

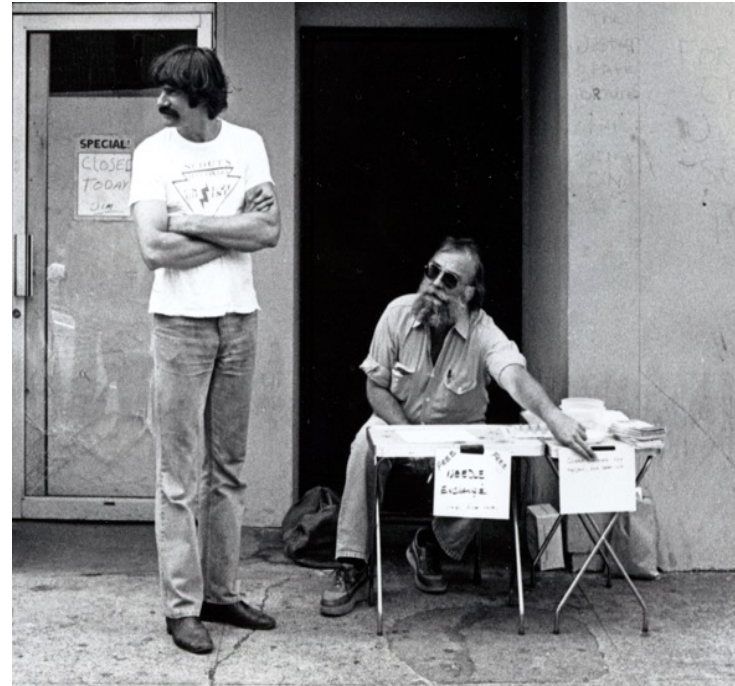
Data to Drive Positive Impact:

Adapting the Dave Purchase Memorial Survey to Expand Monitoring and Evaluation of Syringe Services Programs

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October 15, 2022

Welcome and Outline



- Introduction (CDC)
- History of survey (Don)
- NASEN's role (Stephanie)
- Survey methods (Tianna)
- Survey findings (Sara)
- Discussion (all)

NASEN is an initiative of Dave Purchase Project

Partnerships and Project Support

- University of Washington (UW)
- North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN)
- Dr. Don Des Jarlais, New York University (NYU)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Weill Cornell Medicine



CDC is increasing its support of harm reduction through current and future programs.



National Harm Reduction
Technical Assistance Center



Syringe Service
Program Survey



Strengthening
Syringe Service
Programs

Project **NEXUS**

Injection Drug Use
Surveillance Project



COVID-19 Vaccination SSP
Project

SSP Survey data will be used to show the public health impact of and need for harm reduction.

■ Show the impact of harm reduction:

- Understand where harm reduction is being offered
- Assess the trends of the types of services provided by SSPs
- Measure the impact of SSPs of reducing the adverse health effects of drug use



■ Show the need for harm reduction:

- Identify disparities in access to SSPs in places with high burdens of HIV, hepatitis C, and overdose
- Support SSP monitoring and evaluation and quality improvement

Dave Purchase Memorial Survey

History

History of the Dave Purchase Memorial Survey



Dave Purchase starts Tacoma Needle Exchange

1988:



Initiation of amfAR research

1989:



1989:
Helms Amendment Catch-22



NASEN conferences: "Syringe Exchange in the Known Universe"



Survey begins

- Funding from amfAR, Elton John Foundation, NIDA
- Only source of national data on SSPs in the US

1994:



1994-2020:
Surveys conducted



Survey renamed after Dave Purchase's death

2013:



Past Findings in Previous DPM Surveys

- Growth in number of SSPs
- Growth in number of syringes exchanged
- Importance of public funding and program size
- Evolution of programs into multi-service organizations
- Interface between persons who inject drugs and social and health services
- Special issues confronting suburban and rural exchanges
- Expansion and implementation issues for the opioid epidemic

Last DPM survey was conducted in 2021 with Cornell

North American Syringe Exchange Network

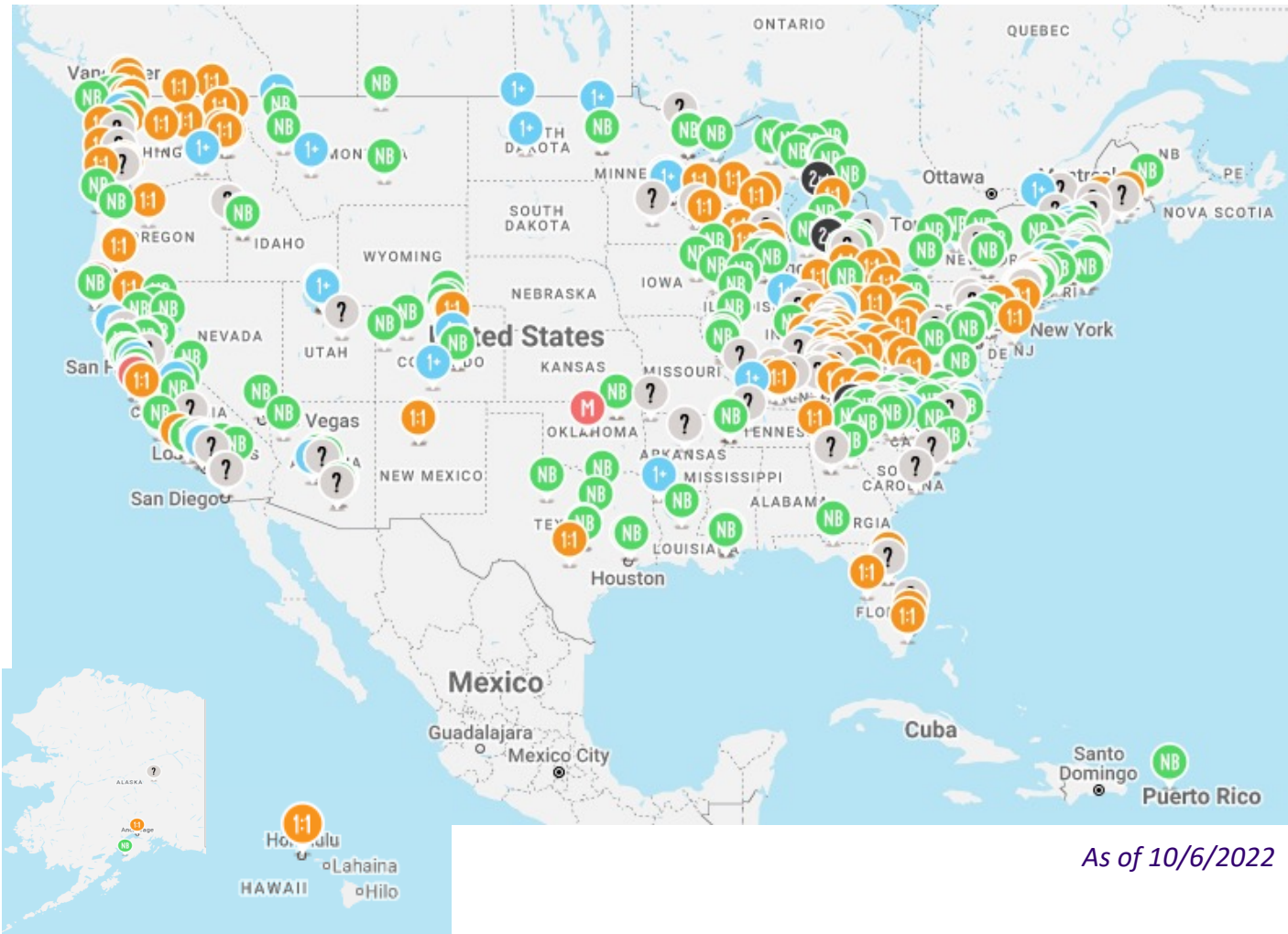
(NASEN)

North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN)

- Founded in 1992
- NASEN's Buyers Club offers access to low-cost, high quality harm reduction supplies to SSPs regardless of size, resources, or legal status
- Provides technical support, financial support, Program Support Packages (PSPs), and promotes information sharing among SSPs
- Grown from approximately 50 SSPs in 1995 to over 500 SSPs in 2022



