

**HF2041**  
**Public Safety Finance and Policy**  
**Relating to Drug Paraphernalia**

(1) [Davis, Carr, and Samuels \(2019\)](#), “Paraphernalia Laws, Criminalizing Possession and Distribution of Items Used to Consume Illicit Drugs, and Injection-Related Harm”

- Paraphernalia laws help contribute to the spread of infectious diseases and can prevent people who use drugs from using tools and services that can reduce overdose risk.
- Injection-related HIV, hepatitis C, and endocarditis have increased in recent years. Syringe *sharing* – but not injection drug use in and of itself – is associated with injection-related HIV outbreaks, and states including Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Ohio have all experienced recent outbreaks due, in part, to a lack of access to sterile syringes.
- Jurisdictions that have facilitated greater access to sterile syringes have seen marked reductions in HIV and hepatitis C prevalence among people who inject drugs.
- When people who use drugs have access to fentanyl test strips and receive a positive result, they are able to appropriately moderate their drug use behavior through using a smaller amount of the drug or using the drug more slowly, for example.
- The constant possibility of arrest and the sometimes ambiguous legal status of fentanyl test strips can prohibit people who use drugs from possessing and using fentanyl test strips.
- [NOTE: This commentary includes information about syringe access and fentanyl test strip laws in a number of jurisdictions, offering important examples of how the existence or repeal of paraphernalia laws can either increase or decrease, respectively, injection-related infectious disease prevalence.]

(2) [National Governors Association \(2022\)](#), “Supporting And Sustaining Access To Harm Reduction Services For People Who Use Drugs”

- This report urges governors and other state health officials to adopt, expand, and fund a variety of harm reduction policies and services, including improving syringe access and repealing paraphernalia laws.

(1) <https://www.nga.org/publications/supporting-and-sustaining-access-to-harm-reduction-services-for-people-who-use-drugs/>

(2) <https://www.nga.org/publications/supporting-and-sustaining-access-to-harm-reduction-services-for-people-who-use-drugs/>