



Drugs-Related
Litter Survey
2005

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1.0 Executive Summary

ENCAMS carried out a postal survey of local authorities in 1998 and 2001 to determine the extent of the drugs-related litter problem throughout the UK and the measures which local authorities put in place to tackle this specific issue. In 2004, a similar questionnaire was distributed to local authorities in England to track these findings over time. A total of 144 local authorities responded to the survey, giving a response rate of 41%.

Extent of the Problem

- 97% of local authorities that responded to the survey were aware of discarded needles having been reported or discovered in the previous three years.
- Almost three-quarters of those respondents that were aware of discarded needles in their area kept records of the number of cases (72%).
- Over a quarter of local authorities found in excess of 100 needles in 2001 (27%), in comparison to almost a third in 2002 (31%) and 2003 (30%).
- Overall, discarded needles were most commonly found in parks and playing fields (83%), residential areas (77%) and public toilets (72%).
- Since 2001, there have been significant increases in the proportion of local authorities finding needles in parks and playing fields, public toilets, residential areas, car parks, footpaths, road gullies, lay-bys, school grounds, churchyards and abandoned vehicles.
- Just over two-fifths of local authorities said that they include reports from other organisations or other departments when monitoring discarded needles (46%), with almost half of these including reports from the police (47%), whilst two-fifths included reports from wardens (40%).

Local Authority Response

- A higher proportion of local authorities had an official procedure for dealing with discarded needles if found by an employee of the local authority (69%) than if found by the general public (64%).
- Over half of local authorities had a dedicated team or member of staff to collect discarded needles reported by employees and the public (58%).
- A large proportion of local authorities allocated the collection of discarded needles to the cleansing contractors (51%).

- Of those local authorities with a dedicated team or member of staff to collect discarded needles, 73% stated that they collect needles for all council departments.
- 89% of local authorities stated that they aimed to recover reported needles within a specified time period.
- The majority of local authorities collected discarded needles from residential premises (78%), educational establishments (68%), commercial premises (63%) and privately operated car parks (55%).
- Although 78% of local authorities collected discarded needles from residential premises, only 11% of them charged for this service. Almost a quarter of local authorities that provided a service for commercial premises charged for it (24%).
- Just over two-thirds of local authorities provided dedicated ways for members of the public to report discarded needles (68%). More than eight out of ten of these authorities said that they had a telephone hotline (85%).

Safety Measures for Staff

- 94% of local authorities had introduced safety measures to reduce the risk of needlestick injuries to staff compared with 86% in 2001.
- Of those local authorities introducing safety measures, 88% provided protective gloves for staff, 78% introduced training and 77% provided tongs for the collection of discarded needles.
- Around two-thirds of local authorities provide discarded needle collection training for street sweepers (67%). Almost half provide the training for refuse collection operatives (46%).
- Almost two-thirds of local authorities provide a sharps kit to street sweepers (65%), around two-fifths provide a kit to toilet attendants (40%), and refuse collection operatives (39%).
- Of those local authorities providing a sharps kit, 99% provided a sharps box, 91% provided gloves and 89% provided tongs/picks/tweezers.

Safety Measures for the Public

- Two-thirds of local authorities had introduced safety measures to reduce needlestick injuries to members of the public (66%), which is a slight increase on the proportion that had implemented safety measures in 2001 (62%).

- The most popular safety measures introduced included free clinical waste collection (64%), the provision of personal sharps containers (37%) and the distribution of leaflets or posters (35%).
- Around two-fifths of local authorities provided information for the public about the medical dangers related to needles and/or facilities for the safe disposal of needles (43%).
- Of those local authorities that provided information, almost two-thirds each had a needle exchange scheme (61%) and provided leaflets (60%).

Needlestick Injuries

- Two-fifths of local authorities were aware of needlestick injuries since 2001 (40%), which is similar to the results obtained in the 2001 study (43%).
- A total of 169 injuries were recorded in the past three years, compared with 188 from 1998–2001.
- As in the two previous studies, the majority of people injured by discarded needles were local authority employees.

External Liaisons

- Over two-thirds of local authorities were involved with other agencies or organisations in work to tackle drugs-related litter (69%).
- Over two-thirds worked with the Drug Action Team or drug reference group (69%), almost two-thirds worked with the police (65%) and just over half worked with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (53%).
- Just over half of local authorities said that there was a needle exchange scheme in operation in their area (54%).
- Over three-quarters of local authorities had a pharmacy-based needle exchange scheme (79%), whilst just over half had centre-based schemes (52%).

Seaside Authorities

- Around a quarter of local authorities said that their boundaries covered a seaside area (24%).
- More than seven out of 10 seaside authorities were aware of discarded needles that had been reported or retrieved on the beach (72%).
- As in 2001, the most common safeguard carried out by local authorities to minimise the exposure to the public of discarded needles on the beach was litter picking in general areas (86%).

Other Drugs Litter

- The most common items found by local authorities were aluminium foil (found by 80% of local authorities), aerosols (58%), spoons (57%), bottles (56%) and bags (49%).

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Background

The increasing problem of injecting drugs and the introduction of schemes to protect drug users from using contaminated needles are having a major impact on the quantity of syringes found as litter on our streets. This document outlines the findings of a study designed to provide up-to-date information on the issue of drugs-related litter, from the perception of the local authority which deals with the problem. Trends will be gauged through comparisons with previous studies carried out in 1998 and 2001.¹

2.2 Research Aims and Objectives

This survey aimed to understand the extent of the drugs-related litter problem and the impact it has on local authorities, their resources and their local communities. It explores how drugs-related litter problems are currently being dealt with, what initiatives are in place to help tackle them and how the problem has changed over time.

The key objectives of the study were:

- to discover the extent of the drugs-related litter problem throughout England;
- to identify the main locations where discarded needles are found;
- to identify the number of injuries caused by discarded needles;
- to look at how local authorities are responding to the problem;
- to compare the results with those obtained in 1998 and 2001.

2.3 Survey Design and Response Rate

The project was undertaken by ENCAMS' research team. A self-completion questionnaire was sent to all local authorities in England in early December 2004 and was largely based on that used for the previous studies in 1998 and 2001, to allow for comparison of key issues over time. Subsequent reminder letters and questionnaires were sent to local authorities in late December 2004. By the end of the fieldwork, 144 local authorities had responded to the survey - a response rate of 41%. Table 1 shows the response rate by region.

¹ The studies undertaken in 1998 and 2001 included data from local authorities in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, therefore figures are not directly comparable.

Table 1 – Response rate by region to ENCAMS questionnaire

Region	Response rate (%)
East Midlands	43
East of England	31
London	39
North East	65
North West	35
South East	42
South West	48
West Midlands	29
Yorkshire & Humber	48

Results for individual regions are not referred to throughout the main report. However, tabulations for each question are provided in Appendix A.

Some of the sample sizes are very small, therefore caution should be used when interpreting subsections of the data. Due to rounding, some totals do not equate to 100%.

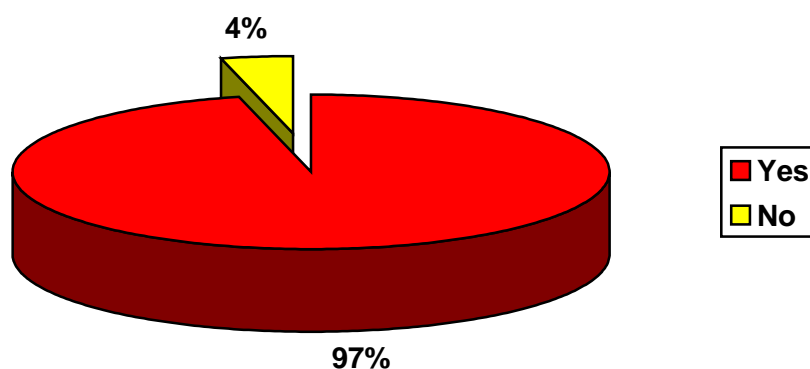
3.0 Extent of the Problem

3.1 Awareness of Discarded Needles

Respondents were asked if they were aware of any littered or discarded needles being reported or discovered in the past three years. Figure 1 shows the results obtained.

Figure 1

Awareness of discarded needles in the last three years



Base: 143

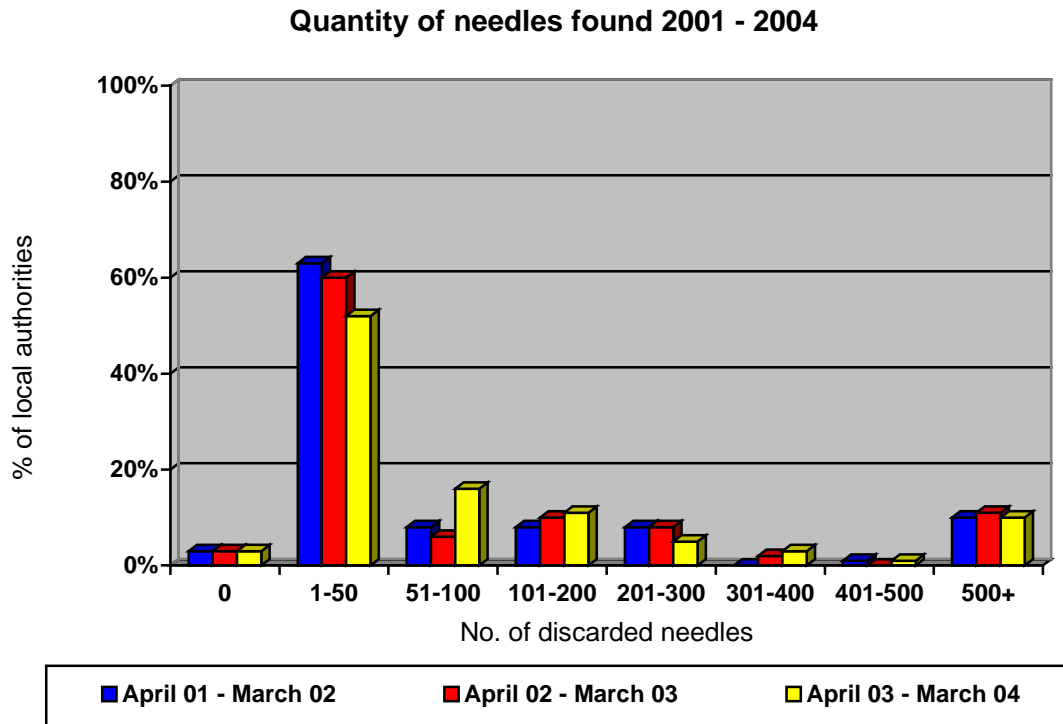
The vast majority, 97%, of local authorities that responded to the question were aware of discarded needles in their area. This is an increase on the figures obtained in the 2001 study (89%) and the 1998 study (90%), indicating that the problem has grown over time.