NASEN Directory



As of 10/6/2022

- The most comprehensive directory of SSPs in the US.
- All SSPs listed in the NASEN directory can participate in the DPM survey
- SSPs added *only* with their consent
- SSPs that choose not in the directory are still eligible for the DPM survey
- The directory is a dynamic document:
 - New SSPs are added regularly and current SSPs update data every 6 months
- SSPs own their directory pages
- The directory is intended to be an information repository for Harm Reductionists and -more importantly- a resource for individuals seeking services



2022 Dave Purchase Memorial Survey

Methods

Sampling and Recruitment



NASEN Directory

- Update contact information of existing SSPs
- Expand directory through outreach

Sampling Frame

- Survey eligibility: Any SSP that was open in 2020 and/or 2021



Invitations

- Informational pre-webinar SSPs
- Letter of invitation via NASEN



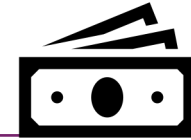
Follow Up

- Follow up email blasts, individual phone calls, messages via NASEN team
- Data collection occurred May-September 2022

Data Collection



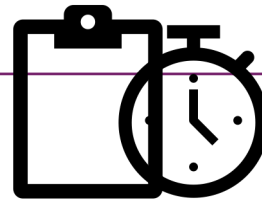
Completion Process and Time



- REDCap/Online
- 1:1 phone or video interview
- Paper survey mailed or scanned

Multiple Offerings of Completion

- Word version attached for pre-review
- ~45 minutes to complete
- Save and Return function if necessary



- \$125 check incentive
- \$1000 raffle opportunity for NASEN Buyer's Club supplies

Incentive and Raffle

Survey Topics



➤ Program characteristics

➤ Client characteristics

➤ Services provided, onsite and referrals

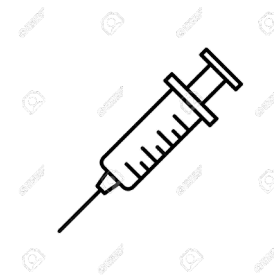
➤ Funding resources

➤ Syringe collection and distribution

➤ Naloxone and other overdose medication

➤ Community relations and challenges

➤ 2020 module (COVID)





