# Customizing Data Infrastructure for Syringe Services Programs in North Carolina

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# CONTEXT

- Evidence shows that comprehensive syringe services programs (SSPs) are safe, effective, and cost-saving, do not increase drug use, and are vital to preventing disease transmission and infections.
- North Carolina requires registered SSPs to report metrics (e.g., syringes and naloxone distributed) annually.
- Many SSPs have limited technology resources, using a combination of paper and free tools such as Google Sheets for data management.
- As many SSPs offer services beyond syringe distribution, such as linkage-to-care services and referrals to treatment, data management can become a challenge.
- Demand for services has been increasing since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **METHODS**

- The Duke University School of Medicine
  Opioid Collaboratory partnered with Olive
  Branch Ministry (OBM) to develop a
  customized REDCap-based database system
  for SSPs.
- The initial design was inspired by Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition's database (<a href="https://youtu.be/hBmeAM9Wifc">https://youtu.be/hBmeAM9Wifc</a>), OBM's paper forms, and annual reporting requirements for SSPs in NC.
- Duke REDCap developers programmed the database.
- We refined the database over several months in an iterative process of programming, testing with OBM, and modifying.
- We created a user manual to support training.
- Real data entry went live with OBM in January 2021.

# **RESULTS**

The Record Home Page shows all of the forms available for a participant.

The system generate

Record ID 3 ASH-CDF-1980-C

The system generates an ID number based on the SSP's format.

Record ID

Unique ID: CAT-CDF-1980-C

**Encounter County** 

Team member

Syringes out #

Syringes received for disposal #

Is having enough food a current need or concern?

Do you feel physically and emotionally safe where you

Data Collection Instrument	Baseline	Follow Up	
Demographics (survey)	<b>Ø</b>		
Unique ID and Age			
SSP Intake (survey)			
Social Determinants of Health (survey)			
Services		+	
Case Note		( +	
OORT Intake		Forms for Opioid Overd Response Teams includinformation release	
Authorization (survey)			
OORT Follow-up / Progress Note		authorizations	
MAT Treatment		(-) (+)	
Hepatitis C Treatment			
Social Determinants Trends			

gend for status icons:	
Incomplete	Incomplete (no data saved) ?
Unverified	Partial Survey Response
Complete	Completed Survey Response
Many statuses (mixed)	Many statuses (all same)

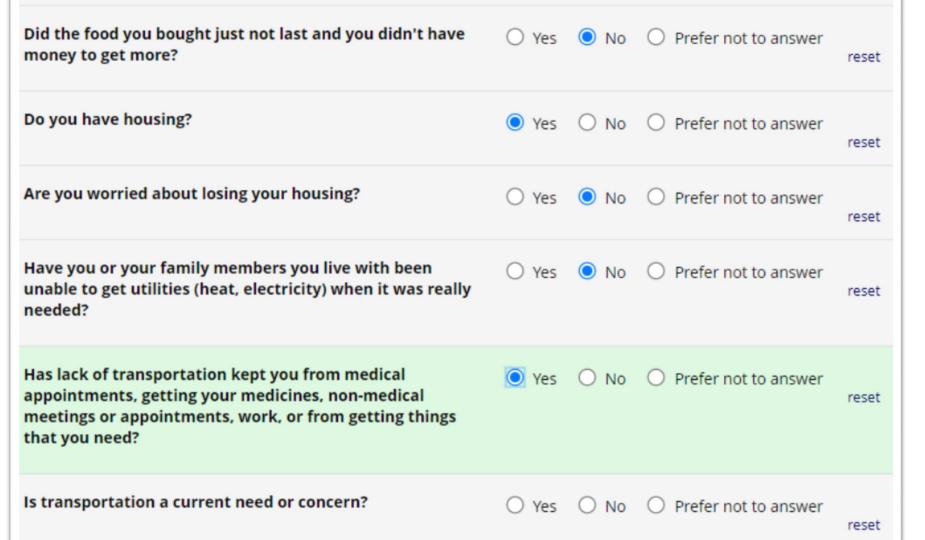
Data can be entered on a tablet, computer, or smart phone.

Services Table





Complete the intake surveys yourself by scanning this QR code



Within the past year...

Did you worry that your food would run out before you got 

No Prefer not to answer

Cabarrus

Andrea

✓ Syringes out

Injection kits out

☐ Bio container out ☐ Condoms out

Alcohol wipes

Sterile water

Cotton packets

Tourniquets

03-05-2021 Today M-D-Y

✓ Syringes received for disposal

Bio container received for disposal

O Yes O No O Prefer not to answer

Other supplies returned

Staff track supplies distributed, used syringes received, and other services provided using a repeating instrument.

The Social
Determinants of Health
survey collects
information used both
for case management,
and for tracking
program impact over
time.

Participants can complete intake forms and SDOH surveys on tablets provided by the SSP, or on their own smartphones.



SSPs provide diverse services

Image credit: CDC, <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/">https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/</a>

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- SSPs are interested in and committed to high quality methods for data management
- More investment in data infrastructure for SSPs is needed

### **NEXT STEPS**

- We are currently building a companion tool to make it easier for SSPs to work with and visualize their data.
- We are planning to adapt the database for scale up to additional SSPs
- There is interest from the NC Division of Public Health in hosting the database

This project is part of the Duke School of Medicine Opioid Collaboratory portfolio, funded by the Duke Endowment and administered through the Duke Department of Population Health Sciences, which is designed to save lives and reduce the harmful impact of opioids in North Carolina through the development, implementation, and evaluation of system-level interventions.

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