3.2 Quantity of Needles Found

Of the respondents who were aware of discarded needles in their area in the past three years, almost three-quarters (72%) said that they kept records of the number of cases.

Those local authorities that were aware of littered or discarded needles being reported were then asked for the number of cases reported during 2001 to 2004. If actual figures were unobtainable, estimates were requested. Figure 2 shows the responses.

Figure 2



Base: 86/91/110

Just over half (55%) of local authorities that responded to the question stated that their figures were estimated.

The chart shows that the largest proportion of local authorities retrieved between one and 50 needles during the three separate years that figures were recorded. From April 2001 to March 2002, a total of 39,296 needles were collected by local authorities responding to the question, which is an average of 497 needles per authority, with the number of needles collected ranging from zero to 23,546.

The total number of needles recorded from April 2002 to March 2003 was 80,367. This equates to an average of 893 needles per authority, with numbers recorded ranging from zero to 61,118.

For the period March 2003 to April 2004, a total of 147,345 needles were collected by those local authorities responding to the question. The average number of needles collected per authority was 1,281 with the numbers ranging from zero to 104,751.

Table 2 shows the number of needles collected per year, by the local authorities responding to the survey, compared to the figures obtained in the previous survey.

Table 2 – Number of needles found

Year	Number of needles found UK	Number of needles found England	Average number of needles found per local authority
April 1998 – March 1999	4,853	3,570*	41
April 1999 – March 2000	12,713	10,369*	103
April 2000 – March 2001	20,124	18,068*	149
April 2001 – March 2002	N/A	39,296	497
April 2002 – March 2003	N/A	80,367	893
April 2003 – March 2004	N/A	147,345	1281

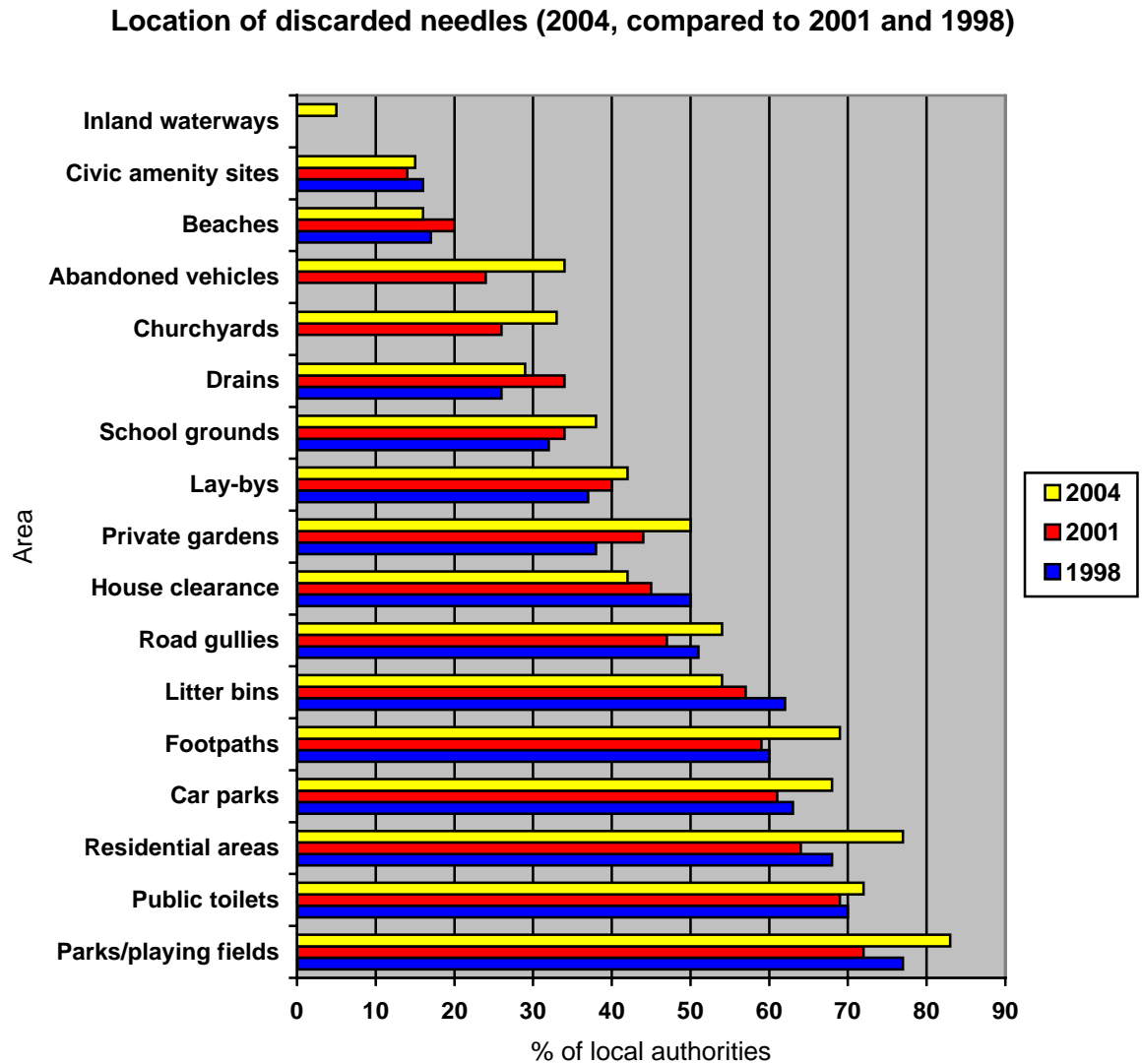
** Figures were recalculated for England only to allow comparisons to be made.*

The results for England show a significant increase in the number of needles collected by local authorities, year on year.

3.3 Location of Discarded Needles

Respondents were asked to state in which areas they had found discarded needles within their borough. The results are shown below along with those obtained in the 2001 and 1998 studies.

Figure 3



Discarded needles were most commonly found in parks and playing fields (83% of authorities), residential areas (77%) and public toilets (72%). More than two-thirds of local authorities stated that they had found discarded needles on footpaths (69%) and in car parks (68%).

Compared with the data obtained in the previous studies, the results are very similar in terms of the most frequent locations of discarded needle finds, although the 2004 survey shows that there has been an increase in the proportion of local authorities finding discarded needles in these areas. There was an increase in reported discarded needles in parks/playing fields, public toilets, residential areas, car parks, footpaths, road gullies, lay-bys, school grounds, churchyards and abandoned vehicles since the last survey was undertaken, although interestingly, the proportion of local authorities that found discarded needles in litter bins, house clearances, drains and beaches decreased. Just one in eight (13%) of local authorities said that discarded needles have been reported in 'other' areas than those stated on the questionnaire. These included domestic refuse, derelict land and open spaces. For further details of the 'other' responses given, please see Appendix A (Q5viii).

3.4 Reports from Other Organisations/Departments

Local authorities were asked if they included reports from other organisations/departments when monitoring discarded needles. Just over two-fifths (46%) said that they did. These respondents were then asked which organisations or departments they included reports from. Table 3 below shows their responses.

Table 3 Reports from other organisations/departments

Response	% of local authorities
Other department within local authority	67
Police	47
Wardens	40
Drug Action Team/Drug Reference Group	27
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)	22
Needle exchange scheme	17
Other	28

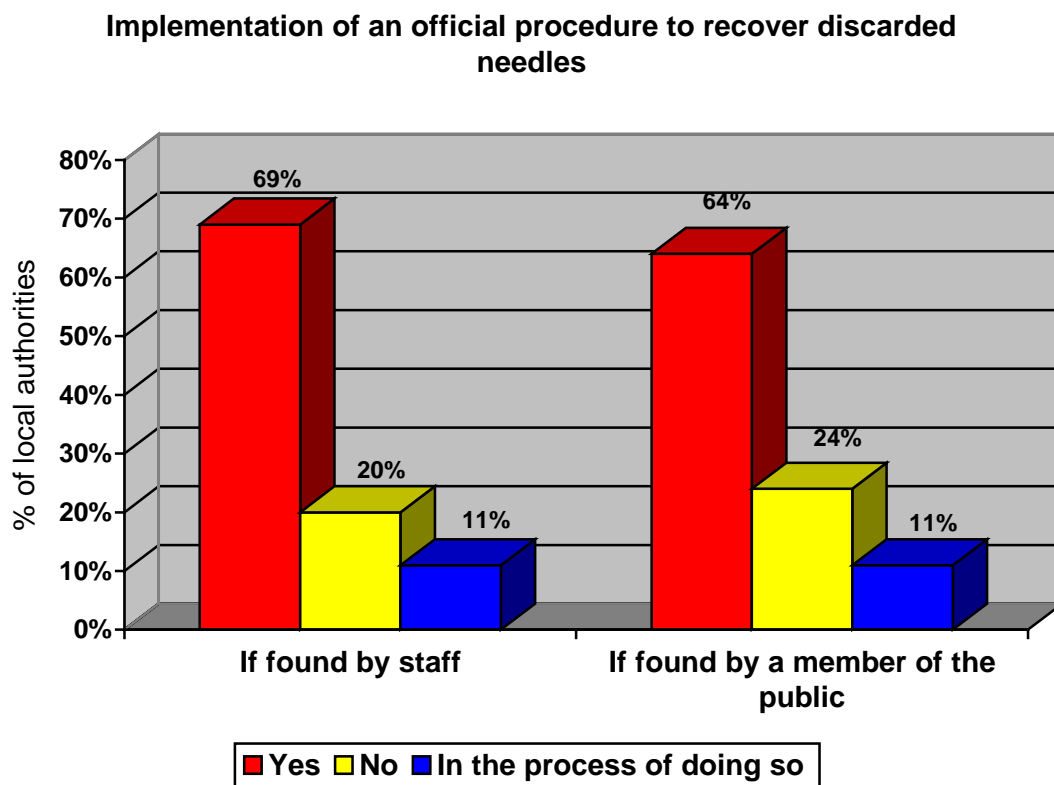
Around two-thirds of local authorities included reports from other departments within their authority, such as Housing Services or Parks. More local authorities included reports from the police than any other individual organisation or department. For details of the 'other' local authority departments and organisations that were listed, please see Appendix A (Q5xi and Q5xii).