2022 Dave Purchase Memorial Survey

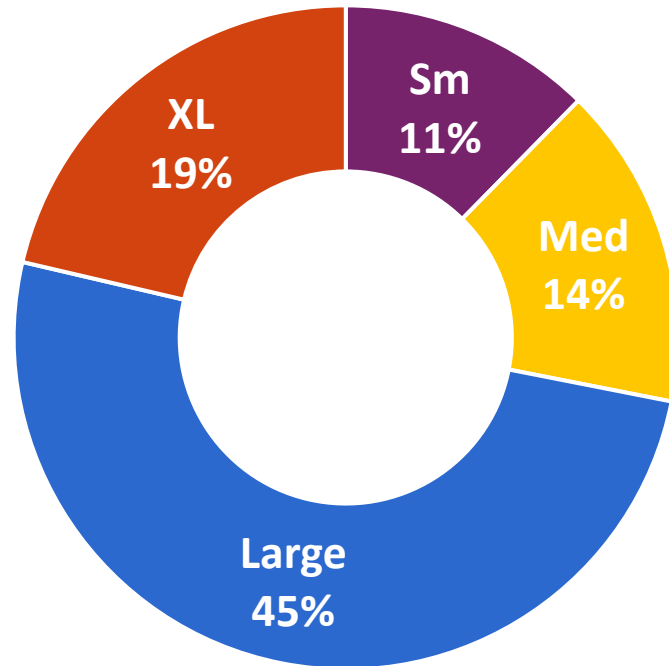
Preliminary Results

Survey Response Rate

Sample	Total # of Responses (complete and partial)	% Responses
506	158	31%

Program Characteristics

Program Size of Respondents



Program Size = Syringes Dispensed

Sm: 1-9,999

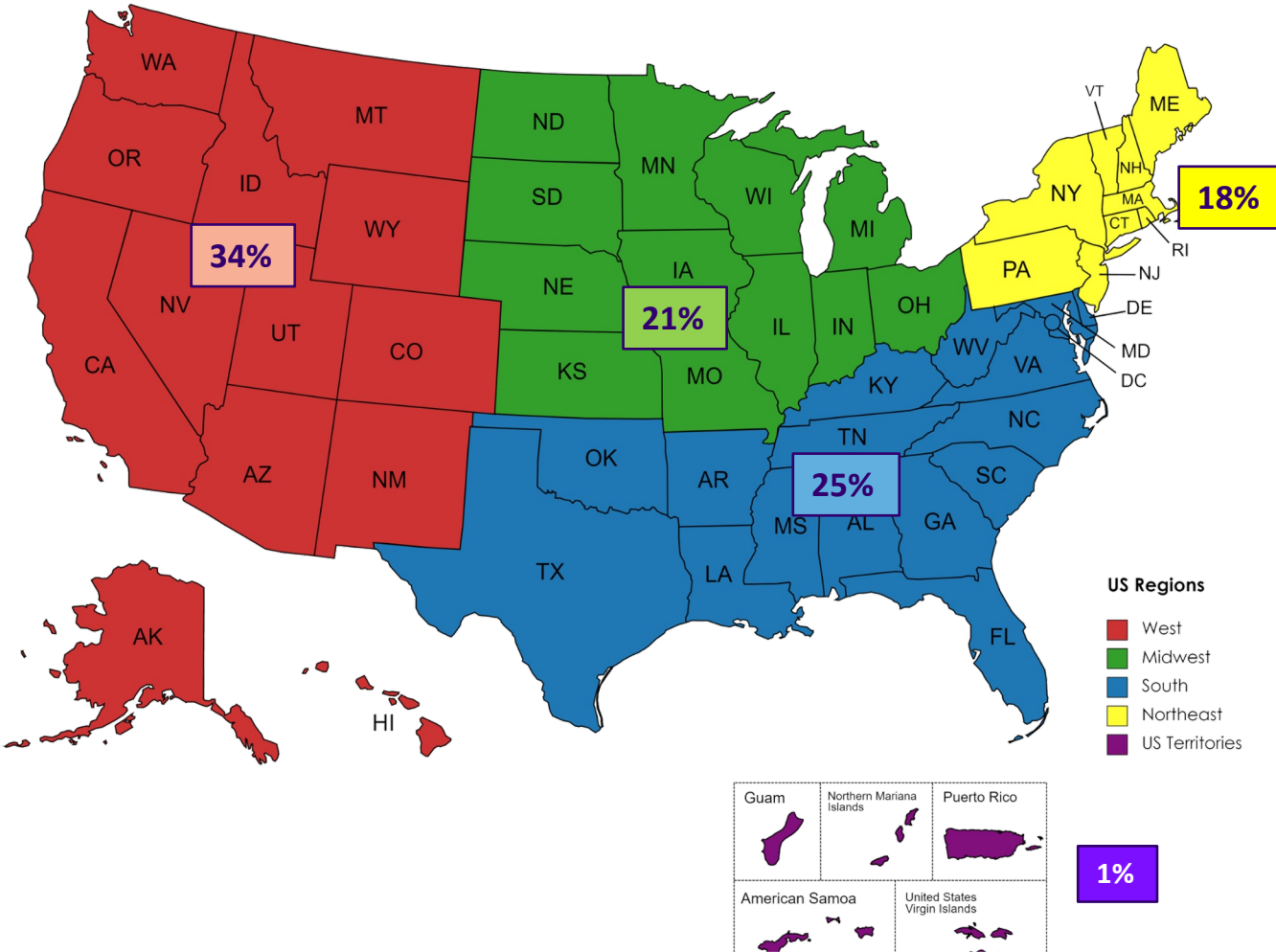
Med: 10,000-54,999

Large: 55,000-499,000

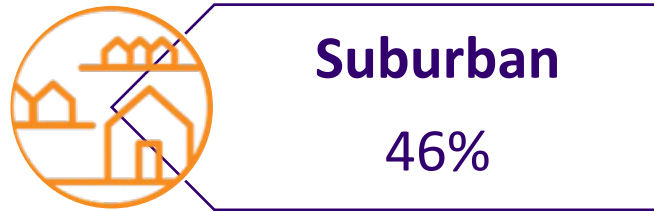
XL: 500,000+

41% of programs open <4 years
21% of programs open 20+ years

