Safe Syringe Disposal
Buncombe County Health and Human Services

March 17, 2019
Overview of 2019 Syringe Disposal Efforts

• 16 bathroom units installed at various locations
• Syringe handling training given as part of harm reduction training to over 400 community and business members
• Safe syringe disposal information distributed to businesses, nonprofits, libraries, and City of Asheville
• “Safety is the Point” safe syringe disposal bus ads placed in 22 city buses
• 6 large disposal units purchased for installation
Safe Syringe Disposal Consulting the Experts:

• Evidence-Based research from Montreal, Canada shows community-based disposal units reduced needle litter by 95% within 200 yards of the unit

• Erie County, NY Department of Health provided technical assistance and guidance on policy and logistics of syringe disposal

• Successful community disposal efforts include street sweep teams and large disposal units
City / County MOU

Logistics:

• 6 large disposal units will be donated to City of Asheville

• City of Asheville will install and maintain the units

• Buncombe County will replace unit if needed and oversee collection of syringes

53 in. H x 28 in. D x 20 in. W
City / County MOU

Locations based on community requests, consultation, and data:

• DEA APD Liaison input
• Greenworks data collection
• Asheville City Sanitation
• Request by Pisgah View Community
• Stakeholder engagement at Community Engagement Markets and door-to-door with business owners on Haywood Rd. (West Asheville) and in Downtown Asheville
Dogwood Grant Awarded for Safe Syringe Collection

• $24,364 from Feb 2020 - Feb 2021
  • Will pay for a part time position to manage collection from 6 units
  • Grant covers end-point disposal bins
  • Covers liability insurance for subcontracted agency
  • Development of sustainability plan for collection as a part of opioid response efforts
Community Engagement Plan

• Opioid Response Coordinator working with City of Asheville and Buncombe County Community Engagement Teams
• Continued harm reduction education including safe disposal
• Safe syringe disposal materials for individuals and businesses
• Work with stakeholders including Buncombe CARE Team, nonprofit partners, and businesses
• Website: buncombecounty.org/safer

SAFE DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

In Buncombe County, there continues to be reports of needle litter in our communities. Needlestick injury carries a risk of infectious disease transmission. Here are some basic steps to protect each other and our environment from the impacts of needle litter.

DO NOT throw syringes on the ground, in waterways or in trash cans.

USE tongs and puncture resistant gloves to pick up needle waste.

DISPOSE of needles in proper disposal units.
Next Steps

• Continued community engagement and education
• Identify locations for S. Tunnel Rd. and 1 additional location
• Installation of units
• Begin contracting process with disposal subcontractor
• Conduct Needs Assessment of rural Buncombe County for substance use needs, including disposal