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About Us

- The IDEA Exchange is Florida's first legal syringe exchange program
- The program launched on World AIDS day, December 1st 2016
- Program Services:
 - Sterile syringe Exchange
 - Free anonymous HIV and HCV Testing
 - Referrals to HIV & HCV treatment and counseling services
 - Referrals to drug treatment services
 - Overdose Prevention
 - Basic Wound Care



Bill 242- Infectious Disease Elimination Act, 2016

- Effective 07/01/2016
- Authorizes the University of Miami and its affiliates to establish a sterile needle and syringe exchange pilot program in Miami-Dade County; providing that the possession, distribution, or exchange of needles and syringes under the pilot program is not a violation of the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act or any other law.
- The possession, distribution, or exchange of needles or syringes as part of the pilot program established under this subsection is not a violation of any part of chapter 893 or any other law.



Program Data

- 235 participants thru 04/19/17
- 1277 transactions
- 21,412 needles in
- 19,778 needles out
- HIV tests- 105
 - 7.7% of participants are HIV positives
- HCV tests- 74
 - 53.2% of the participants have either self-reported or tested HCV positive during enrollment



Mobile Unit Services

- Launching in April 2017
- Extends the program's services throughout Miami-Dade County
- Locations include:
 - Florida City/ Homestead
 - Liberty City/ Hialeah
 - Miami Gardens/ Opa-Locka
 - Miami Beach



Overdose Prevention

- In response to the recent influx in opioid overdoses in Miami-Dade County, the IDEA Exchange has partnered with SFBHN to provide NARCAN to participants
- The IDEA Exchange will provide training and free doses to:
 - IDEA Exchange participants
 - Family and friends of participants
 - Law enforcement partners



Program Challenges

- Building trust from people who inject (PWI) community
- Reaching younger and non homeless PWI population
- Educating and partnering with law enforcement
- Building community awareness and involvement in the opioid crisis
- Providing successful links to medical care and drug rehabilitation treatment programs



IDEA Exchange Partners

- Miami-Dade Department of Health
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- South Florida Behavioral Health Network
- Camillus House
- Care Resource
- The Village
- Center for AIDS Research
- South Florida AIDS Network



Questions & Discussions

