

FREE SHARPS CONTAINERS: INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS

DAN NICHOLLS | RUOP iii-3 | 2017 | University of Washington School of Medicine

Hypothesis: Increasing public awareness of the under utilized free sharps containers program will decrease use of dirty needles and decrease infection rates of Hepatitis C

Background

- Douglas - located in eastern WY
- Pop ~ 6200 people
- Economy Driven by the Oil & Gas industries
- Home of the world famous Jackalope
- Local infection rates of Hep C have increased 225% over the last few years
- Most of these infections are related to use of dirty needles



Free Portable Sharps Container

Deliverables

- Designed new brochures and flyers to be placed at strategic spots describing the program
- Discussed program with local providers

What's Next

- Media Advertisements (paper/radio)
- Presentation at quarterly healthcare providers meeting at hospital

Literature Review

- Sharps containers, disposal, and needle exchange programs have shown to decrease infection rates
- Studies have shown that these programs are under utilized

Community Health Project

- Increase Public awareness of this program by disseminating information about the program to the public and healthcare providers



Jackalope Square -Downtown Douglas

