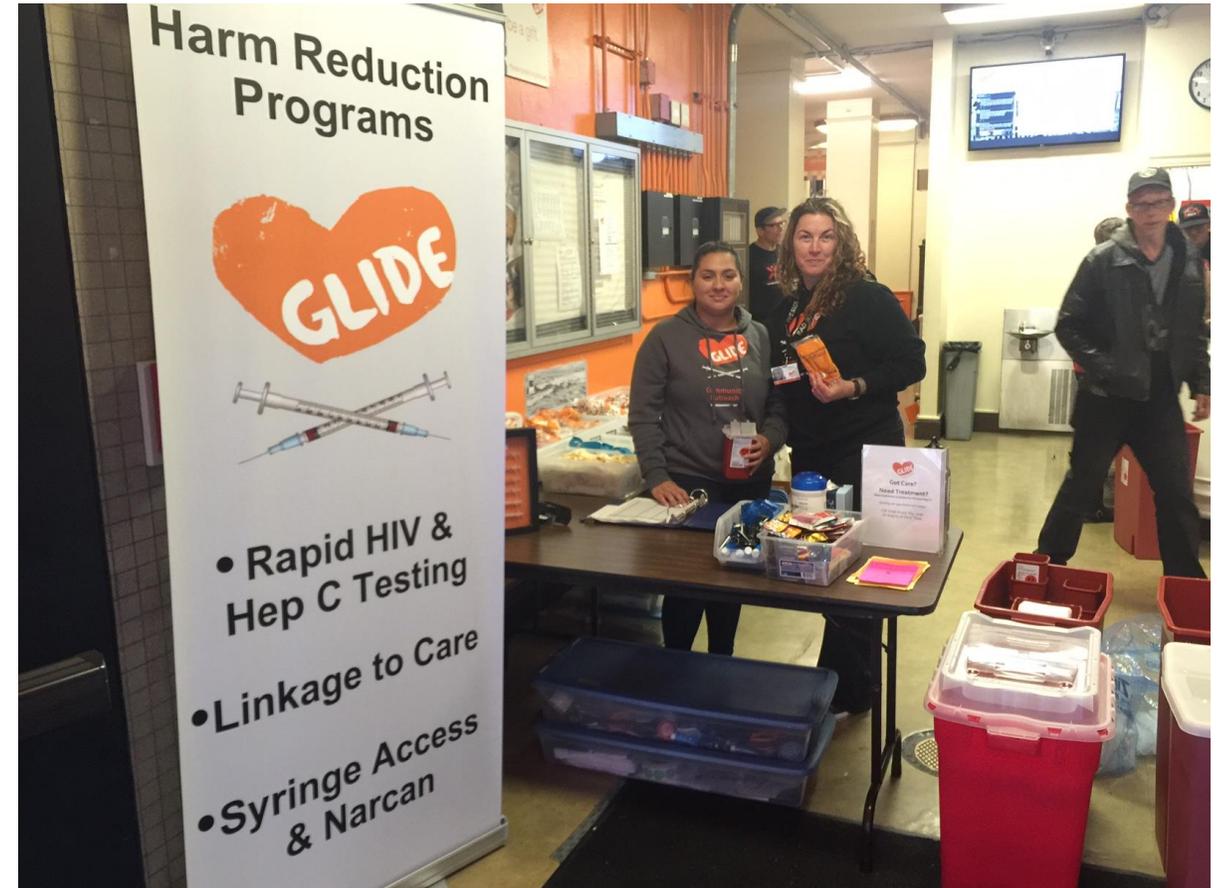


# Harm Reduction Drug User Health



## Syringe Service Program (SSP)

- SSPs offer a range of tailored services that support drug user health and the health of the wider community.
- Community-based SSPs are often seen as more respectful and less discriminatory than traditional healthcare providers, making them better able to connect drug users to health and supportive services they would otherwise not have accessed.
- Ideal location to connect with PWID and PWUD