4.0 Local Authority Response

4.1 Official Procedures

Respondents were asked if they had implemented an official procedure for the recovery of discarded needles, if found by local authority staff or members of the public. Figure 4 shows the findings.

Figure 4



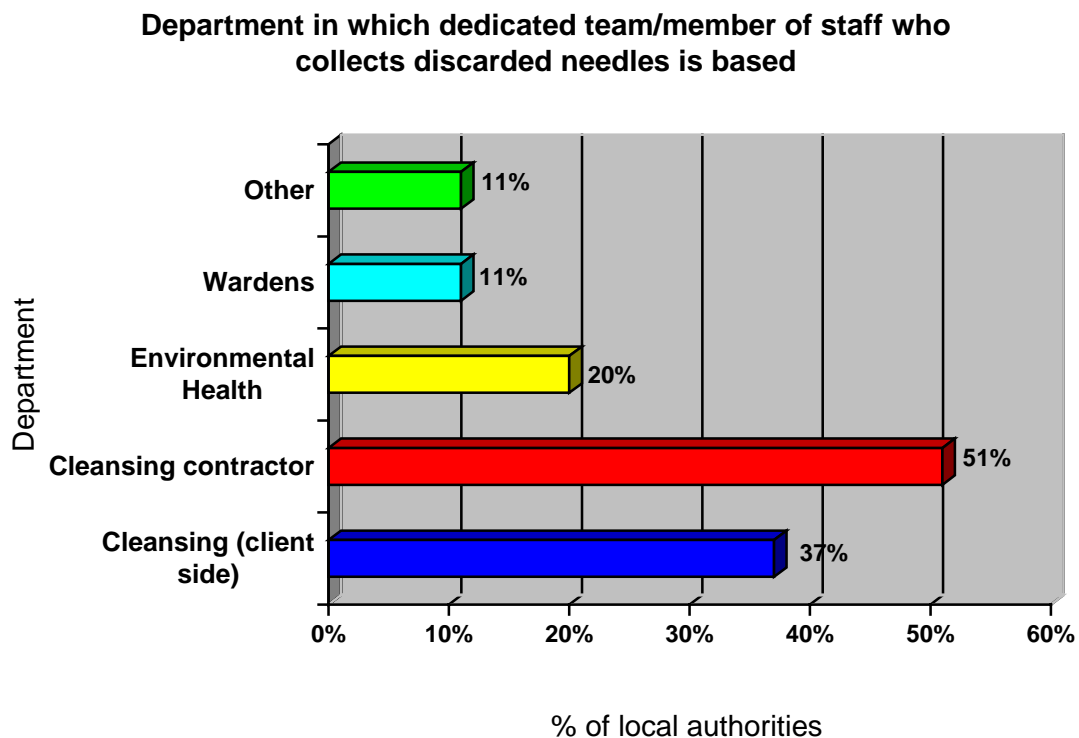
Base: 142/140

A slightly higher proportion of local authorities had an official procedure for dealing with discarded needles if found by a member of staff (69%), than if found by a member of the public (64%).

4.2 Collection of Discarded Needles

Over half (58%) of local authorities had a dedicated team or member of staff to collect discarded needles reported by employees and the public. The chart below shows the specific departments or sections within which these members of staff were employed.

Figure 5



Base: 83

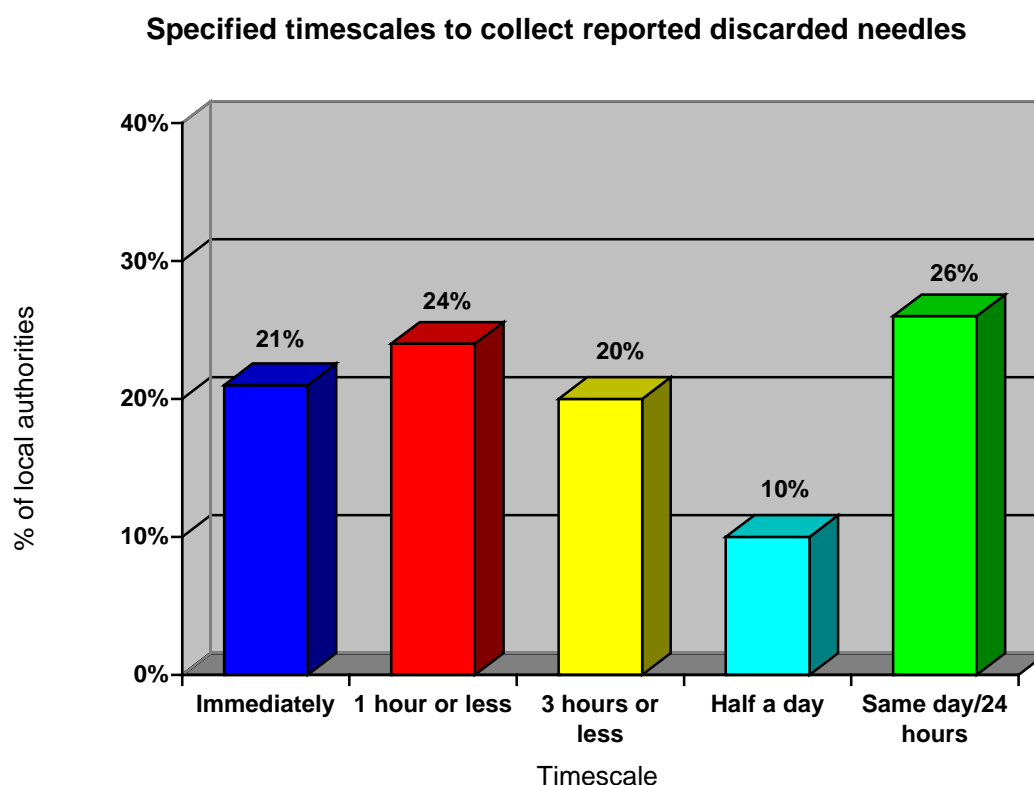
When asked in which department or section the dedicated team or member of staff was based, some local authorities gave more than one response, indicating that the responsibility for discarded needles lies in more than one place. Around half (51%) of local authorities stated that their dedicated team or member of staff was based in the cleansing contractor's section. Over a third (37%) were based in the cleansing (client side) department. A fifth (20%) were based in the environmental health section, whilst in around a tenth (11%) of local authorities, wardens had the responsibility of collecting discarded needles.

Of the local authorities that had a dedicated team or member of staff to collect discarded needles reported by employees and the public, almost three-quarters (73%) said that they collect discarded needles for all council departments. A third (33%) said that they collect discarded needles for Registered Social Landlords in the area and just over a quarter (27%) said that they put additional resources into monitoring areas where there are high levels of discarded needles.

4.3 Timescales

Respondents were asked if they aimed to collect reported discarded needles within a specific time period and almost nine out of 10 (89%) said that they did. These local authorities were then asked to specify the time period. Figure 6 shows their responses.