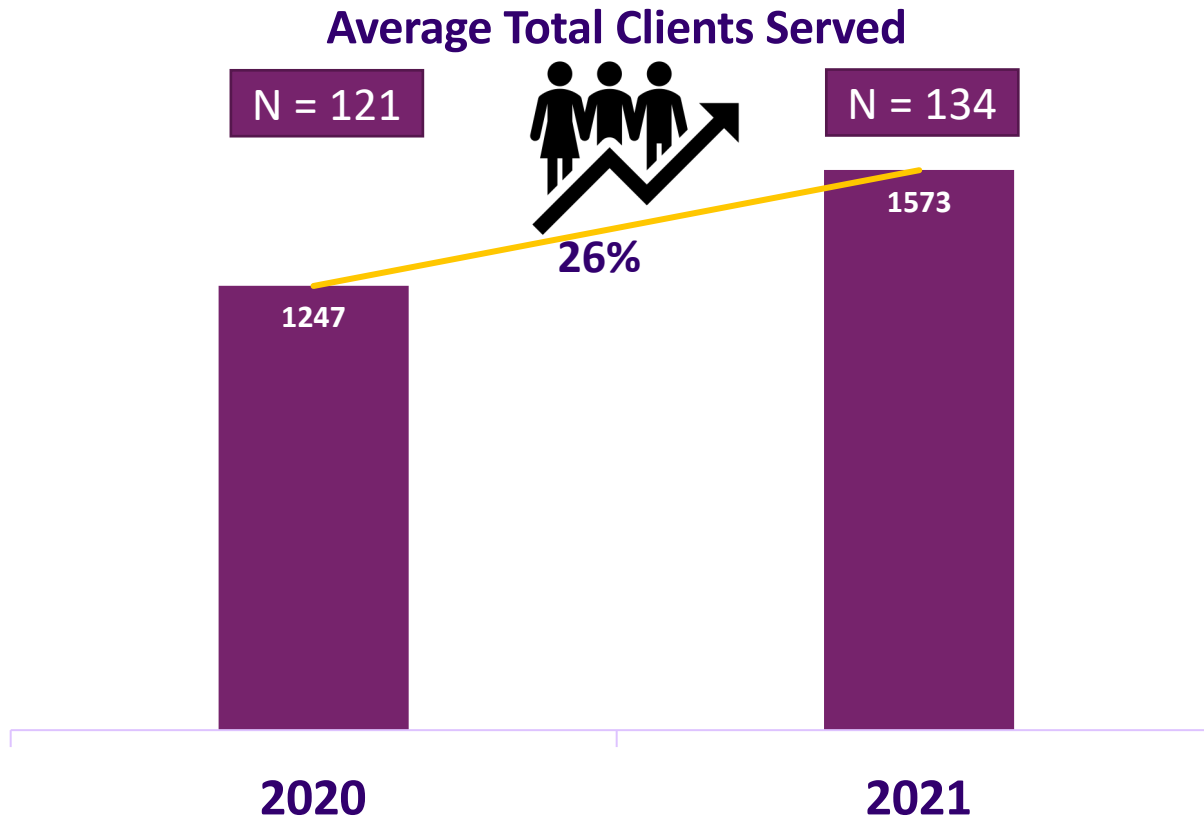
Program Characteristics



% of SSPs that operate in urban, suburban, and/or rural areas

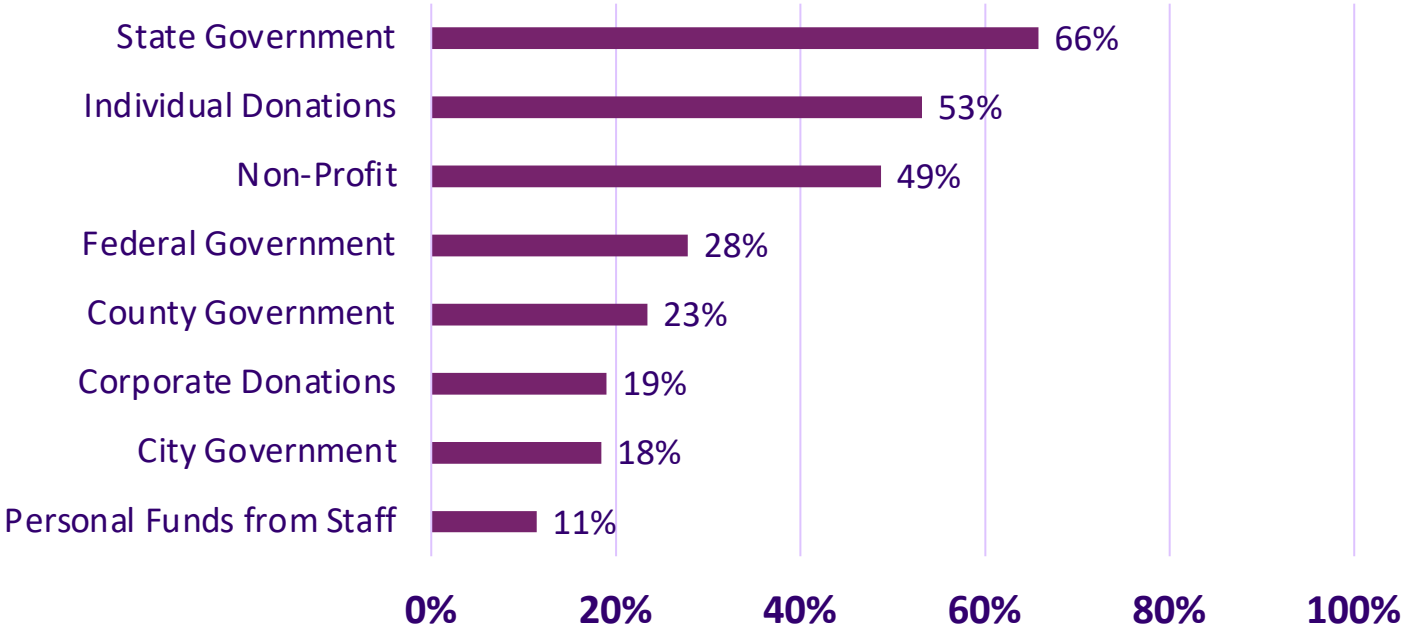


SSP Client Volume Increase, 2020-2021

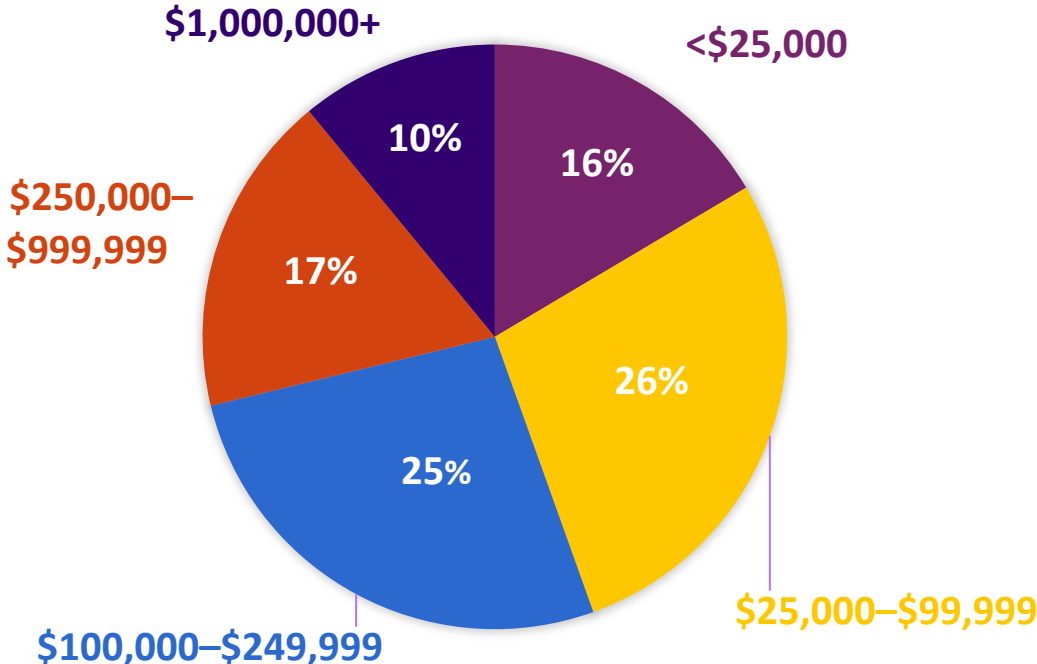


Budget and Funding Characteristics

Source of Funding

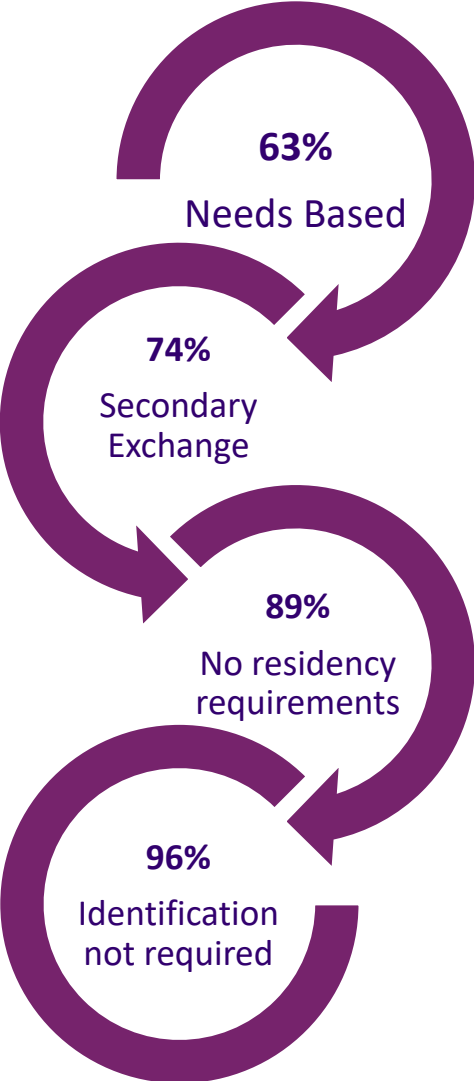


Annual Budget

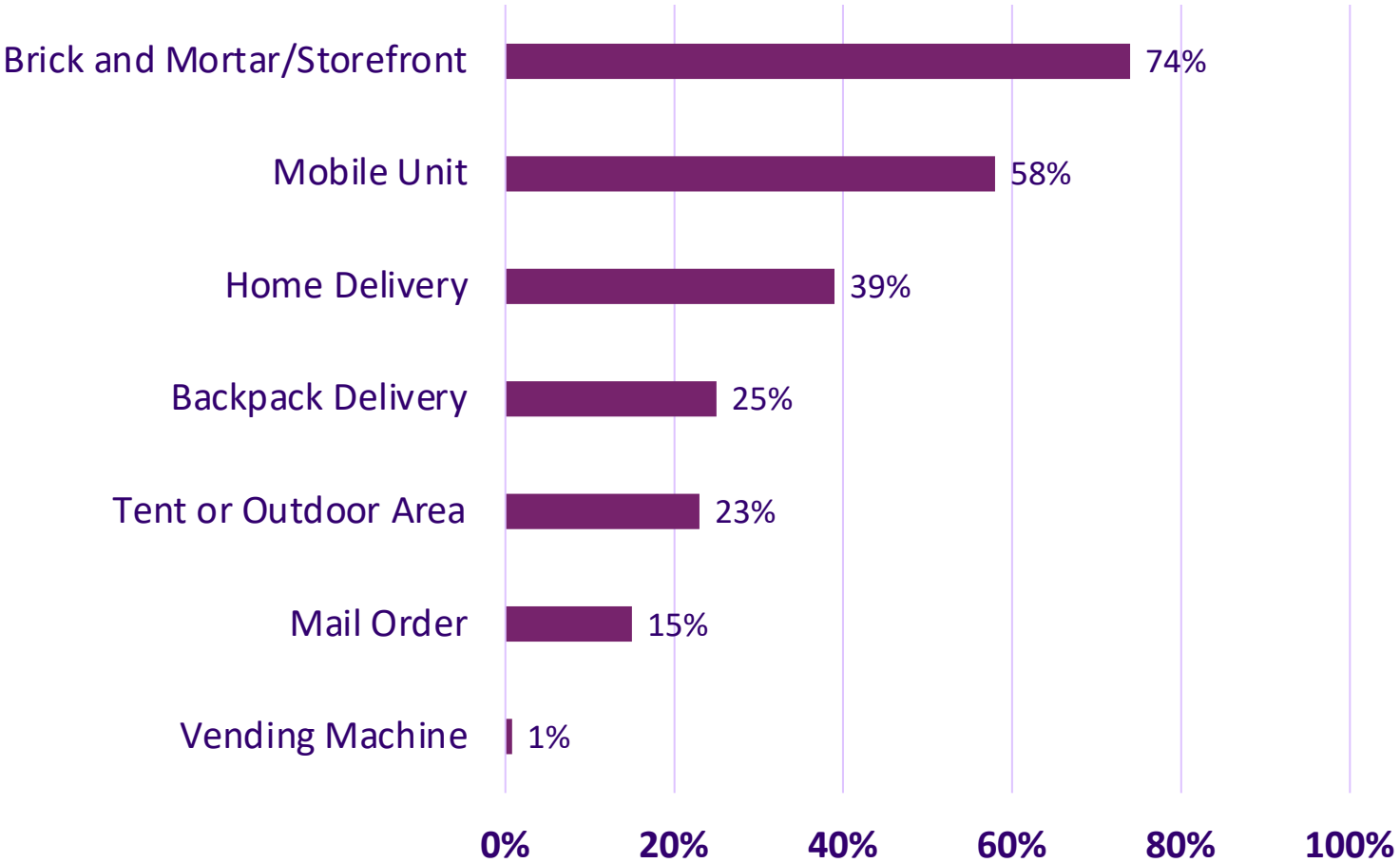


65% of SSPs employ full time staff
57% of SSPs employ staff with lived experience