# Harm Reduction Drug User Health

**Drug Overdose Prevention & Narcan Distribution**  
**Keep Calm, Carry Naloxone.**



- Evidence-based Lifesaving Intervention
- Direct Access to Target Population
- Peer/User Driven Intervention
- Connects Clients to Programs

## **In 2018, Glide provided:**

- 275 Narcan Trainings
- 545 Refills
- And had 305 reports of ODs reversed

# Creating trust to offer health services to PWID

## The Harm Reduction Center located at 117 6<sup>th</sup> Street:

A warm welcoming space for people; open 6 days a week and offering 45 hours of safer injection supplies, safe disposal, and overdose prevention services. Through our staff and partnerships we offer HIV testing/linkage to care, HCV testing/treatment onsite, full sexual health screenings, medication lockers for HCV/HIV med adherence support, medical care, opiate replacement therapy, health education, counseling, drop-in therapy, and menu of low threshold groups.

## Mobile Syringe & Health Access Sites:

We have 6 outdoor sites to reach people in neighborhoods around SF, offering access to safer injection supplies, overdose prevention services, HIV/HCV/STI testing, counseling, health education and referrals. Through partnerships we have been able to offer medical care including opiate replacement therapy with Suboxone.

## Street Outreach:

Our team goes on outreach daily to inform and invite people to our services.



# Preventing overdose deaths through trainings and access to Narcan

## Partnering with PWID to increase the amount of Narcan in the community:

Through programming that honors program participants as community health champions our team is providing training, professional development, and support for 8 PWID and 20 bilingual and monolingual Spanish-speaking community members to provide overdose prevention and response training and distribute Narcan in underserved communities.

## In 2018:

### 1,796 people received the first time training and registration

1,364 of the first time trainings occurred at the Harm Reduction Center

432 of the first time trainings occurred at Mobile Syringe & Health Access sites or Outreach

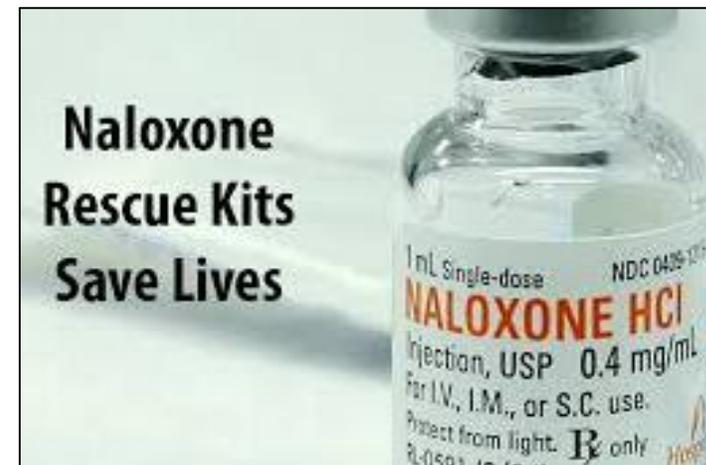
### 3,134 Total Narcan Refills

2,627 Narcan Refills at the Harm Reduction Center

507 Narcan Refill at Mobile Syringe & Health Access sites or Outreach

## Across services in 2018:

**19,882 injectable doses distributed which is 9,941 kits containing 2 doses per kit.**





# Syringe Disposal Services

## The Pick Up Crew:

The syringe Pick Up Crew provides daily syringe clean up services from 7am-7pm, 7 days a week totaling 84 hours of syringe clean up each week.

Anyone can text a picture of syringe litter and the location to **(415) 810-1337** and receive a customer service focused rapid response to a request to remove an improperly discarded syringe.

Our team attends community meetings and does community engagement to partner with people in San Francisco to create a “safer SF for all”

## Participant Disposal Program:

Our Participant Disposal Program consists of 10 program participants who go out on syringe clean up sweeps Monday through Friday from 11am-1pm. PWID also are passionate about creating a “safer SF for all” and through this program people are able to participate in that goal by going out on syringe clean ups.

## Safe Disposal Education:

Our team provides safe disposal containers to all program participants and engages people accessing our services around the benefit and importance of safe disposal.





# Thank you!

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