



NC Safer Syringe Initiative Annual Report, 2024-2025

Syringe services programs (SSPs) are an **evidence-based strategy to reduce overdose deaths, reduce transmission of blood-borne pathogens including HIV and hepatitis C (HCV), and connect participants to treatment and care.** These programs play a vital role in public health, safety, and the provision of compassionate, person-centered care for people at risk of overdose. There are 52 programs registered with the NC Safer Syringe Initiative (NCSSI) that provide direct services in **77 counties and 2 federally recognized tribes** across North Carolina (NC). These overdose prevention programs provided support to nearly 30,000 people last year. This report summarizes data reported from **July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025** to the Division of Public Health (DPH) from all registered SSPs in NC about their services. Visit [NCSSI](#) for more information.

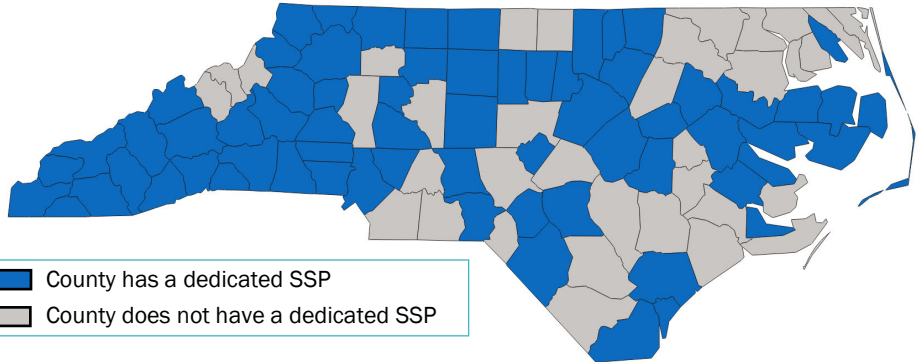
The North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative aims to ensure that anyone in NC can access SSP services.



29,922 unique individuals were served across all programs in the 2024-2025 reporting year. This represents a decrease of 6% since the last reporting year.



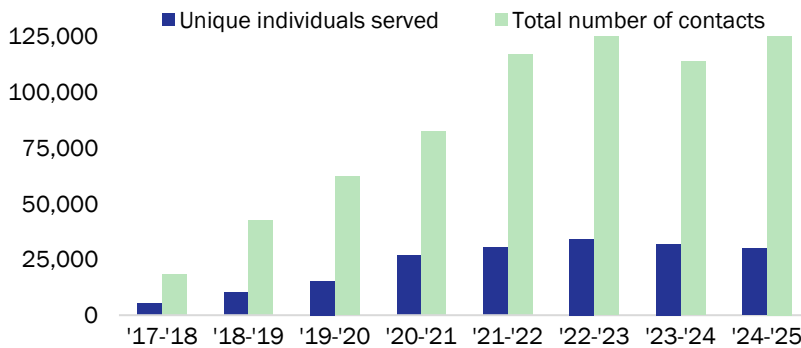
Programs had **135,553** total contacts* with participants in the 2024-2025 reporting year. This represents an increase of 19% from the previous year.



*A contact can be any interaction with a participant that provides connection to overdose prevention or referral services. A single participant can have multiple interactions/contacts.

Visit [SSP List](#) for established SSPs.

Individuals Served and Total Contacts* by SSPs



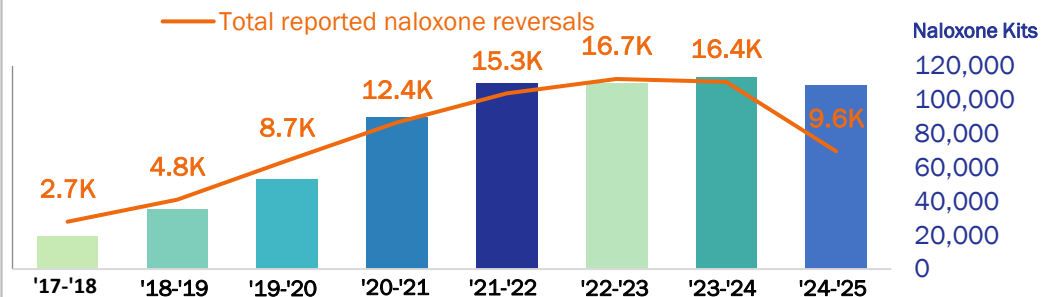
Despite expanded coverage, many people still lack access to overdose prevention services, as shown by participants traveling from 13 additional counties. NC's strong SSP network also draws individuals from five other states (VA, TN, SC, GA, FL).

