"I support syringe exchange programs as a common sense tactic to address the issue of drug use in our communities. It's clear to me that these programs do not encourage drug use and that they can work in conjunction with the continuing enforcement of drug laws."

Chief Harold Medlock, Fayetteville Police Department

"I'm in favor of syringe exchange programs to reduce the number of HIV and hepatitis C cases in the community. This is a public health issue. These programs would help the citizens of our state [who struggle with addiction] and protect others from injuries with dirty needles."

Chief Marty Sumner, High Point Police Department

“Law enforcement has been at the front lines of the drug problem and has witnessed the devastating effects of drug use and abuse. We are currently seeing more and more people use heroin, more people inject prescription drugs, and more people get sick from diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C. Although the enforcement of drug laws is and always will be an integral part of police work, we also realize that we will not solely arrest our way out of this problem. I support syringe exchange programs because they are shown to lower the rates of disease and help connect drug users to the treatment that they need to combat this epidemic.”

Chief Bill Hollingsed, Waynesville Police Department

“Over the past few years, we have seen a tragic surge in deaths due to opioid overdose. Along with the escalation of injectable drugs comes the increased opportunity for needle sticks. With preventative measures such as improving syringe access, we are protecting the health and safety of law enforcement officers. Of course, I support any measures to keep our officers safe.”

Sheriff Neil Elks, Pitt County Sheriff’s Office

“I can’t see how anyone could be against syringe exchange programs. Syringes are a public safety issue and exchange programs would cut down on the number of cases of HIV and hepatitis C. They would also reduce first responder’s exposure to needle-stick injury and connect subjects to treatment resources during contact with the exchange.”

Chief Kevin Brinkley, Nags Head Police Department

“Anyone who supports naloxone as a tool to save lives should support syringe exchange programs as well. They both give people a second chance. I would support having a syringe exchange program in my county, especially if people get treatment information along with clean syringes.”

Sheriff Doug Doughtie, Dare County Sheriff’s Office

“I used to be an officer in a city in Connecticut that ran an active, successful syringe exchange program. I saw first hand that the program reduced the number of dirty syringes in circulation and the number of accidental needle-sticks suffered by first responders. Syringe exchange programs are a good way for those dealing with addiction to avoid diseases and to get information on treatment options.”

Chief John Cueto, Town of Duck Police Department

“I am all for syringe exchange programs. Anything that would reduce the chance of a person getting HIV or another disease is a win. Law enforcement has tried everything else and we need to look into other options. Being able to provide treatment options to people is a great part of the program and reducing the danger of needle-stick injury to officers is another big positive. We have seen citizens who we know personally suffer from addiction and overdoses, so I would have no problem with syringe exchange programs.”

Chief John Cueto, Town of Duck Police Department

“I would support syringe exchange programs that provide treatment information to those participating. I can see the advantages of a program that reduces disease transmission passed from people sharing dirty needles and also cuts down on the number of people and first responders accidentally stuck with infected needles.”

Chief Joseph Barone, Statesville Police Department

“I fully support the syringe exchange program. The program would improve officer safety and improve safety for our children. This program would eliminate the danger of discarded syringes in our public parks and other places that our citizens frequent.”

Chief Mike James, Leland Police Department
“Syringe exchange programs make a lot of sense. I’m especially supportive of connecting people to drug treatment through these programs. I wish we had a syringe exchange here in Lenoir.”
Chief Scott Brown, Lenoir Police Department

"Syringe exchange programs make good sense. I support efforts to prevent young people and children from suffering accidental sticks and developing HIV or hepatitis C. I also like that these programs would offer access to treatment."
Chief Chris Hunt, Bladenboro Police Department

"I never envisioned myself supporting a syringe exchange program, but I now understand that ultimately it comes down to public safety and public health. I certainly now have a very different opinion of syringe exchange programs."
Sheriff John Ingram, Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office

"As an advocate for public safety and rehabilitation, I see syringe exchange programs as an exciting opportunity to reach out to drug users with education that could increase the chances of them getting help, including rehabilitation."
Sheriff Greg Christopher, Haywood County Sheriff’s Office

"I am in favor of syringe exchange programs and see no downside or negative consequences connected to these programs. By providing clean needles, a syringe exchange program would increase officer safety and benefit communities that have individuals working through problems that pertain to an addiction."
Chief Barry Rountree, Winston Salem Police Department

“From a health standpoint, I am all for getting syringes to people who need them. I don’t see much of a down side. Some might say that these programs encourage drug use, but I think that people who say that simply don’t understand the power and pull of opiates.”
Chief Tom Bashore, Nashville Police Department

“As the opioid drug problem worsens, we need to start thinking outside the box when it comes to solutions. Syringe exchange programs would not only address the HIV and hepatitis C epidemic, but also provide wraparound services to address the drug problem at its roots.”
Chief Brad Shirley, Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department

“Syringe exchange programs are vital to the safety and health of our community. They prevent the transmission of diseases and reduce risk of accidental sticks to police, medical professionals and sanitation workers. These programs also help to clean-up our neighborhoods and provide safe places for our citizens to live, work and play. While syringe exchange programs are not treatment programs, they are a step in the right direction to interacting with substance abusers and opening a dialogue to treatment resources.”
Chief Ralph Evangelous, Wilmington Police Department

“I support changing NC law to allow syringe exchange programs. Law Enforcement is about saving lives and making a difference: syringe exchange programs do both. The benefits of such programs exceed the harm. They reduce the spread of disease, unnecessary discarding of used needles, and the sharing of needles. It also provides an opportunity to speak with drug users about life changing alternatives.”
Chief Joe Ramey, Gaston County Police Department