Figure 6



Base: 121

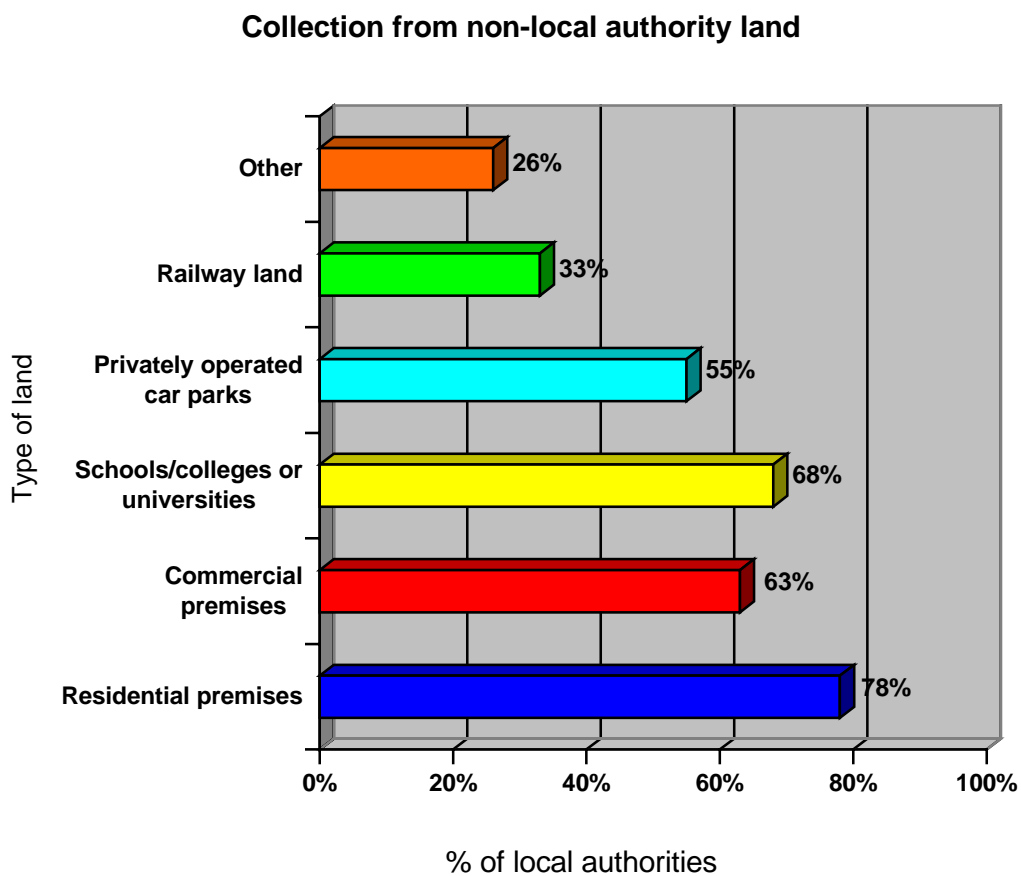
Around a fifth (21%) of local authorities said that they aim to collect reported discarded needles immediately, whilst almost a quarter (24%) said that they aim to collect them within an hour. A fifth (20%) said that they aim for a three-hour response

time, whilst a tenth said that they would aim to collect the needles within half a day. Just over a quarter (26%) said that would aim to remove them the same day or within 24 hours.

4.4 Collection from Non-Local Authority Land

Respondents were asked if discarded needles were collected from various types of non-local authority land. Figure 7 shows their responses.

Figure 7



Base 120

Almost eight out of 10 local authorities collect discarded needles from residential premises, and almost seven out of ten collect them from schools, colleges or universities. Almost two-thirds of local authorities collect them from commercial premises, whilst over half collect from privately operated car parks and a third from railway land. Around a quarter (26%) of local authorities said that they collect

discarded needles from 'other' types of land than those stated on the questionnaire. This included all publicly accessible land, highways and all areas within the borough. For further details of the 'other' types of land stated, please see Appendix A (Q2iv).

Those local authorities that collected discarded needles from the various types of non-local authority land were asked if they charged for the service, and if so, how much? Table 4 shows their responses.

Table 4 – Collection charges from non-local authority land

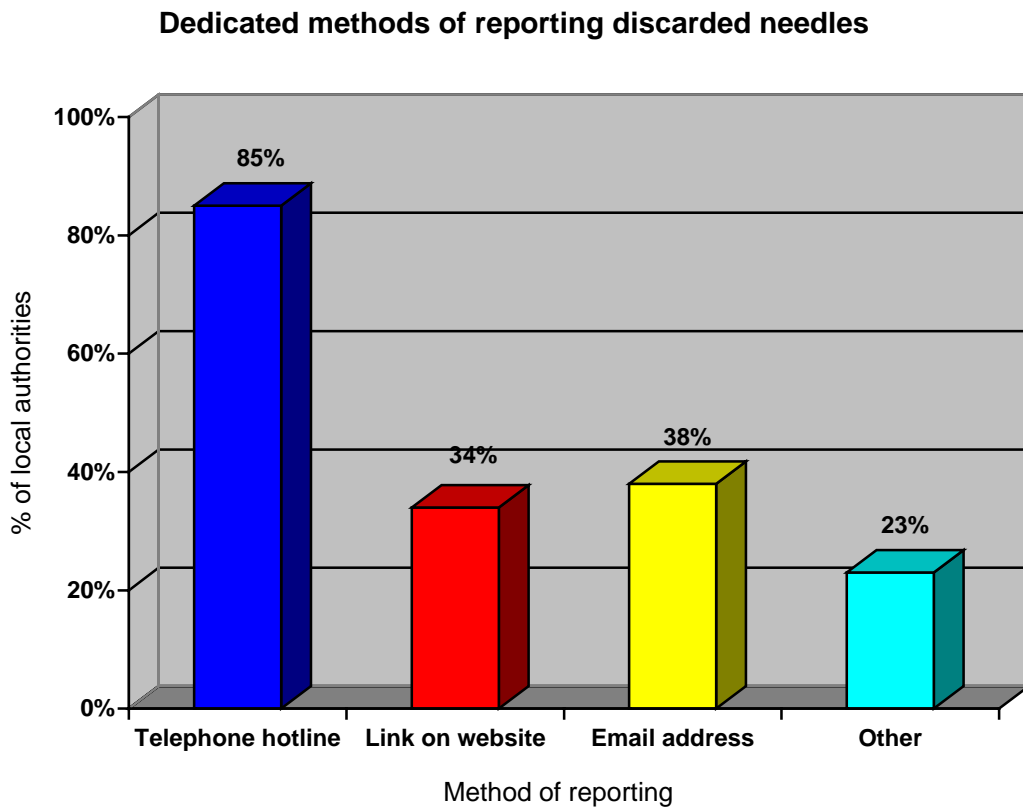
Response	% of local authorities	Average collection charge	Range
Residential premises	11	£36.25	£30.00-£45.00
Commercial premises	24	£30.59	£7.20-£48.00
Schools/colleges or universities	11	£25.81	£7.20-£40.00
Privately operated car parks	15	£32.87	£7.20-48.00
Railway land	9	£37.00	£25.00-£48.00
Other	1	£35.00	£35

Of those authorities that collected discarded needles from non-local authority land, a larger proportion impose a charge for collecting from commercial premises (24%) than any from other type of non-local authority land.

4.5 Dedicated Ways for the Public to Report Discarded Needles

Local authorities were asked if they provided any dedicated ways for members of the public to report discarded needles. Just over two-thirds (68%) said that they did. Those authorities were then asked to state what they provided. Figure 8 shows their responses.

Figure 8



Base: 97

Of those authorities providing dedicated ways for members of the public to report discarded needles, more than eight out of 10 said that they had a telephone hotline (85%). Almost two-fifths said that they had an email address (38%), just over a third said that they had a link on a website (34%) and almost a quarter said that they had 'other' ways for members of the public to report finds (23%). For further details of the 'other' responses given, please see Appendix A (Q3iii).

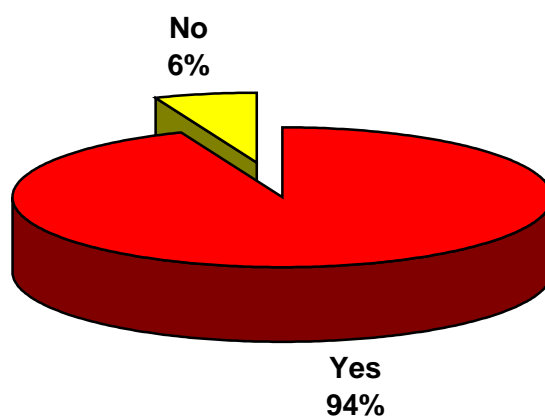
5.0 Safety Measures for Employees

5.1 General Safety Measures

Respondents were asked if they had introduced any safety measures to reduce the risk of needlestick injuries to staff. Figure 9 shows their responses.

Figure 9

Have you introduced safety measures to reduce injuries to staff?



Base: 138

Of local authorities surveyed, 94% said that they had introduced safety measures to reduce the risk of injury to staff, compared with 86% in 2001. These authorities were then asked to state what safety measures they had brought in. Table 5 shows the various measures introduced.

Table 5 – Safety measures introduced to protect staff

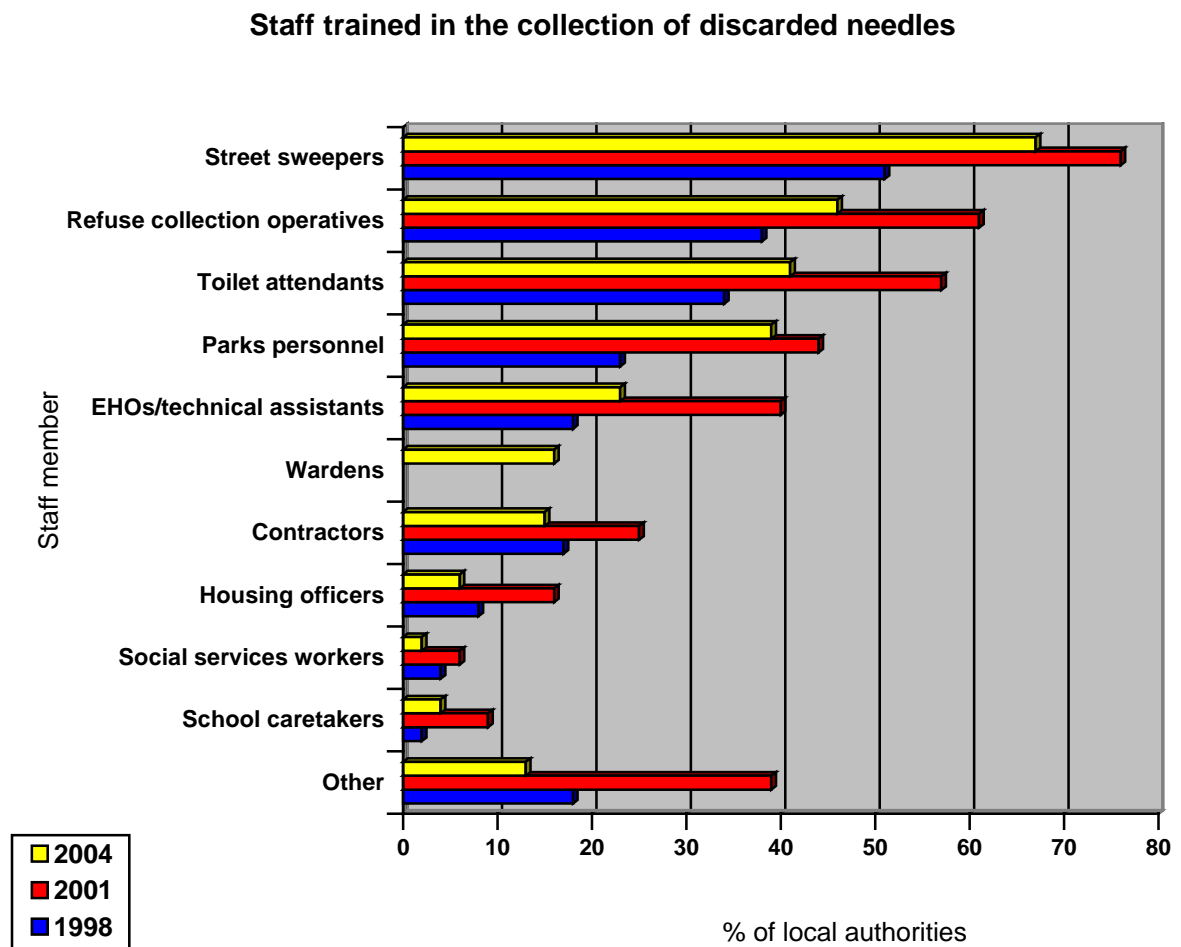
Response	% of local authorities
Protective gloves	88
Training	78
Tongs	77
Wheelie bins	29
Other protective clothing	30
Other	11