9,565

overdose reversals were reported to SSPs in 2024-2025.

This represents a 2% decrease from the previous year, though it is likely an underestimate of the total overdose reversals by SSP participants, as many go unreported.

SSPs distributed **108,492** naloxone kits in the 2024-2025 reporting year. This is a decrease of 4% from the previous year.



The downward trends across many of these data points reflect national reductions in overdose and shifts in the drug supply and how people use drugs following a devastating peak in overdoses in 2021-2022.

Source: Annual Reporting Data, submitted by registered North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative programs, as of October 2025.

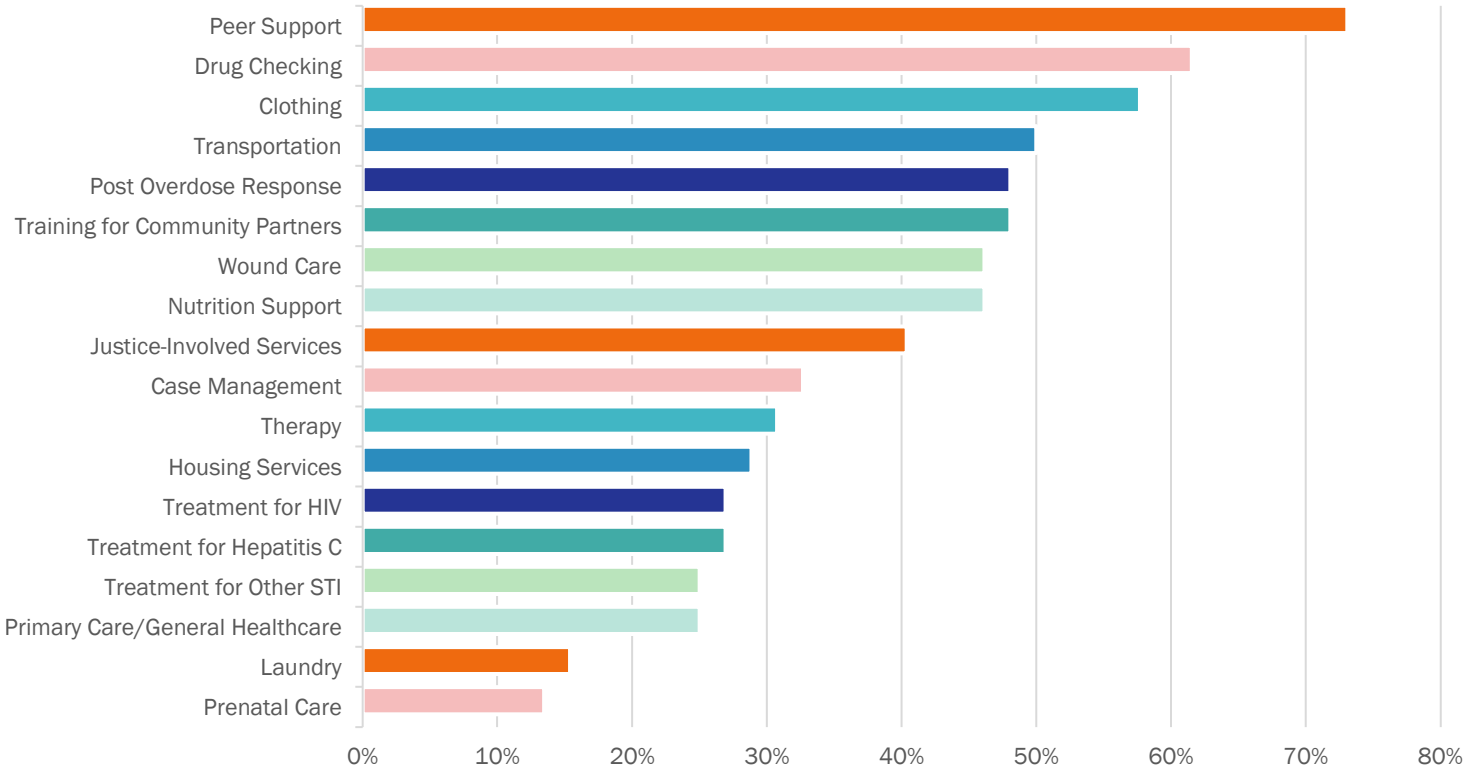
SSPs distribute supplies and other resources that save lives.

