

# MYTH

VERSUS

# FACT

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## NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (NEP)

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Needle exchange programs are increasing the number of individuals who use intravenous drugs.

The rate at which needles are turned in is often the same as or higher than the rate at which they are handed out.

Needle exchange programs will lead to more needles being disposed of in the community.

Cities reported a decrease in the use of used needles from 37% to 26% over six months.

Needle exchange programs will increase rates of transmitted infections.

Many injection substance users are either unable or unwilling to stop injecting; offering sterile needles and injection equipment is a simple, inexpensive way to reduce the risk for blood-borne infectious disease transmission.

Providing individuals who use substances the tools they need to continue their use of substances is enabling.

Injection drug use puts the user at high risk of contracting HIV, Hepatitis C, and other serious blood-borne viral infections by sharing non-sterile needles or the indirect sharing of non-sterile injection equipment (spoons, containers, filters, etc.).