

HIV & Hepatitis Testing

You can become infected with blood-borne diseases such as HIV and hepatitis B and C by sharing used needles. It is important to know your HIV status so that you can protect your health and the health of others. A number of agencies in Los Angeles County provide HIV and hepatitis counseling and testing services.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. An estimate of over 56,000 persons are living with HIV or AIDS in Los Angeles County. For information on where you can get tested for HIV, contact:

**California AIDS Hotline
1-800-367-AIDS**

Hepatitis B and C may also be contracted by sharing dirty needles. Hepatitis C, especially common among injecting drug users, is a serious health problem and is the leading cause of liver transplants. For more information on where you can get tested for hepatitis B and C, contact:

**Hepatitis C Task Force for
Los Angeles County
(213)744-0724**

Drug Treatment Services

A variety of drug treatment services are available in Los Angeles County. If you would like help finding drug treatment in your area, please call:

**2-1-1 LA County
Info Line
1-800-339-6993**

For more information on DPDP or to obtain the names and addresses of participating pharmacies, contact:

Disease Prevention Demonstration Program

313 N. Figueroa St., Room 806

Los Angeles, CA 90012

213-240-8196

www.lapublichealth.org

Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP)

A Pharmacy-Based Hypodermic Needle and Syringe Purchase Program



**County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Health**

About the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project

Background

Sharing used syringes can spread blood-borne diseases such as HIV and hepatitis B and C among injection drug users, their sexual partners and their children.

Research shows that providing access to clean, sterile syringes may prevent the spread of these diseases.

About the Program

The Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP) authorizes licensed pharmacists at participating pharmacies to sell or furnish up to 10 hypodermic needles without a prescription to any person who is 18 years or older.

DPDP was created following passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1159. This bill was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on September 20, 2004, became effective January 1, 2005 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2010.

Needles or syringes acquired through DPDP that have been properly stored for disposal are not considered drug paraphernalia and may not be used as evidence of possession of paraphernalia.

Needles and syringes must be disposed of properly. It is against the law to dispose of a hypodermic needle or syringe on a playground, beach, and park or at any public or private school. ***Leaving needles in these places is punishable by a fine (\$200-\$2,000), imprisonment (up to six months), or both.***



Proper Disposal of Needles

How to dispose of used syringes:

- Place used needles/syringes in a Sharps container.
- If you do not have access to a sharps container, place needles or syringes in a rigid puncture-resistant container with secure lids or caps (such as a heavy plastic detergent or bleach bottle with secure cap) and label it "sharps."
- Store the sharps container in a secure location, away from children and pets.
- When the container is full, seal it, and be sure the word "sharps" is still clearly visible.

- Contact the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline (1-800-988-6942) *or* Coalition for Safe Needle Disposal (1-800-643-1643) to locate a nearby collection site for disposal.

Do Not:

- *Attempt to bend, break, or remove needles from the sharps container.*
- *Attempt to recap a needle that is not yours.*
- *Recycle or reuse your needles or syringes.*
- *Throw loose needles in the garbage.*
- *Flush used needles or syringes down the toilet.*
- *Put loose needles or containers containing needles in recycling bins/containers.*
- *Use glass containers to dispose of the needles or syringes.*
- *Dispose of needles or syringes in a trash receptacle without a container.*