



# Safe Syringe Disposal

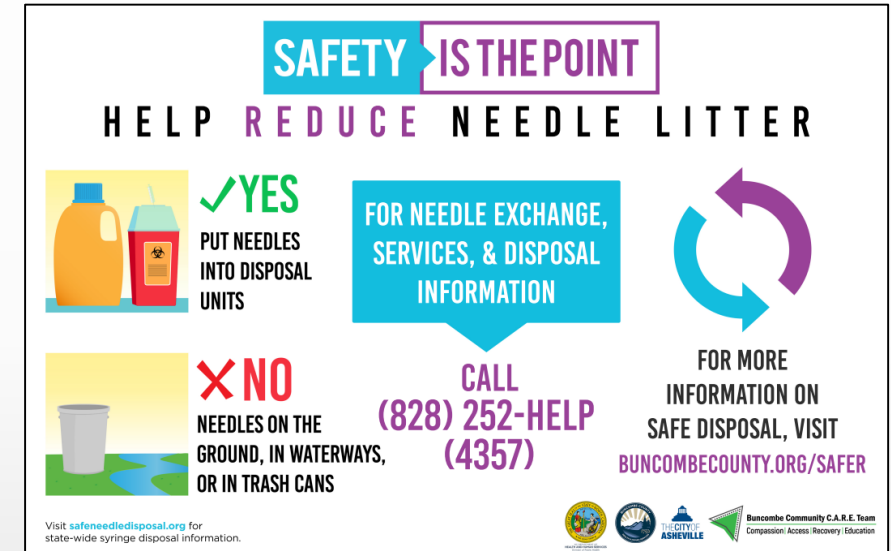
## Buncombe County Health and Human Services

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



“Safety is the Point” safe syringe disposal poster



# 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](https://www.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.



**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

