

**Title 64 Series 105  
Department of Health and Human Resources  
Bureau for Public Health  
Harm Reduction Programs  
Summary of Public Comments**

**COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

The descriptions of public comments below are a paraphrasing of the originally submitted comments. The full text of each public comment has been filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

**General**

**Comment**

The proposed rules are a positive action by the Department as harm reduction programs are a health promotion effort that offers participates the availability of education on reducing sexual and drug-use-related health risks, HIV counseling and testing, referral to drug treatment and other health care services. Syringe exchange programs, which are a part of harm reduction, provide sterile syringes and collect used syringes to reduce the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood borne infections associated with the reuse of contaminated injection equipment by drug users. The Institute of Medicine has concluded that "The cost-effectiveness of needle exchanges is estimated to range from \$3,000 to \$50,000 per HIV infection prevented."

The proposed rule improves the public health response to this epidemic by providing defining parameters which aid program development and by assuring review of emerging practices for safety and effectiveness. The rule protects existing legitimate Harm Reduction Programs currently operating without placing an undue burden on continued operation.

**Response**

The Bureau concurs with these comments.