Almost nine out of 10 local authorities said that their staff wear protective gloves, whilst almost eight out of 10 each said that they offer training to staff and that their staff have tongs to collect discarded needles. Three out of 10 local authorities have other protective clothing for their staff, whilst almost three out of 10 have wheelie bins. Just over one in 10 said that they have implemented 'other' safety measures. The most common measures introduced were training and risk assessments. For a full list of the 'other' responses given, please see Appendix A (Q11iv).

5.2 Training

Local authorities were asked who they provided training for in the collection of discarded needles. Figure 10 shows the results obtained compared with 1998 and 2001.

Figure 10



Base: 137

It appears that training staff in the collection of discarded needles peaked in 2001, as on the whole, figures then were higher than those obtained in the 1998 survey and the 2004 survey.

Around two-thirds of local authorities (67%) said that they train street sweepers in the collection of discarded needles. This is slightly lower than the figure obtained in the 2001 study (76%), but higher than in 1998 (51%).

Almost half of local authorities (46%) stated that they provide training for refuse collection operatives, which is less than in 2001 (61%) but higher than in 1998 (38%).

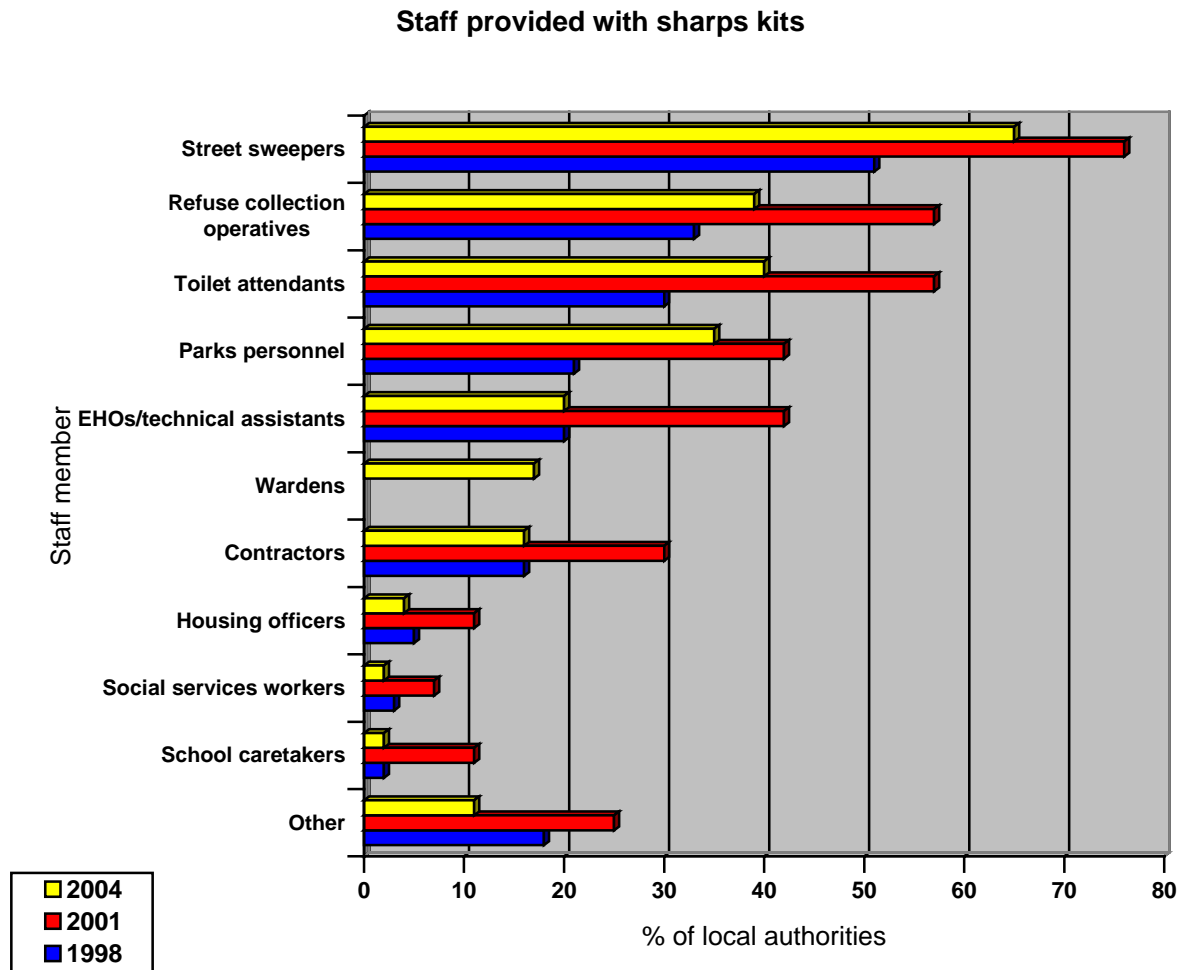
Around two-fifths of local authorities (41%) provide training in the collection of discarded needles to toilet attendants and over a third (39%) provide training for parks personnel.

Just over a tenth of local authorities (13%) said that they provide training to 'other' members of staff. These include pest control officers, cleansing supervisors (client side) and leisure centre staff. For further details of the 'other' responses, please see Appendix A (Q9ib).

5.3 Sharps Kit

Local authorities were asked who they provided with sharps kits for the collection of discarded needles. Figure 11 shows the responses compared with 1998 and 2001.

Figure 11



Base: 137

As with the training courses, it appears that the provision of sharps kits also peaked in 2001, as on the whole.

Almost two-thirds (65%) of local authorities provide a sharps kit to street sweepers. This is less than the figure obtained in 2001 (76%), but higher than in 1998 (51%).

Two-fifths of local authorities (40%) provide a sharps kit to toilet attendants, whilst almost two-fifths (39%) provide them to refuse collection operatives. Just over a third (35%) provide the kit for parks personnel and just over a tenth (11%) provide it for 'other' members of staff. For details of the 'other' responses given, please see Appendix A (Q9iib).

5.4 Contents of Sharps Kit

Those authorities that said they provided a sharps kit were asked to specify what items were included in the kit. Table 6 shows their responses.

Table 6 – Contents of Sharps Kits

Response	% of local authorities
Sharp box	99
Gloves	91
Tongs/picks/tweezers	89
Disinfectant	40
Report sheet	32
Sharp bag	21
Other	6

The table shows that 99% of local authorities include a sharp box. More than nine out of 10 provided gloves (91%), whilst almost nine in 10 provided tongs/picks/tweezers (89%). Two-fifths provided disinfectant (40%), almost a third provided a report sheet (32%) and around a fifth provided a sharp bag (21%). Six per cent said that they provided 'other' items aside from those listed on the questionnaire. For details of the 'other' items included in the sharps kit, please see Appendix A (Q10ii).

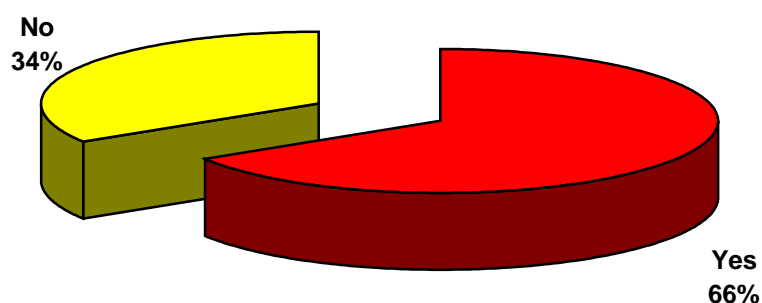
6.0 Safety Measures for the Public

6.1 General Safety Measures

Respondents were asked if they had introduced safety measures to reduce the risk of injuries to the public caused by needles. Figure 12 shows their responses.

Figure 12

Have you introduced safety measures to reduce injuries to the public?



Base: 139

Two-thirds of local authorities (66%) stated that they had introduced safety measures to reduce needlestick injuries to the public, a slight increase on 2001 (62%). Those local authorities that had introduced safety measures were asked to state which measures had been introduced. Table 7 shows their responses.