Harm Reduction Operational Characteristics

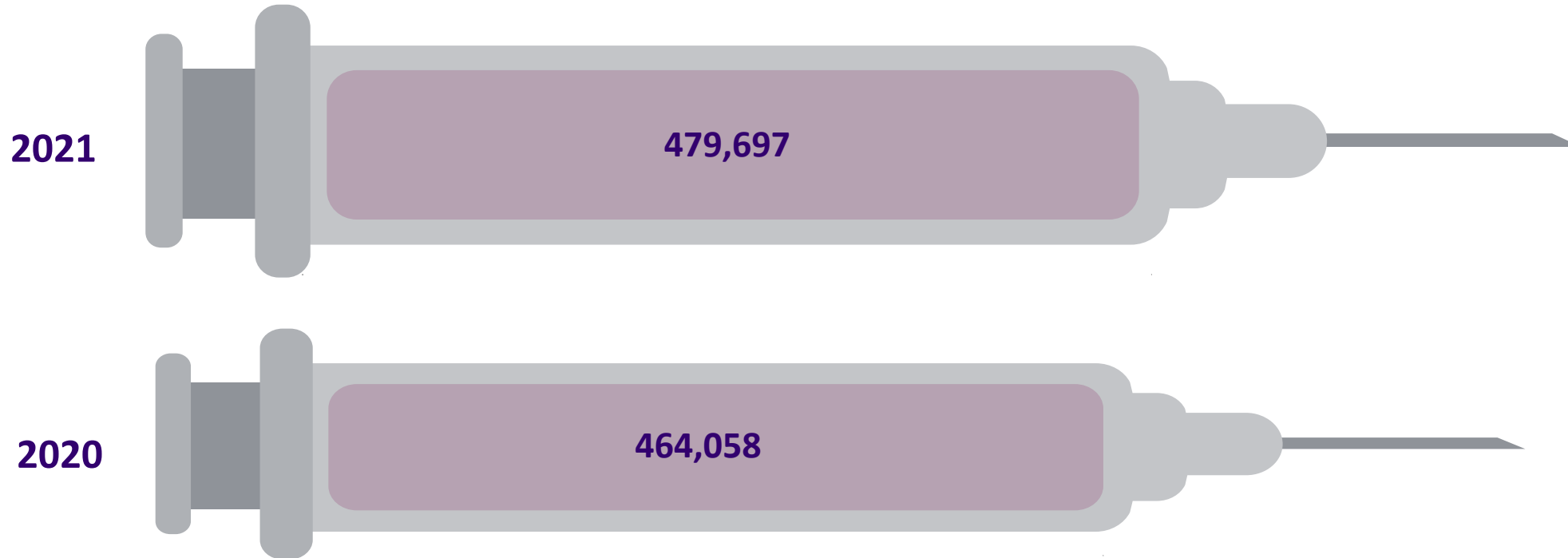


Service Delivery Setup



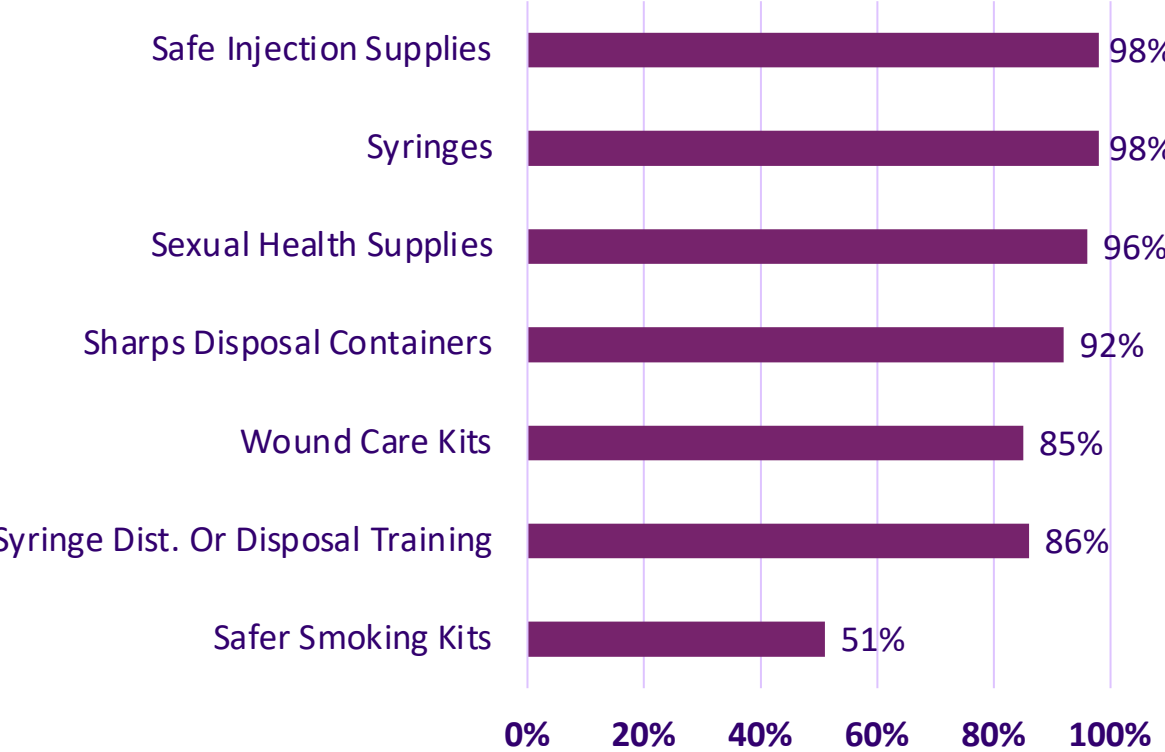
Syringe Distribution

The average number of syringes distributed increased by 3% from 2020 to 2021

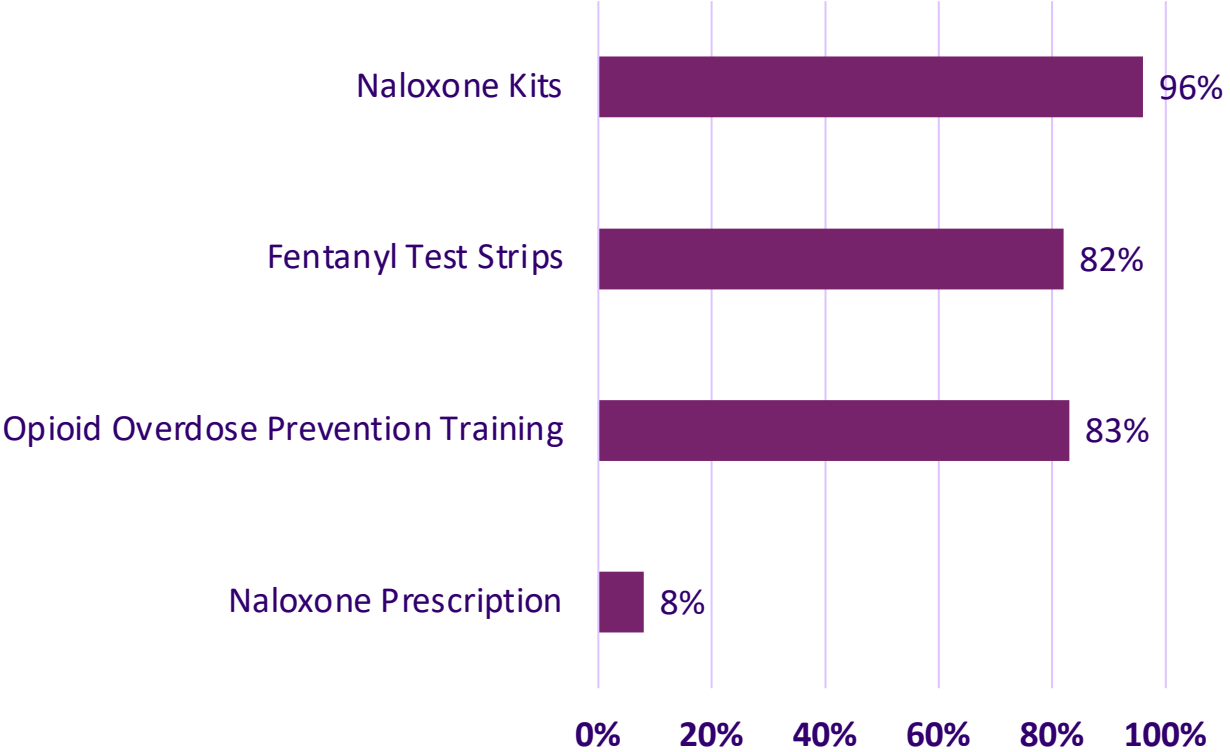


Equipment and Services Offered by SSP Onsite