A key purpose of SSPs is to provide participants with resources and supplies that are used to mitigate risks associated with substance use while also facilitating the safe disposal² of these supplies.

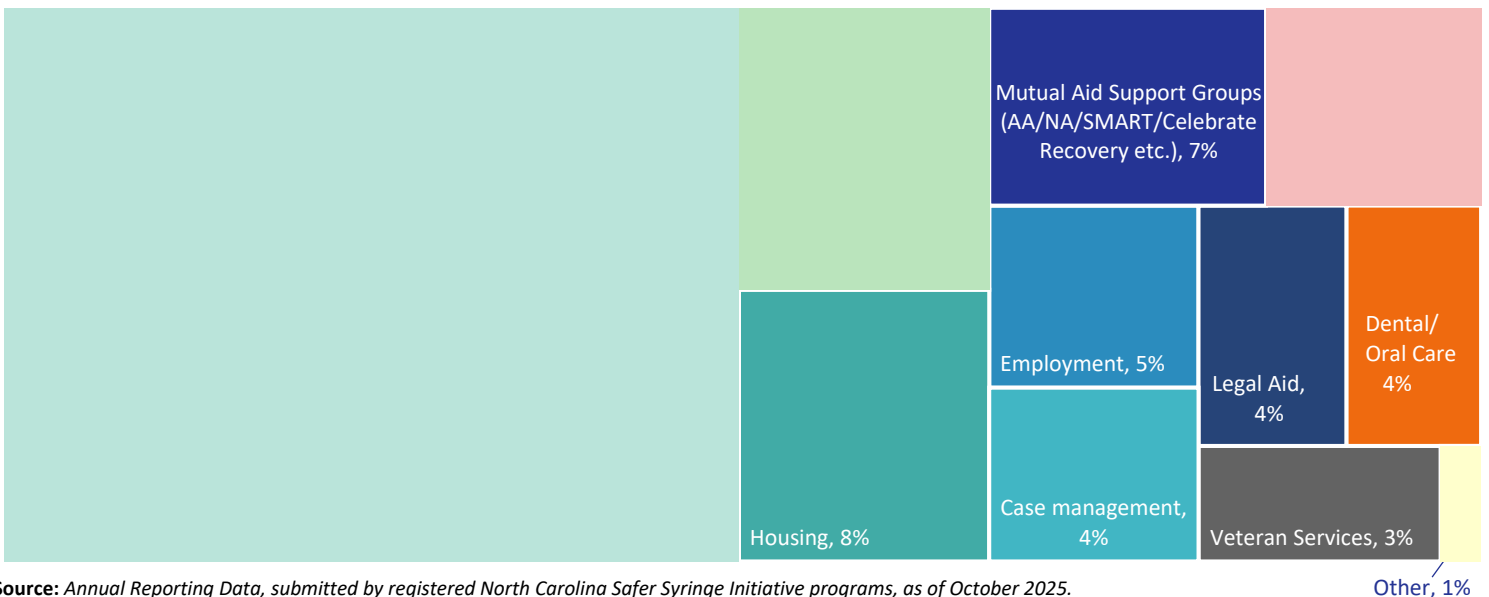
²[NCDEQ Safe Disposal Standards](#)

SSPs directly support participants with clothing, nutrition, transportation, wound care, and other important wraparound services.

