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## Updates from Southern Tier AIDS Program

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Dear Olivia,

In the early 1980s when we first became aware of HIV and AIDS, 50% of new infections were due to people sharing injection equipment, principally syringes. Beginning in the early 1990s, New York State authorized organizations like STAP to open syringe exchange programs.

There are now 23 of these programs in New York State. Today, about 3% of new HIV infections, annually, are due to shared injection equipment. The American Foundation for AIDS Research estimates that the lifetime treatment cost of one HIV infection is \$488,000 and that New York State taxpayers have saved 1.7 Billion as a result of syringe exchange. A single syringe costs less than ten cents. These programs prevent disease and help people access treatment.

[Read more from the newsletter](#)

Syringe exchange recognizes that not every substance user is ready or willing to abstain from drug use. Our goal is to keep all our participants alive and disease free long enough to quit.

[In honor of World AIDS Day, we're asking you to help support our work. By contributing \\$10, \\$50, \\$100—or any amount—you'll help us continue striving for a world where those who are HIV+ lead healthy lives.](#)

As always, thank you for your support of Southern Tier AIDS Program.

Sincerely,  
Mary and the rest of the STAP team

Write to us at [stapinc.org/contact](https://stapinc.org/contact) or call us at 202-742-1520.

Southern Tier AIDS Program  
22 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

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