Equipment Offered

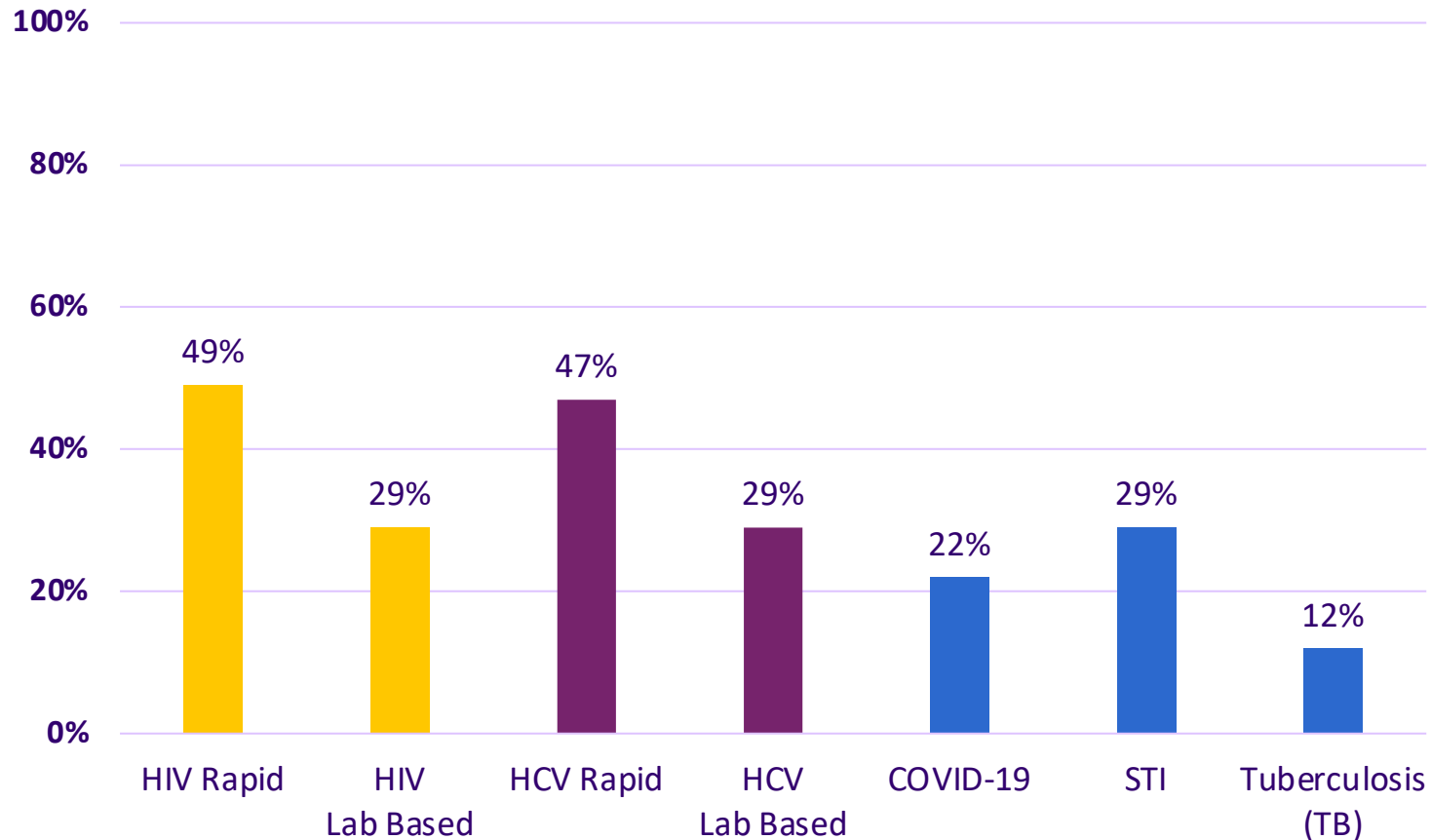


Overdose Prevention Offered



Testing and Treatments Provided Onsite

Testing Services Provided Onsite

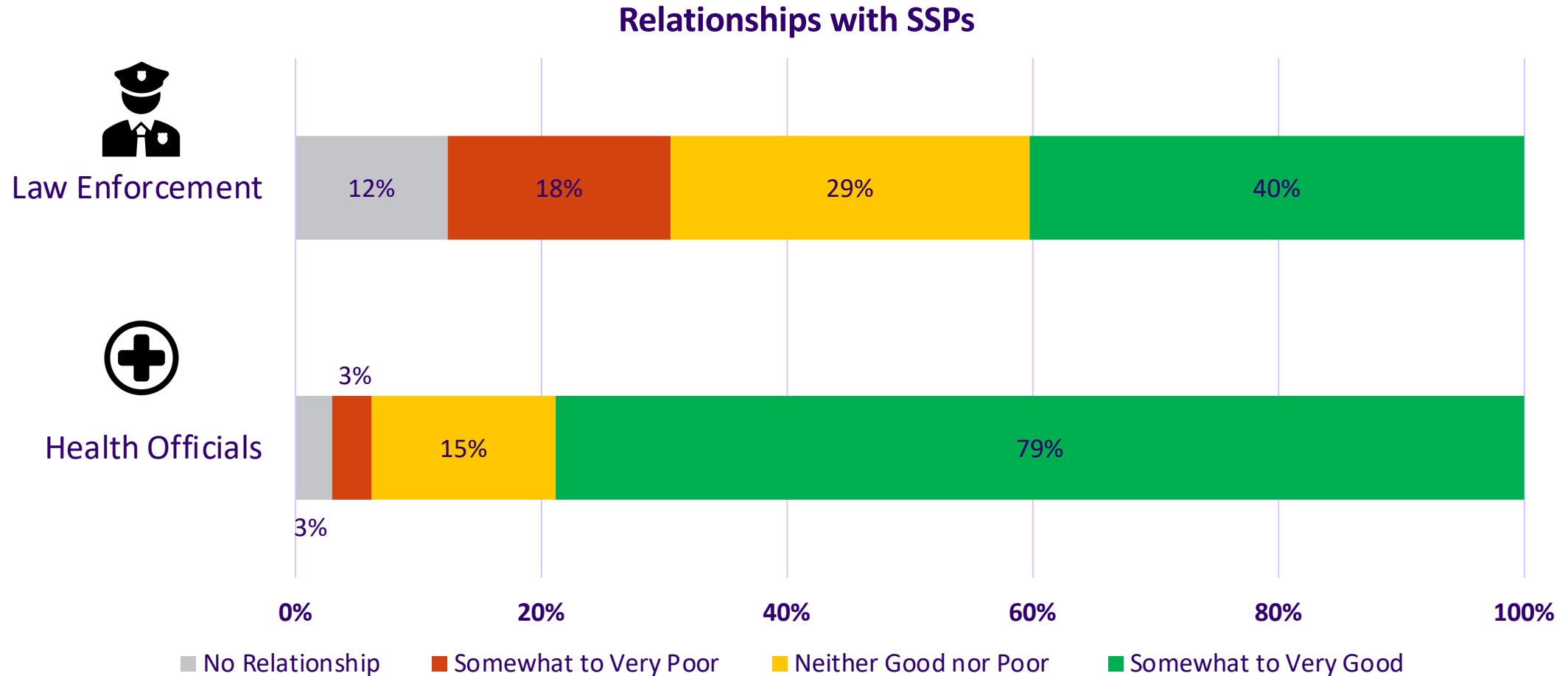


16% provided some type of HIV treatment onsite

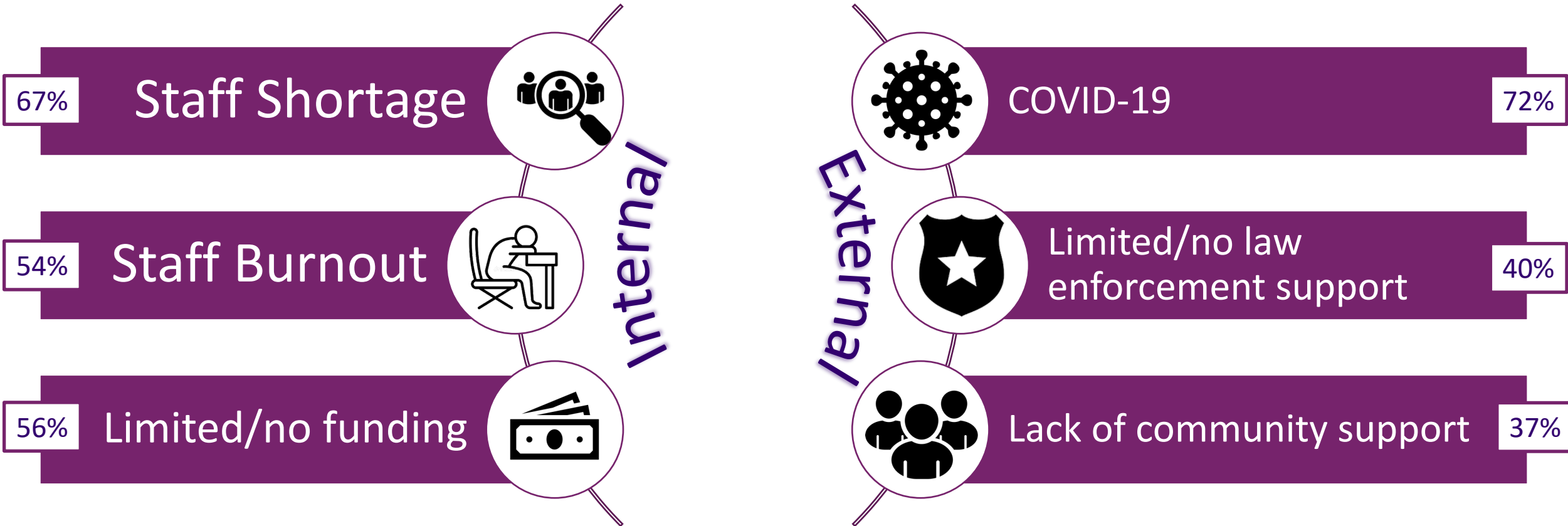
16% provided some type of HCV treatment onsite