Table 7 – Safety measures introduced to protect the public

Response	% of local authorities
Free clinical waste collection	64
Providing personal sharps containers	37
Leaflets/posters	35
Wheelie bins	28
Providing sharps bins in public places, such as toilets and car parks	20
Other	6

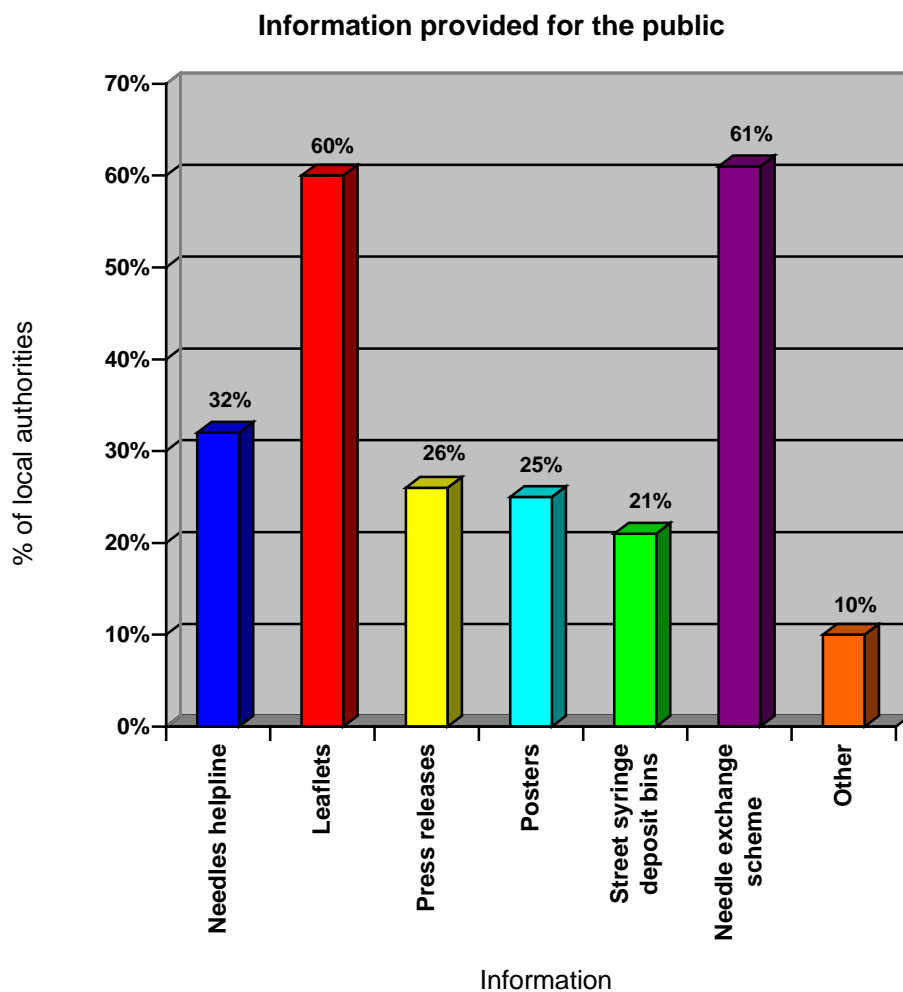
Almost two-thirds of local authorities (64%) that had implemented safety measures to protect members of the public now provide a free clinical waste collection, whilst just

over a third each provide personal sharps containers (37%) and have distributed leaflets/posters (35%). Over a quarter (28%) provide wheelie bins, whilst a fifth (20%) provide sharps bins in public places. Six per cent have introduced ‘other’ safety measures than those stated on the questionnaire. For details of the ‘other’ safety measures introduced, please see Appendix A (Q6iii).

6.2 Information Provided

Local authorities were also asked if they, either alone or with other organisations, provided any information for the public about the medical dangers related to needles and/or facilities for their safe disposal. Around two-fifths of them (43%) stated that they provide information for the public. These local authorities were asked what had been introduced. Figure 13 shows their responses.

Figure 13



Base: 134

Of those local authorities providing information for the public about the medical dangers related to needles and/or facilities for their safe disposal, around six out of 10 had each introduced a needle exchange scheme (61%) and provided leaflets (60%). Almost a third (32%) have a needles helpline, whilst just over a quarter (26%) had written press releases, a quarter (25%) had provided posters and around a fifth (21%) had street syringe deposit bins. A tenth said that they had introduced 'other' sources of information and/or facilities for the safe disposal of needles. For details of the 'other' responses, please see Appendix A (Q12iii).

7.0 Needlestick Injuries

7.1 Injuries Since 2001

Respondents were asked if they were aware of any injuries since 2001 in their local authority, due to discarded needles. Two-fifths (40%) said they were aware of injuries, which is a similar proportion to that found in 2001 (43%).

Those local authorities that said they were aware of needlestick injuries in the past three years were asked who had been injured and how many injuries had occurred. Table 8 shows the breakdown of these injuries into the types of people injured.

Table 8 – Types of people affected by needlestick injuries

Response	No. of injuries
Local authority employee	135
Local authority contractor	30
Member of public, over 16	0
Member of public, under 16	4
Total	169

A total of 169 injuries were recorded in the past three years throughout England. The figure from the previous survey, for injuries obtained in England² was 188, which shows that the safety measures that have been implemented to minimise needlestick injury to both members of the public and local authority staff have had a positive impact on the number of injuries recorded over time.

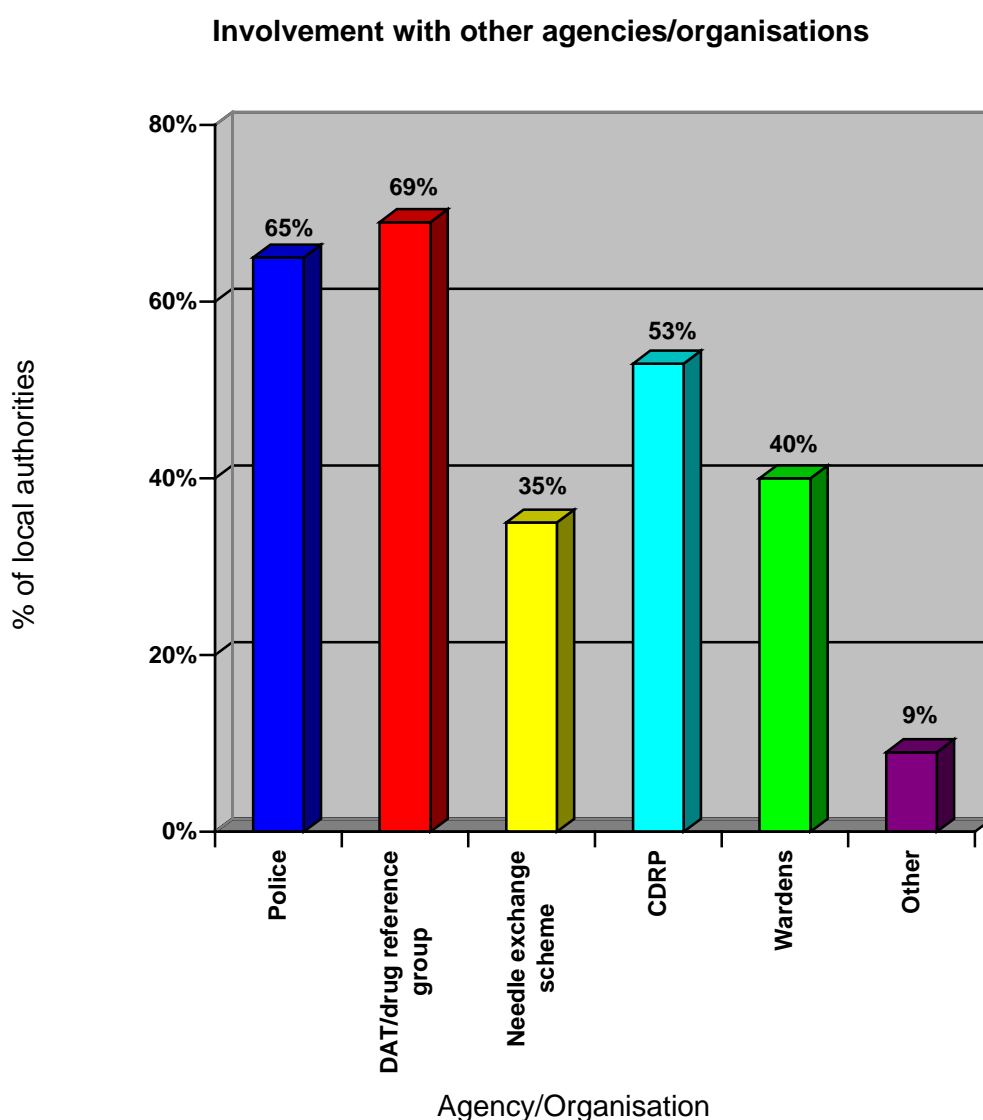
² Figures from the previous survey (2001) were recalculated for England only to allow comparisons to be made.

8.0 External Liaisons

8.1 Involvement with Other Agencies or Organisations

Local authorities were asked if they were involved with any other agencies or organisations in work to tackle drugs-related litter. Over two-thirds (69%) said that were. These authorities were asked to state the agencies or organisations that they work with. Figure 14 illustrates the partnerships.

