




Summary Report

Syringe Distribution Laws

The legality of distributing or possessing a syringe for illegal drug use is governed by drug paraphernalia, syringe prescription, controlled substances and pharmacy practice laws and regulations. The rules covering distribution and possession may differ, as will the rules on distribution in pharmacies versus syringe exchange programs. For a legal analysis, see Scott Burris, et al., [Racial disparities in Injection-Related HIV: A Case Study of Toxic Law](#), 82 Temple Law Review 1263 (2011). You can see additional maps and tables by visiting www.lawatlas.org.

	<p>Syringe Exchange Authorized</p> <p>In the jurisdictions that prohibit the sale or distribution of drug paraphernalia, 23 states and the District of Columbia have an exception that allows syringe distribution to individuals who participate in a syringe exchange program.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 24 (CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, HI, IN, FL, KY, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, RI, UT, VA, VT, WA)</p>
	<p>When participating in syringe exchange programs, syringes are not defined as drug paraphernalia</p> <p>Of the states that prohibit the sale or distribution of drug paraphernalia, 13 states and the District of Columbia do not define syringes as drug paraphernalia when an individual is participating in a syringe exchange program.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 14 (CA, CO, DC, DE, HI, KY, MD, ME, NJ, NM, NY, VA, VT, WA)</p>
	<p>Definition of drug paraphernalia does not explicitly refer to syringes</p> <p>Eight states do not explicitly refer to syringes in their definition of drug paraphernalia.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 8 (CT, IN, MA, NV, NH, NJ, RI, SC)</p>