**Compiled Existing Disposal Data**

Below are studies on the locations of disposal for medical sharps in different sub populations. The purpose of this data compilation is for the PSI Medical Sharps Data Workgroup to gain a better understanding of where we stand on what data exists and what may need to be collected to quantify the medical sharps issue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Disposal directly in trash</th>
<th>Disposal in container</th>
<th>Other findings</th>
<th>Source</th>
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</table>
| 1     | A study of 100 people conducted in Atlanta that used insulin for diabetes yielded the following results. | 93% of responding self-injectors dispose of their used syringes in the trash | 4% placed syringes in puncture-resistant containers | ● 3% flushed syringes down the toilet  
● Disposal practices did not differ by the patients’ education level, economic status, or gender | Appeared in Ben Hoffman’s and Julia Miceler’s presentations at 1st Dialogue Meeting; Source: Macalino GE, Springer KW, Rahman ZS, Vlahov D, Jones TS. Community-based programs for safe disposal of used needles and syringes. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes and Human Retrovirology* 1998;18 (Suppl 1): S111-1119 |
| 2     | Comparing Diabetes Patients in 2 Atlanta Hospitals | 47% placed syringes in a puncture-proof container and then in the trash | ● 56% of patients received training in safe syringe disposal | Same as 1 |
| 3     | Study of IDUs in 1997 in seven U.S. cities | 76% reported throwing them into the trash and onto the street | ● Another qualitative study of IDUs done in Atlanta found that IDUs make some effort to dispose of syringes in a way to prevent injury to others | Same as 1 & 2 |
| 4     | Diabetes study | 43% Do not use containers – 20% Use a sharps or | ● 12 % Use coffee cans, soda bottles, detergent bottles, milk cartons | Appeared in Bob Singley’s presentation at 1st Dialogue Meeting; Data Source: 2007 Roper |
| Conducted by Roper’s place in regular household trash | Biohazard container; few take to a disposal facility | 10% Plastic or glass containers, metal can, wrap in bag | Diabetes Study (Note: Source not publicly accessible. Currently looking into further information from this source.)

| California (IWMB) Survey (2007); 131 responses from California residents: “Of all of the times that you disposed of your sharps last year, did you ever...? (Check all that apply)” | 17.56% | 42.75% (not necessarily sharps container) | Take them back to:
- Hospital – 8.40%
- Clinic – 12.98%
- Mail-back – 3.82%
- Pharmacy – 2.29%
- HHW – 4.58%
- Home healthcare worker – 6.11%
- Other – 26.72%

http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/hhw/Sharps/Survey/; http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/hhw/Sharps/Survey/PersonalRslt.pdf - also has information on disposal location, cost, insurance, education on disposal, etc.

| Baltimore, MD study of IDUs, 875 IDUs making up 2105 individual visits | 55.5% (5/9 people) | One placed them in an opaque bag within household garbage
- Two returned them to a physician’s office


| Study of a rural population; Of the 71 who injected animals with drugs/vaccines, 66 responded | 10.6% | 22.7% | Russell, M.L., G.F. Ross, and D. Richen, “Needle and syringe use & sharps disposal by a rural population,” *Journal of Environmental Health*, 58.n1 (July-August 1995): 16(4).