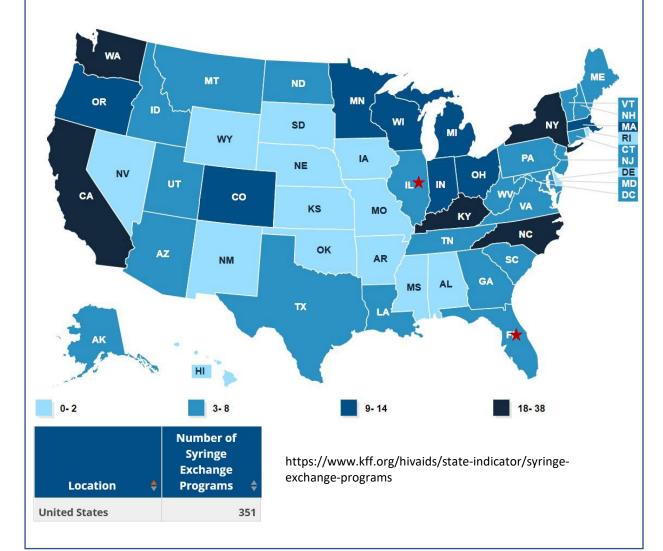


Development and Implementation of Innovative Syringe Service Programs for Veterans in Rural and Urban Settings

Minh Q Ho DO¹, Elizabeth Dinges PharmD², Karen Slazinski PharmD³, Jacqueline Byrd PharmD³, Mohammed S Ahmed MD¹

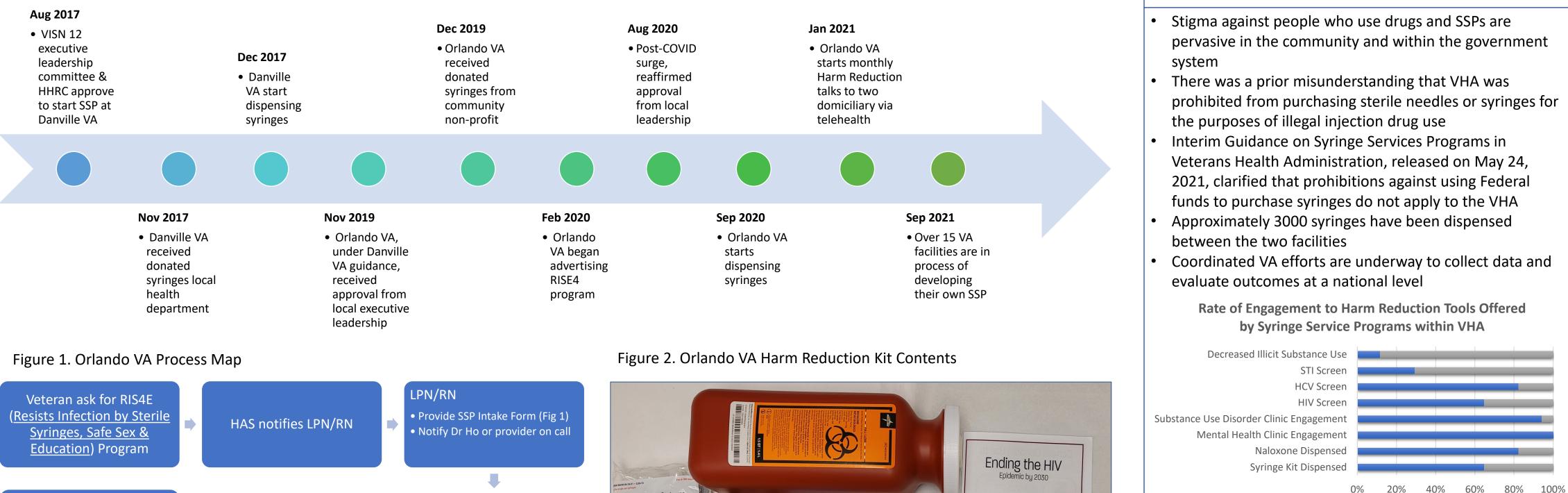
INTRODUCTION

- Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) are one aspect of a comprehensive Harm Reduction approach necessary to reduce the transmission of blood borne infections including, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) estimates that in 2019, 595,000 veterans engaged in opioid misuse with at least 57,000 veterans engaging in heroin.
- Based on tracking done by Kaiser Family Foundation, there are a total of 351 Sterile Syringe Exchange Programs (see map below)
- Currently there are only 2 active Sterile Syringe Program within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), as indicated by stars, Danville, Illinois and Orlando, Florida
- Both VAs have set precedent for more than 15 other VA facilities which are currently developing their own SSPs



OBJECTIVE

To describe the process of developing syringe service programs within VHA



larm Reduction counseling • Review safe syringe practice Review naloxone & prescribe if **Review SSP intake form** appropriate

Order screening labs if appropriate Refer to SUD if appropriate

Distribute harm reduction kit

(1) Department of Infectious Disease, Orlando VA Healthcare System; (2) Academic Detailing Service, VISN 12; (3) Department of Pharmacy, Orlando VA Healthcare System

DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

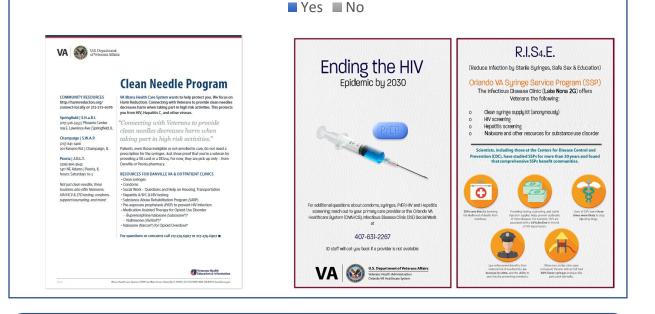




- Fentanyl test strips, 31G syringes, cotton balls, alcohol pads, sharp container
- Brochures (Safe Injection Practice, Opiod Overdose Prevention, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, RIS4E flyer)
- 5mL sterile ampules, condoms, tourniquets, band aids, gauze



CONCLUSIONS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to Elizabeth Maguire, Karine Rozenberg as well as the HIV, Hepatitis & Related Conditions (HHRC) program office for continual support.