Figure 14



Base: 140

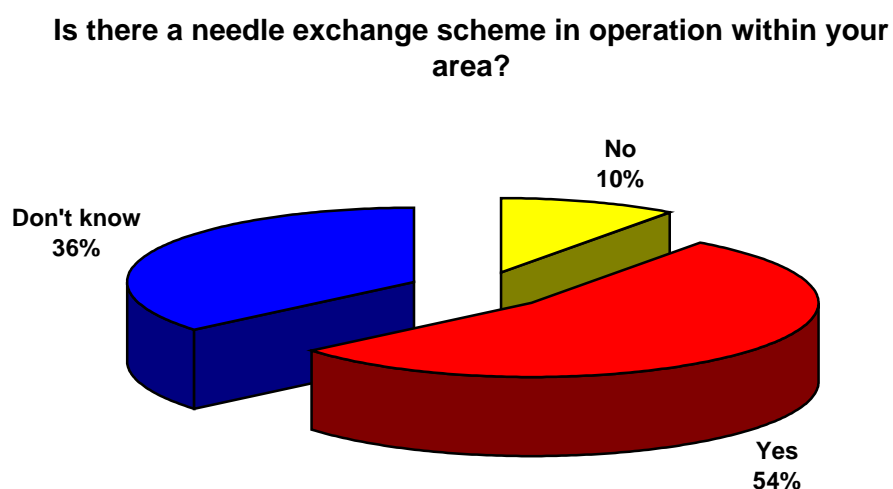
Of those local authorities working with other agencies or organisations to tackle drugs-related litter, over two-thirds were working with their Drug Action Team (DAT)

or Drug Reference Group (69%), and almost two-thirds were working with the police (65%). Just over half of local authorities were working with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) (53%), two-fifths stated that they worked with the wardens (40%) and just over a third worked with the needle exchange scheme (35%). Almost a tenth (9%) said that they worked with 'other' agencies or organisations than those listed on the questionnaire. For details of the 'other' agencies/organisations that local authorities work with, please see Appendix A (Q13iii).

8.2 Needle Exchange Schemes

Local authorities were asked if there was a needle exchange scheme in operation within their area. Figure 15 shows their responses.

Figure 15



Base: 142

Just over half (54%) said that there was a needle exchange scheme in operation within their area, whilst a tenth (10%) said that there was not. Just over a third (36%) said that they did not know.

Those authorities that had a needle exchange scheme in operation in their area were asked what type of scheme it was and to give figures of percentage return. Table 9 shows their responses.

Table 9 – Type of needle exchange scheme

Response	% of local authorities	Return rate (%)
Centre-based	52	84
Mobile service	6	Not specified
Pharmacy-based	79	72
Other	3	Not specified

Over three-quarters of local authorities with a needle exchange scheme said they have a pharmacy-based scheme (79%), with an average return rate of 72%, whilst just over half said that they have a centre-based scheme (52%), with an average of 84% of needles being returned. Just 6% of local authorities had a mobile service, but were unable to specify the percentage of needles returned.

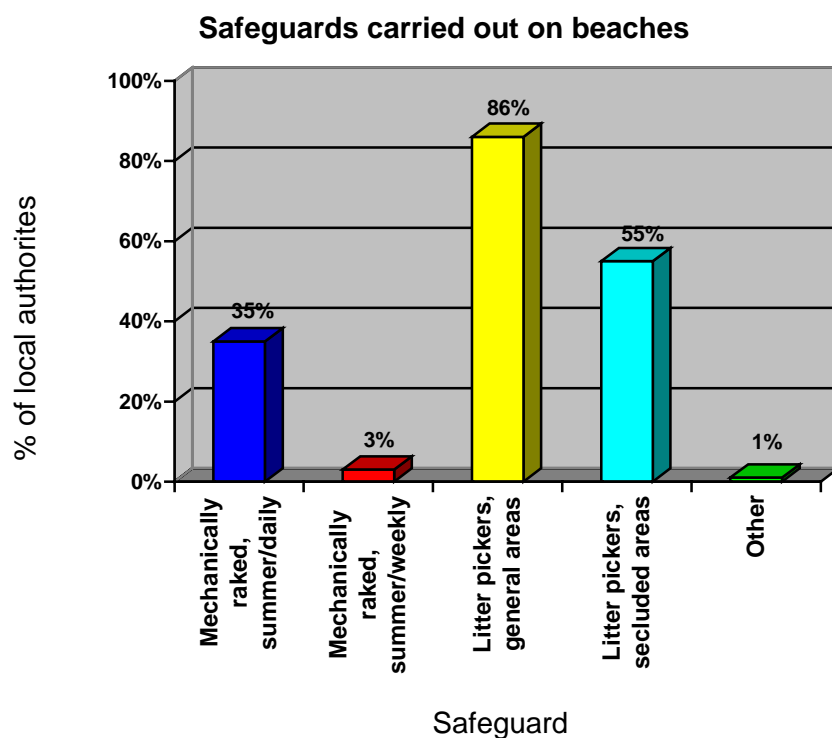
9.0 Seaside Authorities

9.1 Needles on Beaches

Local authorities were asked if any of their boundaries covered a seaside area. Around a quarter (24%) said that they did. Those authorities covering a seaside area were asked if they were aware of any discarded needles that had been reported or retrieved on the beach. Almost three-quarters (72%) said that they were aware of discarded needles on the beach.

Those authorities that covered a seaside area were then asked what safeguards were carried out to minimise the exposure to the public of needles on the beach. Figure 16 shows their responses.

Figure 16



Base: 32

Almost nine out of 10 seaside authorities that were aware of discarded needles on the beach said that they had litter pickers working in general areas (86%), whilst just over half (55%) said that litter pickers also worked in secluded areas. Around a third (35%) mechanically raked the beach daily during the summer.

10.0 Other Drugs-Related Litter

10.1 Other Drugs-Related Litter Found by Local Authorities

Local authorities were asked to specify the other types of litter related to drugs which they found within their authority. The five most common items found were:

- Aluminium foil (found by 80% of local authorities);
- Aerosols (found by 58%);
- Spoons (found by 57%);
- Bottles (found by 56%);
- Bags (found by 49%).

For further details of the other items found, please refer to Appendix A (Q17i).

Conclusion

The survey undertaken by ENCAMS in 1998 found that drugs-related litter was not just confined to urban areas. The 2001 survey supported this finding and this latest piece of work confirms that both rural and seaside authorities, along with urban authorities, are blighted by discarded needles. Discarded needles are found in more than nine out of 10 local authorities in England and the quantity of needles found is increasing dramatically year on year. They are being reported and retrieved from a variety of areas, with significant increases being observed in the proportion of local authorities receiving reports of discarded needles in residential areas, in parks and playing fields, on footpaths and in abandoned vehicles.

Discarded needles are increasingly being collected from non-local authority land, with the proportions of local authorities collecting them from residential premises, schools or colleges or universities and commercial premises increasing over time. Interestingly, there are significant decreases in the proportion of local authorities imposing a charge to remove discarded needles from these types of non-local authority land.

When monitoring discarded needles, just under half of local authorities include reports from other organisations or other council departments. Almost half of these include reports of discarded needles from the police, whilst two-fifths include reports from the wardens and around two-thirds include reports from another department.

When compared with the results from 2001, a significant increase was observed in the proportion of local authorities introducing safety measures to reduce the risk of needlestick injury to members of the public. These measures included free clinical waste collection, the provision of personal sharps containers and the production and distribution of leaflets and posters to raise awareness of drugs-related litter among members of the public. The results also showed an increase in the proportion of local authorities introducing safety measures to reduce the risk of injury to their staff. The proportions of local authorities providing protective gloves, tongs, wheelie bins, training and other protective clothing were all on the increase.

Around four in 10 local authorities either alone or with other organisations, provide information for the public about the medical dangers related to needles and/or

facilities for their safe disposal. The most popular sources introduced are the needle exchange schemes, leaflets and a needles helpline.

In response to the growing problem of drugs-related litter, over half of local authorities have a dedicated team or member of staff to collect discarded needles reported by employees and the public. Almost three-quarters of the dedicated teams collect discarded needles for all council departments, whilst a third collect them for Registered Social Landlords in the area and over a quarter invest additional resources into monitoring areas where there are high levels of discarded needles. More than two-thirds of local authorities have dedicated ways for members of the public to report discarded needles.

The proportion of local authorities working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to tackle drugs-related litter increased by 16% since 2001. Almost seven in 10 local authorities work in partnership with their Drug Action Team or drug reference group, whilst over six in 10 work with the police, over half work with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and two-fifths work with the wardens.

On the whole, over half of local authorities have a needle exchange scheme in operation in their area. Over three-quarters of these are pharmacy-based and over half are centre-based schemes.

It is evident that drugs-related litter cannot be tackled in isolation and that local authorities are linking up with other agencies to tackle the problem holistically, by providing services for drug users and by introducing safeguards to protect local residents and local authority staff from needlestick injuries. Many local authorities are aware of the size of the problem and the impact that it can have on their communities and are responding to it in a proactive way. ENCAMS will continue to track the problem of drugs-related litter over time and will collate and share best practice to help local authorities take effective action.

Appendices

Appendix A All Results by Region

Appendix B Copy of the Questionnaire

Appendix A All Results by Region

Q1a Has your local authority implemented an official procedure to recover discarded needles if found by staff?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	24	33	31	0	13	21	14	44	10	20
Yes	65	55	62	79	80	75	76	22	90	69
In the process of doing so	12	13	8	21	7	4	10	33	0	11
Total	101%	101%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%

Q1b Has your local authority implemented an official procedure to recover discarded needles if found by a member of the public?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	24	36	39	14	13	26	14	33	30	24
Yes	65	50	54	57	80	67	81	33	70	64
In the process of doing so	12	14	8	29	7	7	5	33	0	11
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%

Q2i Are discarded needles collected from the following types of non-local authority land?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Residential premises	86	100	50	92	64	85	59	63	100	78
Commercial premises	64	67	75	83	55	62	35	38	100	63
Schools/colleges or universities	64	67	67	83	64	69	53	50	100	68
Privately operated car parks	64	67	58	67	55	50	24	50	88	55
Railway land	36	33	25	50	27	27	18	50	50	33
Other	14	42	33	17	55	15	19	25	38	26

Q2ii If yes, is there a collection charge?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Residential premises	17	25	17	18	14	0	0	40	25	11
Commercial premises	56	50	22	30	33	27	17	67	63	24
Schools/colleges or universities	22	0	13	20	14	24	0	50	13	11
Privately operated car parks	22	13	43	25	33	25	25	50	29	15
Railway land	20	25	33	17	33	17	33	50	25	9
Other	0	0	25	0	0	0	100	N/A	0	1

Base: those respondents who collect discarded needles from the above areas.

