

# Hybrid Model Pilot Update Syringe Services Program (SSP)

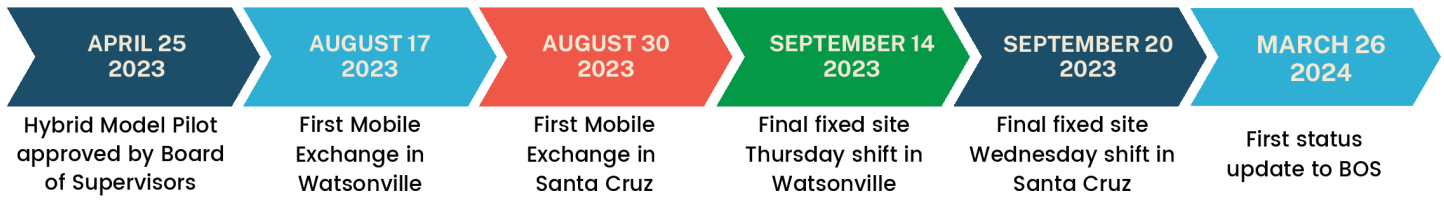
August 2024



On March 26, 2024, the Board accepted the report on the SSP hybrid model pilot that included five months of implementation in both Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

This report details key findings for the first 12 months of mobile exchange implementation (August 2023–July 2024) for the SSP Hybrid Model Pilot in both Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

## Hybrid Model Pilot Roll-out Timeline



## Exchange Models: Watsonville and Santa Cruz

SSP and HPHP Street Medicine Staff co-located at both locations

### Watsonville Mobile Exchange

- Staff transitioned from a established table location to using a wagon and backpack for supply distribution and syringe collection.
- **Conducted a 2-hour shift:** Sites included River Park parking lot, Levee River Walk and Front Street, in front of River Park.
- **Emails sent to City of Watsonville Staff:** Wednesday for planned Mobile site locations before each shift and Friday for activity updates after each shift.

### Santa Cruz Mobile Exchange

- Staff used a wagon and backpack for supply distribution and syringe collection.
- **Conducted a 2-hour shift:** Sites included Levee River Walk between Water St. and Soquel Ave., bridges on the west/downtown side of the San Lorenzo River, and the Coral St. and Friendship Garden encampments.
- **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.



## Current Schedule

### Fixed Exchange

Santa Cruz  
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

Watsonville  
1430 Freedom Blvd, Ste. B

Tues. 10:30- 1:30 AM  
Fri. 9:00-11:00 AM

### Mobile Exchange

Santa Cruz

Wed. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Watsonville

Thurs. 9:00 - 11:00 AM

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

## Unique Participants Encountered: 1,499



Mobile Exchange sites = 947 (63.2%)



Fixed Exchange sites = 396 (26.4%)

Fixed and Mobile Exchange sites = 156 (10.4%)

## New Participants: 1,098



Initially reached at mobile sites = 871 (58.1%)



Initially reached at fixed sites = 227 (15.1%)

## Collection and Distribution

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

Syringes Collected: **159,860**

Sterile Syringes Distributed: **127,109**

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

Syringes Collected: **5,011**

Sterile Syringes Distributed: **2,940**

### Safer Smoking Kit Distribution:

Distribution at fixed exchange sites: **4,316**

Distribution at mobile exchange sites: **2,776**

Santa Cruz Mobile: **1,783**

Watsonville Mobile: **993**

## Syringe Litter Reduction

337 pounds of syringe waste were collected from the kiosk near Kaiser Arena on the River Walk path from August 2023 to July 2024.

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



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



## Pilot Program Achievements

### Increased number of:

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



## Key Outcomes and Findings



- Mobile exchange broadened access by reaching those unable to use fixed sites.
- Co-locating with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Homeless Persons' Health Project (HHP) staff enhanced connections to treatment and care services.
- Supply distribution at mobile sites built rapport with people experiencing homelessness and raised awareness of SSP, MAT, and clinic services.
- Enhanced email communication improved city management's understanding of County programs and allowed quick information sharing with outreach staff.



## Downtown Streets Team Syringe Litter Collection

Collection Route	Jul. 2022 - Jul 2023	Jul. 2023 - Jul. 2024	# of syringes collected
1. Downtown	555	194	
2. Beach	1,051	149	
3. Levee	1,040	376	
4. Emeline	585	125	
5. Harvey West	1,695	489	
6. Midtown	208	171	

## Program Goals & Improvements

### ➤ For the remainder of the pilot program, staff will focus on:

- Maintaining weekly mobile exchange access for people experiencing homelessness in Watsonville and Santa Cruz.
- Regularly gathering participant input through Point in Time surveys to guide program improvements.

