




# Disease Prevention Demonstration Project

## Fact Sheet: Pharmacy Sale of Syringes

What is the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP)?	Access to Sterile Syringes Will Help Save Lives	Have Other States Approved Pharmacy Syringe Access?	Safe Syringe Disposal
<p>In September 2004, a new law was passed, SB 1159, which created the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP).</p> <p>The DPDP allows people 18 years and older to buy up to 10 syringes <i>without</i> a prescription from a participating pharmacy. The purpose of the project is to help prevent blood-borne diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C among injection drug users, their sexual partners, and their children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each year, blood-borne diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis cause a significant number of deaths and result in millions of dollars in preventable medical costs.</li> <li>• Within Los Angeles County alone, over 562,000 people are living with HIV or AIDS and injection drug use is the second most commonly reported source of infection.</li> <li>• 60% of Hepatitis C cases are a result of injection drug use.</li> <li>• Access to sterile syringes prevents the spread of blood-borne diseases.</li> </ul>	<p>Yes, many states have approved over-the-counter sales of syringes without a prescription, including Minnesota, New York, Washington, Rhode Island, New York and Wisconsin.</p> <p>In California, several counties such as Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and Sonoma have already successfully established the DPDP.</p> <p>These jurisdictions have approved pharmacy syringe sales to prevent the spread of disease by reducing the sharing of syringes.</p>	<p>Safe disposal of used syringes helps to protect others from accidental needle sticks.</p>  <p><b>DO NOT THROW SYRINGES IN THE TRASH</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throw loose syringes or sharps containers in the trash</li> <li>• Flush syringes down the toilet</li> <li>• Put syringes in recycling containers</li> </ul> <p><b>DO</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask your pharmacist about available disposal options in your community</li> <li>• Use a puncture-proof sharps container to store your used syringes</li> <li>• Immediately place used syringes into your container</li> <li>• Keep sharps containers away from children and pets</li> </ul>
<p><b>Did You Know...?</b></p>			
<p><b>No Prescription Needed</b> In the past, syringes could only be purchased with a prescription. Now, anyone over the age of 18 can legally buy and possess up to 10 syringes without a prescription if legally obtained through an authorized source.</p>	<p><b>What the Law Says</b></p>	<p><b>Information about Testing, Treatment, &amp; Syringe Disposal</b></p>	
<p><b>No Increase in Drug Use</b> Studies have shown that increased access to sterile syringes helps reduce the transmission of HIV <u>without</u> increasing drug use or rates of injection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disposal of a hypodermic needle or syringe is illegal on a playground, park, beach, or at any public or private school and is punishable by a fine (\$200- \$2000), imprisonment (up to 6 months), or both.</li> </ul>	<p>Pharmacists participating in the DPDP are required to provide customers with information on how to get drug treatment, how to receive testing and treatment for HIV and hepatitis C, and where to safely dispose of used syringes.</p>	
<p><b>Syringe Access Through 2010</b> Participating licensed pharmacists are authorized to sell sterile syringes until December 31, 2010.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needles or syringes purchased through the DPDP that have been properly stored for safe disposal cannot be used as evidence of drug paraphernalia.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What are the Dangers of Used Syringes?</b></p> <p>Used syringes can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cause injuries</li> <li>• spread germs</li> <li>• spread diseases</li> </ul>	

For more information, call or visit our website at:

[www.lapublichealth.org](http://www.lapublichealth.org)

Phone: 213-240-8196