



Standard Table 10 Syringe availability

1. - Methodological information

1.1 Justification

The prevention and reduction of health-related harm associated with drug dependence has been the subject of a Council Recommendation in 2003 (2003/488/EC) and is addressed in the current EU Drugs Strategy and both of its Action Plans.

These instruments call on Member States to develop a range of specific services and facilities aiming at risk reduction, among them measures to reduce the incidence of infectious diseases.

The sharing of contaminated syringes and other drug use paraphernalia among drug users is one of the main reasons for the transmission of infectious diseases in this group. Since the 1980s, drugs and health agencies in European countries are implementing needle and syringe programmes (NSPs), providing sterile syringes and other equipment to drug users, to prevent health-related harm.

The tasks of the EMCDDA comprise the monitoring of the state of the drugs problem and of the responses to drug related problems, including harm reduction measures. The Centre is furthermore charged with the development of tools and instruments to increase data comparability and to facilitate the Member States' and the Commission's monitoring and evaluation of their respective policies, and with providing a platform for the exchange of latest evidence and best practice in the field.

1.2. – Objectives

Mandatory sections:

Sections A , B and C of this standard table on syringe availability are mandatory and aimed at collecting data on modes of syringe delivery (types of NSPs), on the number and geographical spread of NSP sites, extent of outreach delivery, as well as on the number of syringes provided by such programmes.

Voluntary sections:

In sections D and E, the level of utilisation of NSP sites is addressed. While monitoring systems don't exist in all countries, an increasing number of countries is able to provide data or estimates of the population of service users. In Section D, data on the number of individual clients using such specialised services or/and the number of NSP occasions of service (client contacts) are collected. Section E asks for an estimate of the volume of syringe sales to drug injectors at pharmacies or drug stores.

Section F allows you to comment on the ST as a whole.

1.3. - Table Structure

A – NSP types and availability

B – Availability of information on geographical spread of NSPs in the country

C – Syringe provision at NSPs

D – Utilisation of NSPs (voluntary)

E - Pharmacy syringe sales to drug injectors (voluntary)

F - Further general comments on syringe availability

1.4. - **Definitions**NSP: The acronym NSP is the abbreviation for the term 'needle and syringe programme'. This means the provision of sterile syringes and hypodermic needles as well as of further injecting paraphernalia to injecting drug users. NSPs can also be implemented at pharmacies or in prisons.

NSP site: The term 'site' is used to describe physically distinct outlets where syringes can be obtained for free, against payment or in exchange against used ones.

Pharmacy-based NSP: syringe provision to drug injectors is organised through the pharmacy network, based on a protocol, usually involving subsidised syringe provision.

Provision: The term provision covers the exchange, sale and the free distribution of syringes.

Secondary syringe provision: Distribution of syringes to drug injectors by peers, drug users' partners or friends. Secondary syringe providers collect a larger amount of syringes at a NSP site and act as distribution agent for one or more IDUs.

The term '**Specialist agency with NSP**' is used to describe outpatient drug counselling centers, low-threshold agencies, shelters, or drug consumption rooms, as well as other medical or social facilities (hospital emergency ward, public health facility) where syringes and other injecting equipment are provided to drug injectors. Many but not all of these agencies employ outreach teams who work on foot or from a specially equipped van/bus. The term **agency** is hereby used in a wider sense.

1.5. - **EMCDDA report identification**

1.5.1 - EMCDDA year of data collection

1.6. - **Report identification**

1.6.1 - Country (and region, if applicable)

1.6.2 - Year of data:

1.6.3 - Name of the person submitting this report:

1.6.4 - E-mail address:

1.6.5 - Institutional affiliation

1.6.6 - Other experts involved in providing information for this report

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2. - A - NSP TYPES AND NUMBER OF SITES AVAILABLE

2.1. - Types of NSPs

2.1.1 - Please provide information about overall availability of different modes of syringe delivery in your country and on the number of sites per type. Indicate whether the data are an estimate or not.

Answer options:

- if Yes, please enter **Y**
- if No, please enter **N**
- if no information is available, please enter **N.i.**
- if the type of NSP does not exist in your country, please enter **"0"** in Number of sites

| | Number of cities/villages with NSP sites | Number of sites | Is this an estimate? |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|
|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|

Specialist agencies with NSP (fixed location)

Syringe vending/dispensing machines

Pharmacy-based NSPs

Prison-based NSPs

Other (please specify below):

2.1.2 - Specify please "Other type of NSP"

2.1.3 - If the number of sites is based on estimation, please provide information about methodology. Data should refer to the "year of data", if they concern other years, please indicate this here

2.1.4 - Total number of pharmacies in the country

2.1.5 - Please indicate if syringes are sold at all pharmacies. Please inform also about other syringe sale outlets in your country

2.1.6 - Please provide information about overall availability of type and number of outreach syringe provision sites serviced on a regular basis (at least once per week).