In the 2024-2025 reporting year, the following percent of SSPs provided these services directly to their participants:



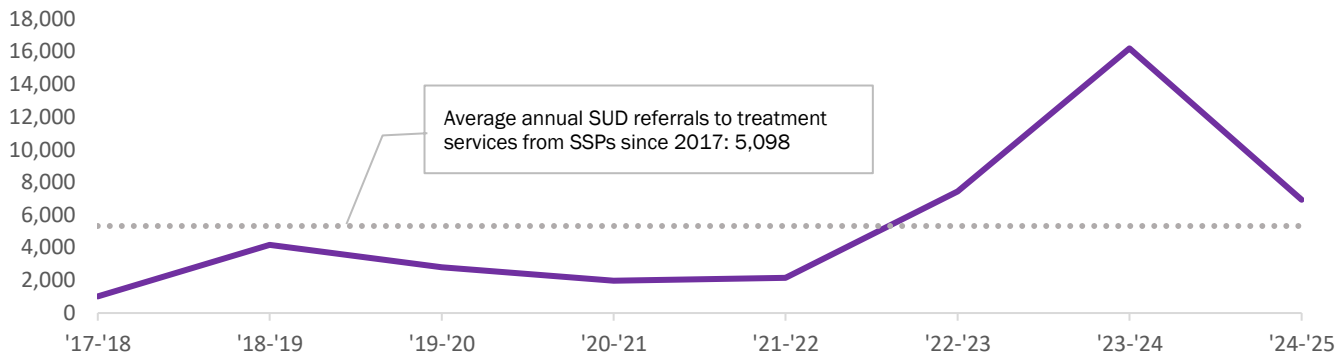
In 2024-2025, SSPs made **over 3,600 referrals** to services that support the personalized needs of participants including: food and nutrition providers, primary medical care, housing, employment, education, childcare and **much more!** The following breaks down the percentage of those 3,600 referrals by category:



Source: Annual Reporting Data, submitted by registered North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative programs, as of October 2025.

SSPs connect with participants who are often disconnected from health services.

Statewide efforts for increased access to evidence-based treatment services helped SSPs make **over 6,928 referrals*** to substance use disorder (SUD) or mental health treatment in the 2024-2025 reporting year. This is a decrease of 57% from the previous year.



*referrals may include FAQ sheets about local treatment provider options and other services.

In 2024-2025, SSPs also made **1,976** referrals & **1,577** linkages to HIV, HCV, and other STI testing and treatment providers for participants.

Among those offering testing on-site this year:

22 SSPs offered HIV testing
1,552 HIV tests conducted
21 SSPs offered HCV testing
1,470 HCV tests conducted

Source: Annual Reporting Data, submitted by registered North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative programs, as of October 2025.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Support of Overdose Prevention Programs

North Carolina law (G.S. 90-113.27) allows for the legal establishment of hypodermic syringe and needle exchange programs.³ NCDHHS's support of overdose prevention and risk reduction programs remains in alignment with the legislative statutes in NC.

³Visit <https://tinyurl.com/NCSSPLaw>



Supply Purchase

NCDHHS continues to purchase supplies for SSPs to support linkages to care, including naloxone, wound care, and personal hygiene supplies. Since 2020, DHHS has provided over **1 million** doses of naloxone directly to all registered SSPs across the state.



InjuryFree NC Academy on Overdose Prevention and Risk Reduction

In collaboration with the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center, the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch hosted four days of virtual training and four days of in-person training for people who work in the risk reduction and overdose prevention space. Training and educational sessions included topics like: Principles of Risk Reduction, Trauma-Informed Services, Drug Checking, Wound Care, Centering Lived Experience, and more.



SSP Learning Collaborative

In collaboration with NC Harm Reduction Coalition and other SSPs across the state, DHHS brings together NC SSP leaders several times a year to share perspectives, build capacity and skills, and discuss ongoing work and program planning.



NC Opioid and Substance Use Action Plan SSP Advisory Group

This group meets every other month to discuss current trends and needs. The SSP Advisory Group informs and guides our work to ensure NCDHHS priorities align with the needs of the community.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

Chronic Disease & Injury Section • Injury and Violence Prevention Branch •
Overdose Epidemic • NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

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