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# SAFER INJECTING:

THE PORTLAND NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
ZOE BROKOS, CITY OF PORTLAND PUBLIC HEALTH





## DISCLAIMER

Zoe Brokos has nothing to disclose with regard to commercial relationships.

# India Street Programs

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**Needle Exchange  
Program**

**STD  
Clinic**

**Naloxone (Narcan)  
Trainings**

**Portland  
Community  
Free Clinic**


**Laboratory Services**

**Teen Clinic at the Preble  
Street Teen  
Center**

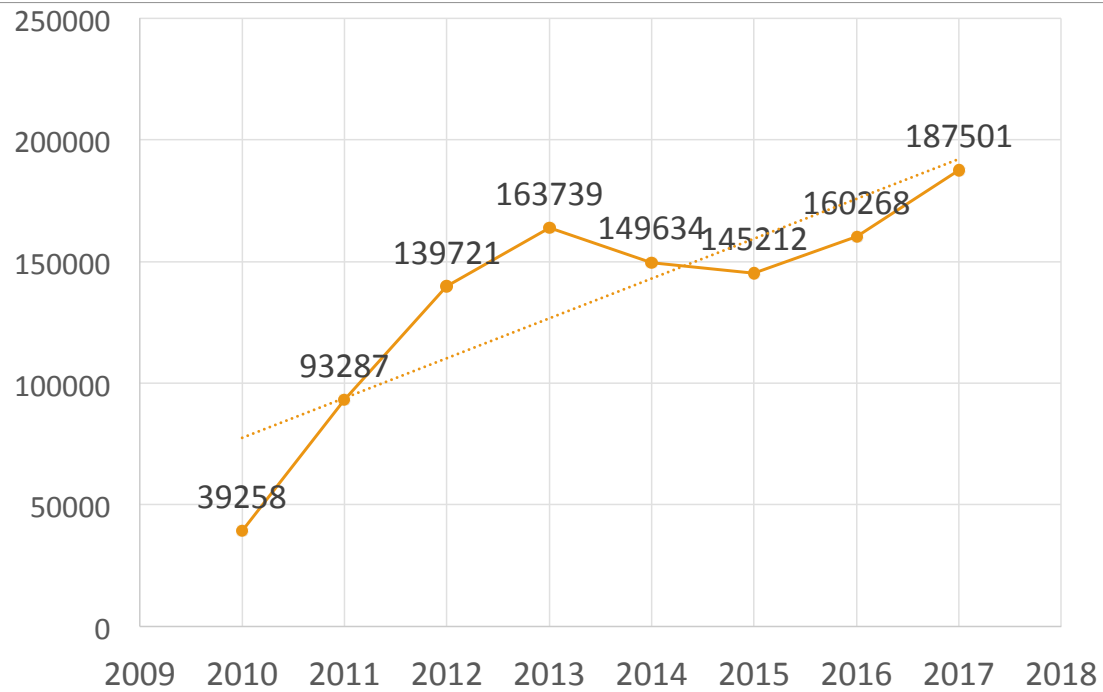
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# Needle Exchange Program

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- First needle exchange program in the state of Maine
  - With 190,000 needles exchanged and 900 individuals seen in 2017, it is also the state's largest
  - Promotes harm reduction philosophies by:
    - Encouraging safer drug use behaviors
    - Offering HIV/Hep C testing on-site
    - Naloxone trainings and access
    - STD testing services and PrEP therapy
    - Abscess/infection prevention education
    - Referrals to primary care and MAT
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## Number of Syringes Collected 2010-2017



## Naloxone Distribution & Trainings

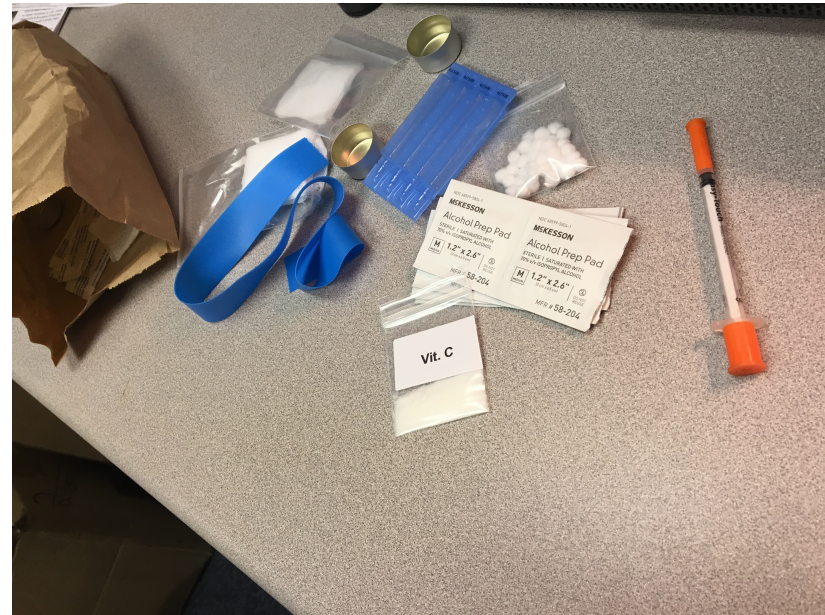
- The needle exchange program started distributing naloxone in 2015
- Since then, over 10,000 doses of naloxone have been distributed
- Over 500 trainings have been given to social service agencies, clinics, groups and recovery programs
- In 2017, there were 291 reported overdose reversals in the needle exchange program