An illustration of a pill bottle with an orange cap and a white label, with several white pills scattered around it. The pills are positioned to the right of the bottle, with some appearing to be falling from it. The pills are white and oval-shaped.

Community Relations

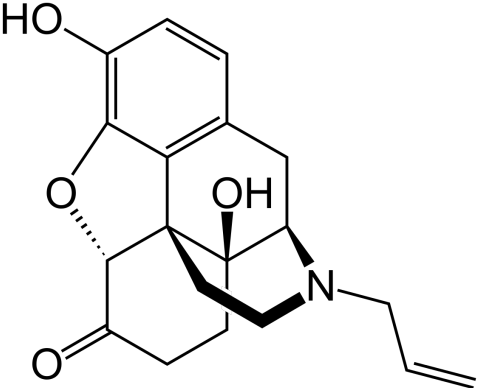


Community Challenges

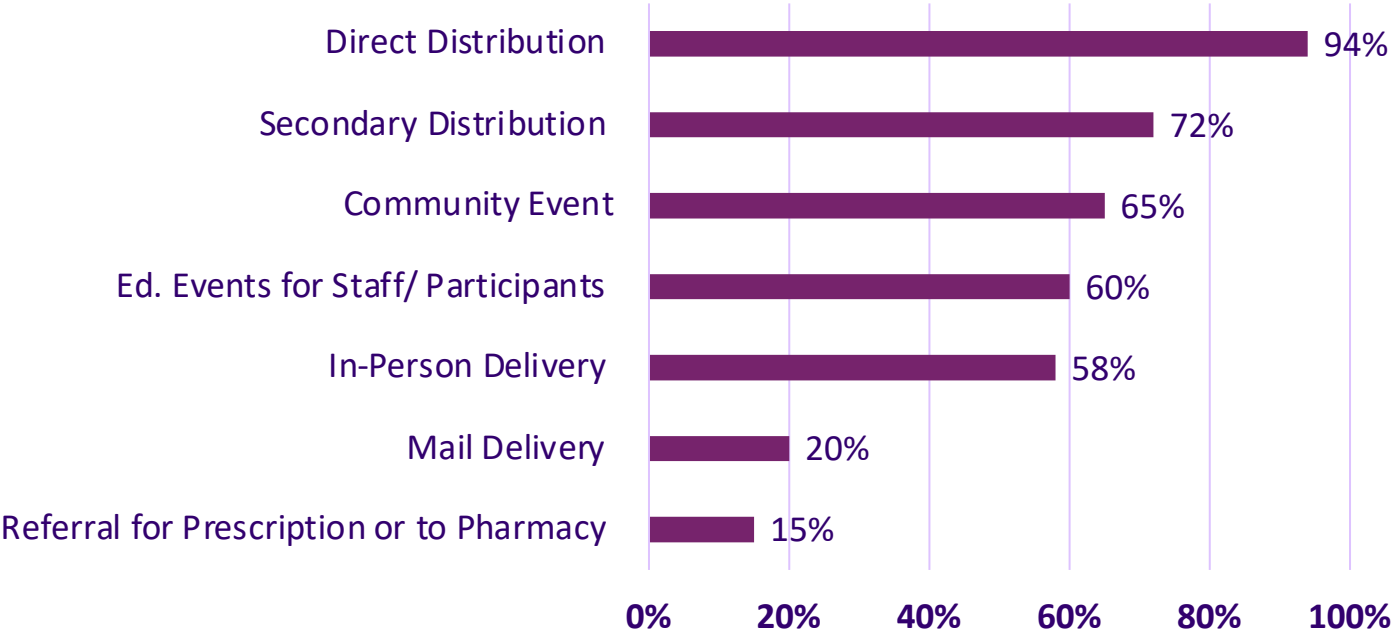


Naloxone Provision

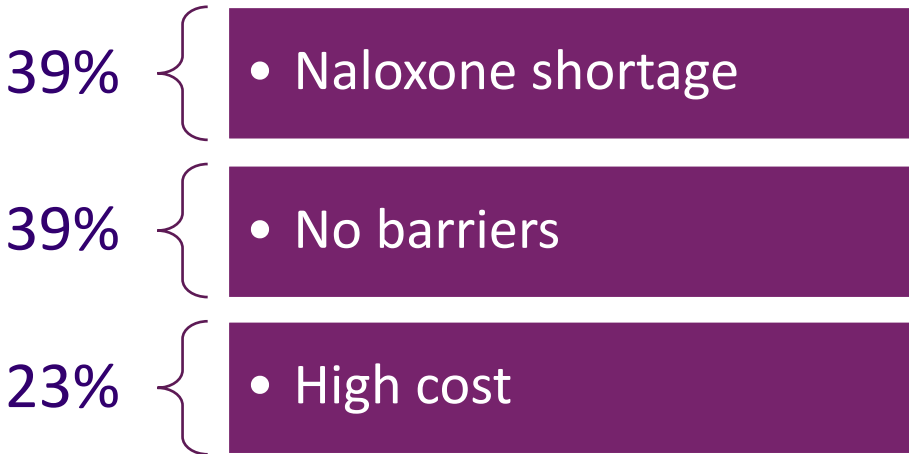
96% of SSPs provided naloxone kits



Methods of Naloxone Distribution

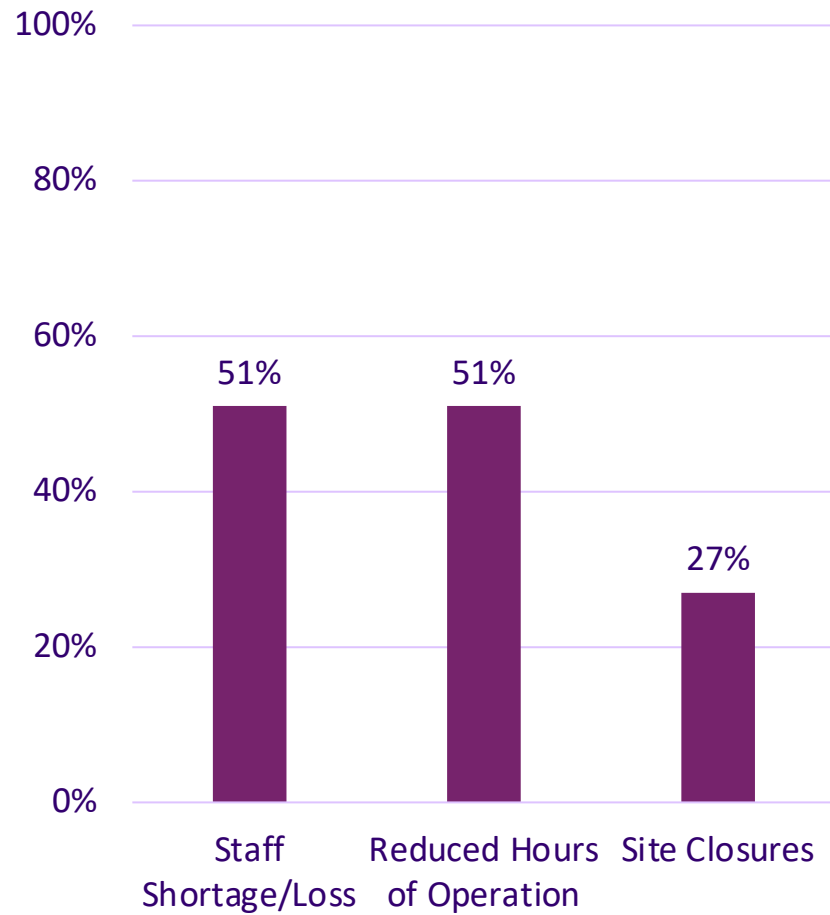


Naloxone Distribution Barriers

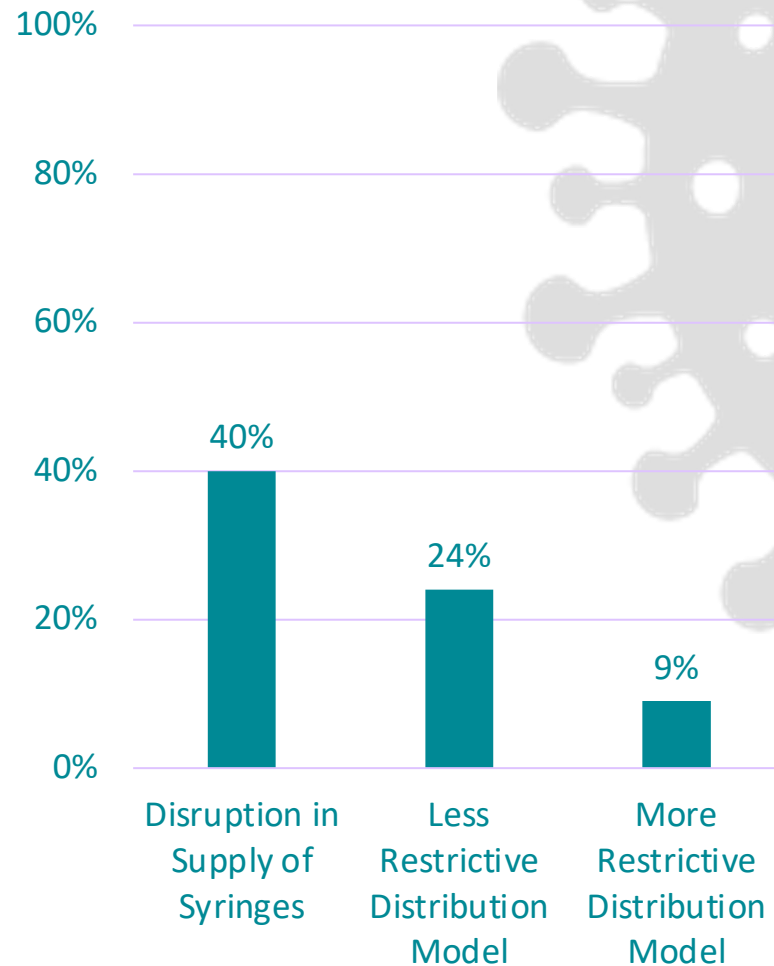


COVID-19 Impacts

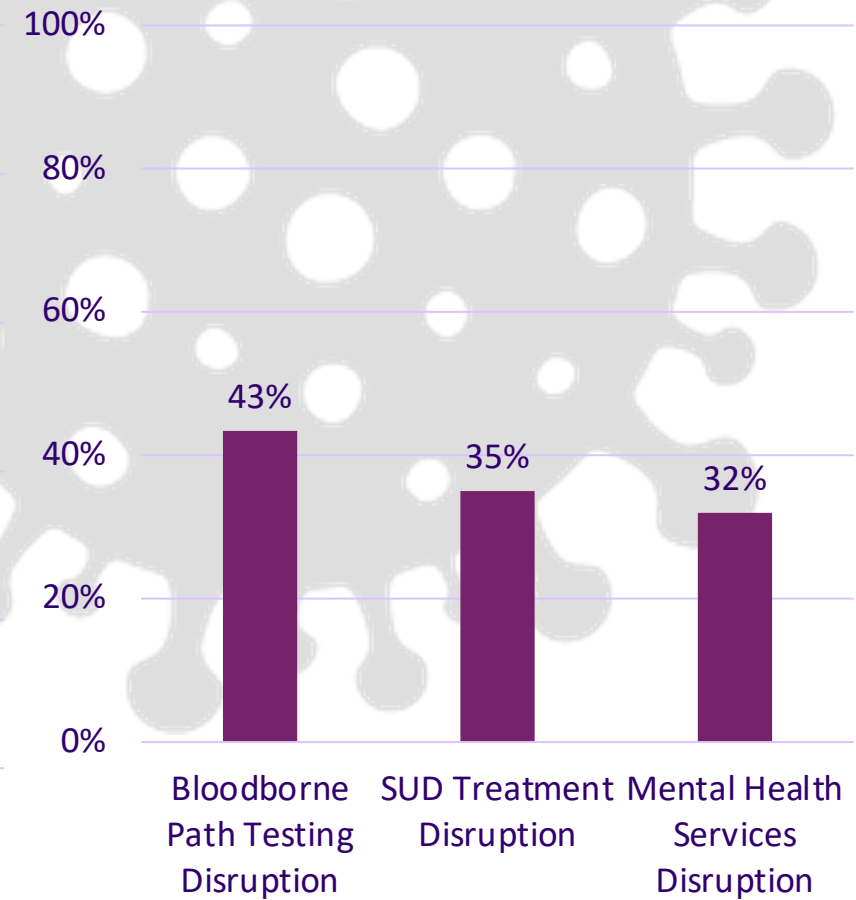
Operational Changes



Syringe Distribution Changes



Services Offered Changes



2022 Dave Purchase Memorial Survey

Conclusions

Response Rate Challenges



Survey fatigue



Confusion with other surveys



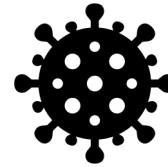
Survey length



SSPs are short-staffed



Competing priorities



COVID-19



Missing emails



Technology challenges



Outdated contact information

Conclusions

- The Dave Purchase Memorial Survey was historically the only national source of SSP data
- CDC is committed to using these data to support SSPs and people who use drugs
- Key findings
 - The vast majority of SSPs are implementing best practices for maximizing syringe coverage (e.g., needs-based, secondary exchange)