Answer options:

- if Yes please enter **Y**
- if No please enter **N**
- if no information is available, please enter **N.i.**
- if outreach sites do not exist in your country, please **"0"** in Number of sites

| | Number of cities/villages with outreach syringe provision | Number of outreach sites | Is this an estimate? |
|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|

Sites serviced by street outreach workers

Sites serviced by van or other vehicle

2.1.7 - If the number of sites is based on estimation, please provide information about methodology. Data should refer to the "year of data", if they concern other years, please indicate this here.(outreach sites)

2.1.8 - Please estimate the percentage (%) of specialist agencies with NSP which have established schemes of secondary syringe distribution

2.2. - Further information to section A

2.2.1 - SOURCES and REFERENCES to the information provided in section A

2.2.2 - Comments to section A

3. - **B - GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF NSP-SITE IN THE COUNTRY**
3.1. - Number of NSP sites per territorial unit
 National information about the number of NSP sites per specified territorial unit NUTS3 or, if information is not available, per specified territorial unit NUTS2 will be collected in separate Excel workbooks provided by the EMCDDA.

NUTS: Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, see Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), further information at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/region_cities/regional_statistics/nuts_classification.

4. - **C - SYRINGE PROVISION**

4.1. - **Syringes provided at NSP sites**

4.1.1 - Please provide information on the total number of syringes provided at different types of NSP sites and indicate reporting coverage.

Answer options:

- if yes, please enter **Y**
- if no, please enter **N**
- if no information is available, please enter **N.i.**
- if the type of NSP does not exist in your country, please enter **"0"** in the number of syringes

| | Number of syringes | Is this an estimate? | Percentage of sites reporting |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Specialist agencies with NSP, incl. syringes through outreach delivery | | | |
| Syringe vending/dispensing machines | | | |
| Pharmacy-based NSPs | | | |
| Prison-based NSPs | | | |
| Other (as specified under 2.1.1) | | | |

4.1.2 - If the number of syringes is based on estimation, please provide information about methodology. Data should refer to the "year of data", if they concern other years, please indicate this here

4.2. - **Further information to section C**

4.2.1 - SOURCES and REFERENCES to the information provided in section C

4.2.2 - Comments to section C

5. - **D - UTILISATION OF NSPs (voluntary)**

5.1. - **Clients and contacts at NSPs**

5.1.1 - Please provide information on the number of **all individual clients** in contact with different types of NSP sites during the reporting year and, if available, about the number of **new clients** among those.

Answer options:

- if Yes please enter **Y**
- if No please enter **N**
- if no information is available, please enter **N.i.**
- if the type of NSP does not exist in your country, please enter **"0"** in Number of All/New clients

| Number of ALL NSP clients | Is this an estimate [ALL]? | Percentage of agencies reporting [ALL] | Number of NEW NSP clients | Is this an estimate [NEW]? | Percentage of agencies reporting [NEW] |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|

| | Number of ALL NSP clients | Is this an estimate [ALL]? | Percentage of agencies reporting [ALL] | Number of NEW NSP clients | Is this an estimate [NEW]? | Percentage of agencies reporting [NEW] |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Specialist agencies with NSP | | | | | | |
| Pharmacy-based NSPs | | | | | | |
| Prison-based NSPs | | | | | | |
| Other (as specified under 2.1.1) | | | | | | |

5.1.2 - Please clarify, if the data reported under

5.1.1 "Specialist agencies" refer only to clients using the syringe programme, or if they represent all users of the agencies

5.1.3 - Please provide information on the number of **client contacts** in NSPs in the reporting year.

Answer options:

- if Yes please enter **Y**
- if No please enter **N**
- if no information is available, please enter **N.i.**
- if the NSP type does not exist in your country, please enter **"0"** in Number of client contacts

| | Number of client contacts | Is this an estimate? | Percentage of agencies reporting |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Specialist agencies with NSP | | | |
| Pharmacy-based NSPs | | | |
| Prison-based NSPs | | | |
| Other (as specified under 2.1.1) | | | |

5.1.4 - Please clarify, if the data reported under

5.1.3 "Specialist agencies" refer only to client contacts within the syringe programme, or if they represent all clients contacts of these agencies

5.2. - Further information to section D

5.2.1 - Please provide **case-definition** for '**client**' that was used in section D

5.2.2 - If available, please provide an estimate of the **percentage of IDUs** who received clean syringes through NSPs in the reporting year at least once

5.2.3 - If available, please provide short summary of results of national or local **studies of NSP coverage**.

5.2.4 - If available, please provide short summary of results of local or national **surveys among NSP clients** (characteristics, patterns of service use)

5.2.5 - SOURCES and REFERENCES to the information provided in section D

5.2.6 - Comments to section D

6. - E - PHARMACY SYRINGE SALES TO DRUG INJECTORS (voluntary)

6.1. - Estimated volume of pharmacy sales

6.1.1 - Please provide an estimate of the **total volume of pharmacy syringe sales** to drug users at pharmacies, drug stores or other licensed sales outlets. Indicate how you arrived at this estimate and provide references to relevant studies

6.1.2 - Comments to section E

7. - F - FURTHER GENERAL COMMENTS:

7.1. - Additional comments

7.1.1 - Please provide any further comments concerning questionnaire "Syringe availability"

Thank you for providing this information!