



Standard Table 10

Syringe availability v.5/2008

1. Methodological information

1.1 - Report identification

1.1.1 – Country: *

1.1.2 - Year of data: *

1.1.3 - Name of the person submitting this report: *

1.1.4 - E-mail address:

1.1.5 - Institutional affiliation:

1.1.6 - Other experts involved in providing information for this report:

* Mandatory fields

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1.2. - 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 Action Plan 2005 – 2008, specifically in objectives 14 to 17.

Both 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 injecting paraphernalia among drug users is the main reason for the transmission of infectious diseases. Since the 1980s, drugs and health agencies in European countries are 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.

1.3. - Objectives

This standard table on syringe availability is aimed at collecting data on types and availability of needle and syringe programmes, on the geographical spread, the level of provision of syringes through such programmes, and about the number of client contacts and/or individual clients using such specialised services.

Furthermore, it asks for information on estimated pharmacy syringe sales, and for references of research studies covering this field. Parts D (NSP utilisation) and E (pharmacy sales) are voluntary parts of this Standard Table.

1.4. - 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)

1.5. - 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. However, this service has over the past decades increasingly lost its "programme"-character (in the narrow sense of the word) and has become one among many different health promotion and harm reduction services provided at specialist drugs agencies and health facilities on a regular basis. This is why the acronym stands increasingly simply for "needle and syringe provision". NSPs can also be based at pharmacies.

Syringe provision point (SPPs) : The term is used to describe physically distinct outlets managed by specialist drugs or medical agencies where syringes can be obtained for free, against payment or in exchange against used ones.

Secondary syringe exchange: This term describes the provision of syringes to one or several injecting drug users through a peer or friend, who acts as a distribution agent. This implies that the larger amounts of clean syringes are provided to those NSP users.

LAU: The term LAU is the abbreviation for Local Administrative Unit. LAU 2 stands for the smallest of such units. An overview can be found , and you find an overview in the table on Correspondence between NUTS levels and the national administrative units (2003) at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nuts/lau_en.html.

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.

Pharmacy-based NSP: the exchange of syringes and/or free or subsidised syringe provision is organised through the pharmacy network, based on a protocol, usually involving subsidised syringe provision.

NUTS: The term has been created by the EU and means Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics. A country by country overview of these statistical units can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nuts/basicnuts_regions_en.html.

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

2. A - NSP TYPES AND NUMBER AVAILABLE

2.1. - Agencies with NSP

2.1.1 - Please provide an information of overall availability of NSPs in the country, number of NSP units available and whether it is an estimate or not:

(use Y for 'yes' etc.)

	Overall availability			Number	Is this an estimate?
Specialist agencies with NSP	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Syringe vending/dispensing machines	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Pharmacy-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Prison-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

2.1.2 - Specify please "Other type of NSP":

2.1.3 - Total number of pharmacies in the country:

2.1.4 - Source of information on total number of pharmacies in the country:

2.1.5 - Type and number of different syringe provision points (SPPs) serviced on a regular basis by specialised agencies:

(regular = at least once per week)

	Overall availability			Number	Is this an estimate?
Fixed location SPPs	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
SPPs serviced by street outreach workers	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
SPPs serviced by van or other vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> no information		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

2.1.6 - Please estimate what percentage (%) of specialist agencies with NSP have established schemes of secondary syringe distribution⁽¹⁾:

⁽¹⁾ The term '**secondary syringe provision**' is used to describe the distribution of syringes to drug injectors by peers, or by drug users' partners or friends. These collect a certain amount of syringes at the agency and give them out to one or more IDUs.

2.2. - Comments 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 - AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF NSPs IN THE COUNTRY

3.1. - NSPs per NUTS3

link: [NUTS 3](#) territorial units

3.1.1 - Is information on the location of specified NSPs available per specified territorial unit NUTS3:

- Yes
- No
- No information

3.2. - NSPs per LAU2

link: [LAU 2](#) local administrative units

3.2.1 - Is information on the location of specified NSPs available per specified local administrative unit LAU2:

- Yes
- No
- No information

3.3. - Comments to section B

3.3.1 - SOURCES and REFERENCES to the information provided in section B:

3.3.2 - Comments to section B:

4. C - SYRINGE PROVISION

4.1. - Syringes provided through NSP agencies

4.1.1 - Please provide information on the total number of syringes provided at different types of agencies/provision outlets and indicate reporting coverage:

	Number	Percentage of agencies reporting
Specialist agencies with NSP		
Syringe vending/dispensing machines		
Pharmacy-based NSPs		
Prison-based NSPs		
Other (please specify below)		

4.2. - Comments 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 NSP

5.1.1 - Please provide information on the number of **all** individual clients using NSP agencies in the reporting year and in addition on the number of **new** clients among those:
(if no number of clients available, please enter 'N.I.' for 'no information')

	Number of ALL NSP clients	Is this an estimate? ALL clients	Percentage of agencies reporting ALL clients
Specialist agencies with NSP	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Syringe vending/dispensing machines	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Pharmacy-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Prison-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	

	Number of NEW NSP clients	Is this an estimate? NEW clients	Percentage of agencies reporting NEW clients
Specialist agencies with NSP	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Syringe vending/dispensing machines	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Pharmacy-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Prison-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	

5.1.2 - Please provide information on the number of **client contacts** in NSPs in the reporting year:
(if no number of clients available, please enter 'N.I.' for 'no information')

	Number of client contacts	Is this an estimate?	Percentage of agencies reporting
Specialist agencies with NSP	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Syringe vending/dispensing machines	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Pharmacy-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Prison-based NSPs	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> N.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	

5.2. - Comments 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 all IDUs** that have used an NSP in the **reporting year at least once**.

5.2.3 - If available, please provide **references** to national or local **studies of NSP coverage**:

5.2.4 - Report any **research results on pattern of NSP use** (always, intermittent, sporadic, etc.) by IDUs:

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

6.1.1 - Please provide an estimate of the **total volume of pharmacy syringe sales** to drug users. Indicate **on what the estimation is based**; provide **references** to relevant studies.

6.1.2 - Comments to section E:

7. F - FURTHER GENERAL COMMENTS:

7.1. - Comments to questionnaire "Syringe availability"

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

Thank you for providing this information!