 - The minority of SSPs felt supported by law enforcement; the majority felt supported by public health
 - Demand increased during the pandemic, while programs were also facing significant challenges
- The low response rate makes it difficult to generalize findings to all SSPs in the US
- This pilot provided many lessons learned for conducting a federal survey with SSPs

Next Steps

Publicly available surveillance report in 2023

Key indicators in a dashboard with target goals (long term plan)

Survey findings will inform future funding of SSPs

- To all the SSPs that participated in the 2022 Dave Purchase Memorial Survey
- To all the SSPs that participated in any past Dave Purchase Memorial Survey

Your contribution ensured high-quality program data at the national level to improve resources for syringe services programs.



Thank You - Contributors

University of Washington

- Maria Corcorran
- Cao Fang
- Noah Frank
- Sara Glick
- Alexa Juarez
- Susan Kingston
- Tianna Kong
- Punita Kumar

NASEN

- Paul LaKosky
- Stephanie Prohaska
- Jack Tschudy

NYU

- Don Des Jarlais

CDC

- Monica Adams
- Amy Baugher
- Janet Burnett
- Dita Broz
- Pollyanna Chavez
- Aleta Christensen
- Brian Emerson
- Maleeha Fareed
- Nathan Furukawa
- Talia Pindyck
- Shilpa Patel

Cornell

- Czarina Behrends
- Cristina Chin
- Grace Corry
- Bruce Schackman