There is a continuum of drug use;  
not all drug use is addiction

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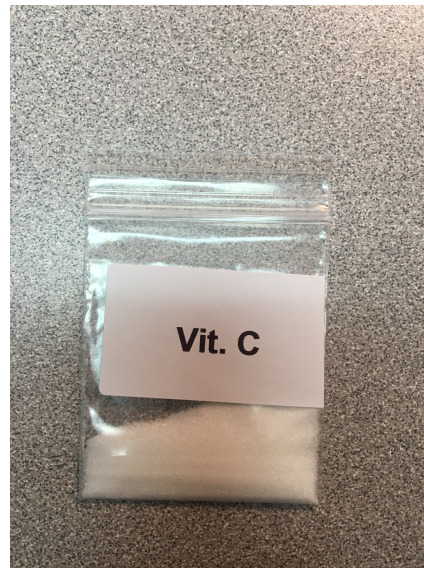
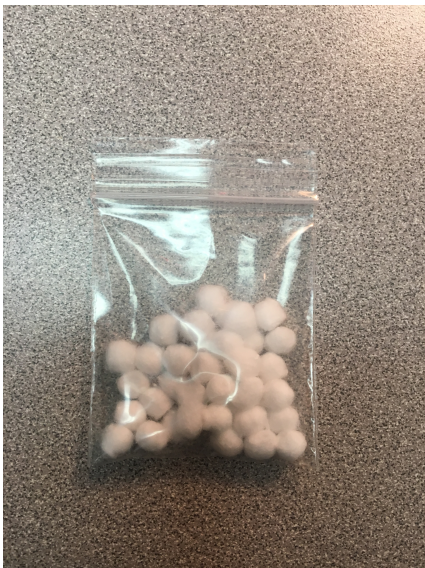


## Supplies for a Safer Injecting Event



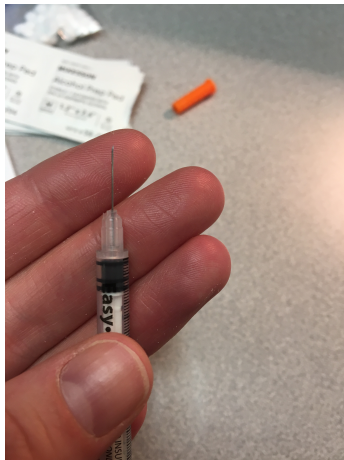


COTTON FILTERS, VITAMIN C POWDER, STERILE WATER

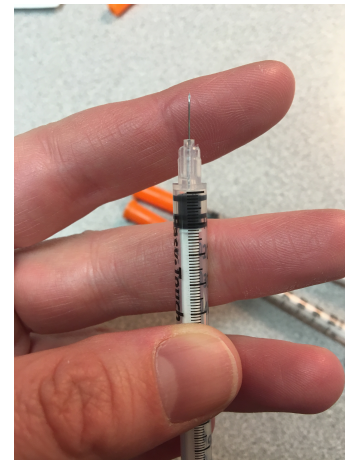


## SYRINGES

Easy Touch 1cc 1/2" 28 gauge



Easy Touch 1cc 5/16" 30 gauge



# Community Safety



**Detailed location information:**

- Logan Place - 52 Frederic St., boxes located in medical areas and common area bathrooms
- Florence House - 190 Valley St., boxes located in common area bathrooms
- Western Prom - attached to Big Belly solar trashcan

- Bramhall Fire Station - 784 Congress St., inside station
- Deering Oaks Park - attached to Big Belly solar trashcan at playground
- Preble Street Resource Center - 5 Portland St., inside day room bathrooms
- Oxford Street Shelter - 203 Oxford St., in courtyard
- Bayside Trail - at Chestnut Street and Somerset, attached to Big Belly solar trashcan
- Stone Street Playground - Oxford Street and Stone, attached to Big Belly solar trashcan
- Peppermint Park - at Cumberland Avenue and Smith, attached to Big Belly solar trashcan
- India Street Public Health and Needle Exchange Program - 103 India Street, inside exam rooms

- Munjoy Hill Fire Station - 134 Congress Street, inside station
- East End Beach - at entrance to beach, attached to Big Belly solar trashcan
- Harbor View Park - Tyng Street, attached to Big Belly solar trashcans

and needle exchange program

# Why Needle Exchange Works

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## Cumberland County, ME,

Population: 292,500 (2017)

Needle Exchange Program in Operation since 1998

Number of Newly Diagnosed HIV+ cases among people who are enrolled in the Portland Needle Exchange in the last 6 years: **2**


## Scott County, Indiana

Population: 23,870 (2017)

No Needle Exchange Programs

Number of Newly-Diagnosed HIV+ cases among people who inject drugs since January 2015: **215**

Declaring it a “Public Health Emergency”, Gov. Mike Pence sanctioned a short-term needle exchange program to operate for one year.



## Lawrence and Lowell, MA

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There's been an increase in HIV infections in the Lawrence/Lowell area, which is believed to be caused by sharing injection equipment.

There were 52 new cases in this region in 2017, up from 32 in 2016.

CDC intervention specialists will conduct an investigation and interviews with infected individuals about needle sharing behaviors and sexual partners.

They will sequence genomes of viral samples to identify how closely related they are, and help find the groups of people through which the disease was transmitted.



QUESTIONS? [ZOP@PORTLANDMAINE.GOV](mailto:ZOP@PORTLANDMAINE.GOV)

