

# Hybrid Model Pilot Update

## Syringe Services Program (SSP)

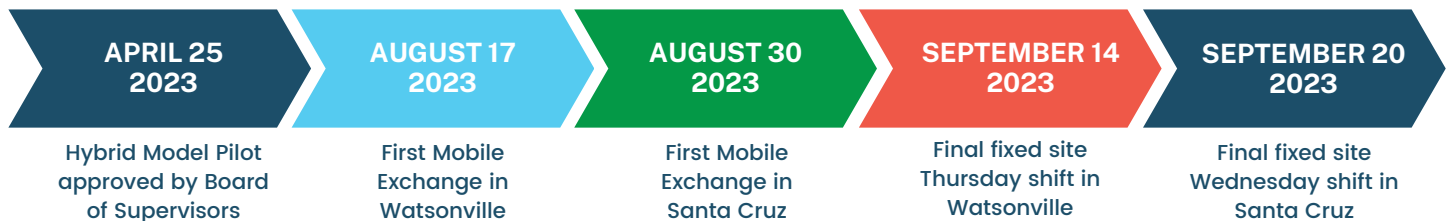
March 2024



On April 25, 2023, the HSA SSP program presented its [Biennial Report](#) to the County Board of Supervisors which included a recommendation from the SSP Advisory Commission to adopt a hybrid model pilot that increased participant access to exchange services by replacing a shift at the Emeline and Watsonville fixed-site locations with a mobile exchange shift.

This report provides an update of the first five months of implementation (Aug. 2023–Jan. 2024) of the SSP Hybrid Model Pilot in both Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

### Hybrid Model Pilot Roll-out Timeline



### Schedule: Fixed and Mobile Site Shifts

#### Santa Cruz–Fixed Site 1060 Emeline Ave.

Mon. 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Tues. 5:00– 7:00 PM  
Thurs. 4:00– 6:00 PM  
Fri. 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### Santa Cruz Mobile Exchange

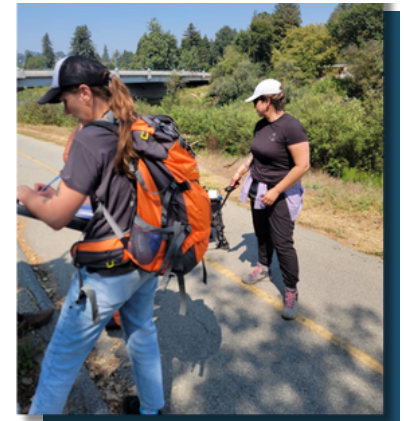
Wed. 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### Watsonville–Fixed Site 1430 Freedom Blvd, Ste. B

Mon. 3:30– 4:30 PM  
Tues. 10:30– 11:30 AM  
Wed. 1:30– 3:30 PM  
Fri. 9:00–11:00 AM

#### Watsonville Mobile Exchange

Thurs. 9:00 – 11:00 AM



### Exchange Models: Watsonville vs. Santa Cruz

SSP staff co-located with HPHP Street Medicine Staff at both locations

#### Watsonville Mobile Exchange

- Staff conducted supply distribution and syringe collection with a dedicated table at an established outreach location.
- Representatives from other agencies such as Salvation Army, Salud Para La Gente, and Community Action Board maintained a regular presence.



#### Santa Cruz Mobile Exchange

Staff used a wagon and backpack for supply distribution and syringe collection.

- **Conducted in multiple locations with a split 2-hour shift:** Coral St./Limekiln St. and River Walk between Water St. and Soquel Ave. bridges on the west/downtown side of the San Lorenzo River.
- **Emails sent to City of Santa Cruz Staff:** Tuesday for planned Mobile site locations before each shift and Thursday for activity updates after each shift.

# Participant Snapshot: August 17, 2023–January 31, 2024

## Unique Participants Encountered: 915



Mobile Exchange sites = 631 (69%)



Fixed Exchange sites = 227 (24.8%)

Fixed and Mobile Exchange sites = 57 (6.2%)

## New Participants: 630



Initially reached at mobile sites = 537 (85%)



Initially reached at fixed sites = 93 (15%)

## Supply Distribution

August 17, 2023–January 31, 2024

### Total Syringe Distribution and Collection at Exchange Sites:

Syringes Collected: **61,430**

Sterile Syringes Distributed: **50,408**

### Syringe Distribution and Collection at Mobile Exchange Sites:

Syringes Collected: **2,482**

Sterile Syringes Distributed: **1,244**

### Safer Smoking Kit Distribution:

Distribution at all exchange sites: **3,133**

Distribution at mobile exchange sites: **1,416**

- o Santa Cruz Mobile: **848**
- o Watsonville Mobile: **568**

## Pilot Program Achievements

### Increased number of:



- ✓ participant encounters
- ✓ unduplicated participants
- ✓ new participants
- ✓ sterile syringes distributed
- ✓ syringes collected

- Mobile exchanges allow staff to meet participants where they are and connect them to critical treatment and care for HIV and other infectious diseases.
- Co-locating with MAT providers and Medical Assistants improves immediate linkages for participants to schedule treatment appointments at County Health Centers and Janus.
- Supply distribution helped build rapport between staff and the unhoused community, allowing staff to share additional community resources and harm reduction education activities.

## Syringe Litter Reduction

**165 pounds of syringe waste were collected** by the kiosk near Kaiser Arena on the River Walk path collected from August 2023 to January 2024



Downtown Streets Team reported a continued decline in total syringe litter collection numbers for City of Santa Cruz Routes. They collect syringe litter along 6 routes.

Syringe litter collection data for the Watsonville area is currently unavailable.



## Downtown Streets Team Syringe Litter Collection

Santa Cruz Locations	Jul. 2022–Jan. 2023	Jul. 2023–Jan. 2024	# of syringes collected
1. Downtown	447	153	
2. Beach	89	54	
3. Levee	783	320	
4. Emeline	209	84	
5. Harvey West	911	428	
6. Midtown	161	126	



## Future Program Improvements

### In the next six months, staff will focus on:

- ✓ Improving the flow of service delivery at mobile sites.

For example, reducing the number of responsibilities for each staff person to allow for more meaningful connection and engagement with participants.

- ✓ Gathering participant input of SSP services and locations through surveys and participant interviews.