Q2iii Average collection charge.										
	East Mids.	East of England	London	North East	North West	South East	South West	West Mids	Yorks and Humber	National
Residential premises	£45	Not specified	£40	£30	Not specified	N/A	N/A	£30	Not specified	£36.25
Commercial premises	£35	Not specified	£44	£28	Not specified	£23	£25	£30	£15	£30.59
Schools/colleges or universities	£25	N/A	£40	£20	Not specified	£23	N/A	£30	Not specified	£25.81
Privately operated car parks	£40	Not specified	£41	£25	Not specified	£23	£25	£30	Not specified	£32.87
Railway land	£45	Not specified	£48	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	£25	£30	Not specified	£37.00
Other	N/A	N/A	£35	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not specified	N/A	N/A	£35.00

Base: those respondents who collect and charge for discarded needles from the above areas.

Q2iv Other types of non-local authority land that discarded needles are collected from.	
Response	No. of Responses
All publicly accessible land	12
Highways	6
All areas within the borough	4
Churchyards/cemeteries	2
Parks	2
House clearances/void properties	2
Building sites	1
Council-owned car parks	1
Footpaths	1
Non-commercial land open to public	1
Private shopping centres	1
No response	6
Total	39

Base: 32 respondents – Some respondents gave more than one response.

Q3i Does your local authority provide any dedicated ways for members of the public to report discarded needles?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	29	40	15	20	47	41	38	22	10	32
Yes	71	60	85	80	53	59	62	78	90	68
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q3ii If yes, please state what is provided.										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Telephone hotline	83	89	91	92	88	88	85	71	67	85
Link on website	33	33	36	42	38	31	31	43	22	34
Email address	17	44	64	50	38	38	31	29	33	38
Other	8	25	18	9	38	19	8	33	29	23

Q3iii Other responses.	
Response	No. of Respondents
Via call/contact centre	9
Via street cleaning contractors	2
Via main switchboard/reception	2
Emergency team – out of hours service	1
Respond to any contact by member of the public	1
Via fax	1
Via Neighbourhood Wardens	1
Via written correspondence	1
Total	18

Base: 18 respondents

Q4i Does your local authority aim to collect reported discarded needles within a time period?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	0	14	0	20	20	15	10	11	10	12
Yes	100	86	100	80	80	85	90	89	90	89
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%

Q4ii If yes, please specify time period.										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Immediately	0	33	0	25	25	17	28	38	33	21
1 hour or less	24	25	67	25	8	25	17	13	22	24
3 hours or less	24	25	11	33	17	17	28	13	0	20
Half a day	12	8	0	0	0	13	17	25	11	10
Same day/24 hours	41	8	22	17	50	29	10	13	33	26
Total	101%	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	102%	99%	101%

Q5i Are you aware of any littered/discarded needles being reported/discovered in the last three years?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	0	7	8	7	0	4	5	0	0	4
Yes	100	93	92	93	100	96	95	100	100	97
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%

Q5ii If yes, do you keep records of the number of cases?

	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	24	29	42	15	31	39	35	11	0	28
Yes	77	71	58	85	69	62	65	89	100	72
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q5iii What is the total number of discarded needles cases reported during April 01 – March 02?

	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
0	0	0	0	11	0	6	0	0	0	3
1 – 50	50	100	83	44	43	50	82	100	17	63
51 – 100	25	0	0	22	29	6	9	0	0	8
101 – 200	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	33	8
201 – 300	25	0	0	11	0	13	0	0	17	8
301 – 400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
401 – 500	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	1
500+	0	0	17	0	29	13	9	0	33	10
Total	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%

Q5iv What is the total number of discarded needles cases reported during April 02 – March 03?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
0	0	0	0	9	13	7	0	0	0	3
1 – 50	40	90	71	36	50	51	82	100	25	60
51 – 100	10	0	0	18	13	0	0	0	0	6
101 – 200	40	0	0	9	0	21	9	0	0	10
201 – 300	0	0	14	18	0	7	0	0	38	8
301 – 400	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	13	2
401 – 500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
500+	10	10	14	9	13	14	9	0	25	11
Total	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%

Q5v What is the total number of discarded needles cases reported during April 03 – March 04?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
0	0	0	0	17	9	0	0	0	0	3
1 – 50	58	71	50	33	45	50	57	89	22	52
51 – 100	0	14	0	25	27	14	14	0	0	16
101 – 200	25	0	10	25	9	14	14	0	11	11
201 – 300	0	0	10	0	0	7	0	11	33	5
301 – 400	8	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	3
401 – 500	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
500+	8	7	20	0	9	14	7	0	33	10
Total	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%	99%	101%

Q5vi Are these figures estimated?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	73	36	50	64	60	30	25	22	78	46
Yes	27	64	50	36	40	70	75	78	22	55
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%

Q5vii In which areas have discarded needles been reported?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Parks/playing fields	94	86	75	79	92	69	90	78	90	83
School grounds	35	14	67	57	31	31	30	33	60	38
Residential areas	88	64	67	79	92	69	90	78	60	77
Private gardens	82	29	42	57	54	39	50	33	70	50
Car parks	71	57	67	71	46	62	75	89	90	68
Lay-bys	65	29	25	29	31	27	50	56	90	42
Footpaths	77	64	83	64	69	46	75	78	90	69
Litter bins	65	14	67	71	39	35	65	56	100	54
Inland waterways	6	7	0	0	0	8	0	0	20	5
Road gullies	53	43	67	71	62	42	60	11	80	54
Drains	29	29	50	14	31	23	20	0	80	29
Civic amenity sites	24	14	33	7	8	4	15	22	20	15
Public toilets	71	50	75	64	69	69	90	56	100	72
Abandoned vehicles	41	36	58	29	8	27	35	22	60	34
Beaches	6	14	0	29	15	15	30	0	20	16
House clearance	53	29	42	36	39	31	40	44	80	42
Churchyards	35	29	50	21	31	15	55	11	60	33
Other	24	13	38	7	13	7	10	0	10	13

Q5viii Which other areas have discarded needles been reported?	
Response	No. of Responses
Domestic refuse	3
Derelict land	3
Open spaces	3
Children's play areas	2
Railway/tube stations	2
Highways	2
Dog waste bins	1
Alleyways	1
Gutters	1
Stairwells	1
Public houses	1
Industrial estates	1
Hostels	1
Railway lines	1
Allotments	1
Supermarket premises	1
Garages	1
Under bridges	1
Total	27

Base: 22 – Some respondents gave more than one response.

Q5ix When monitoring discarded needles, do you include reports from other organisations/other departments?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	44	64	50	50	79	56	55	56	30	55
Yes	56	36	50	50	21	44	45	44	70	46
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%

Q5x If yes, please state which organisations.										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Police	33	80	83	43	33	36	25	75	43	47
Drug Action Team/drug reference group	33	20	50	43	0	18	13	50	14	27
Needle exchange scheme	0	0	33	29	0	27	0	0	43	17
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)	33	40	33	29	0	9	0	25	29	22
Wardens	22	40	83	57	67	36	38	25	14	40
Other department within your local authority	56	60	83	86	33	55	63	100	71	67
Other	22	20	17	14	33	30	38	0	14	28

Q5xi Which other departments within your authority do you include reports of discarded needles from?	
Response	No. of Responses
Housing Services	11
Parks	7
All departments	5
Cleansing and Building Works	3
Environmental Health	3
Environmental Services	3
Grounds Maintenance	3
Community Safety	1
Customer Services	1
Car Parks	1
Leisure	1
Operations	1
Waste Management	1
Direct Service Organisation	1

Highways	1
No response	9
Total	52

Base: 40 respondents – Some respondents gave more than one response.

Q5xii Which other organisations do you include reports of discarded needles from?	
Response	No. of Respondents
Contractors	5
Registered Social Landlords	2
Any organisation that reports them	1
County Council	1
Private landlords	1
Town Councils	1
No response	2
Total	13

Base: 13 respondents – Some respondents gave more than one response.

Q6i Has your local authority introduced safety measures of any kind to reduce the risk of injuries to the public caused by needles?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	12	27	46	57	50	22	33	44	33	34
Yes	88	73	54	43	50	78	67	56	67	66
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q6ii If yes, what safety measures have been introduced?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Leaflets/posters	33	46	43	50	57	24	14	40	50	35
Wheelie bins	27	18	0	17	71	24	36	20	50	28
Providing personal sharps containers	27	36	29	0	29	43	36	60	83	37
Free clinical waste collection	60	73	57	50	43	71	57	80	83	64
Providing sharps bins in public places, such as toilets and car parks	7	22	14	0	0	19	43	20	50	20
Other	0	0	15	13	0	4	5	0	10	6

Q6iii What other safety measures have been introduced?	
Response	No. of Respondents
Contractor removes discarded needles from public toilets	2
Advertisement on local radio	1
Fast track removal service from highways	1
Information on website	1
Media campaign	1
Needle chute in public toilets	1
No response	2
Total	9

Base: 9 respondents

Q7i Are you aware of any injuries since 2001 in your local authority, due to discarded needles?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	56	60	54	80	50	64	48	89	40	60
Yes	44	40	46	20	50	36	52	11	60	40
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q7ii If yes, who was injured and how many injuries occurred?										
	East Mids. (No.)	East of England (No.)	London (No.)	North East (No.)	North West (No.)	South East (No.)	South West (No.)	West Mids. (No.)	Yorks. And Humber (No.)	National (No.)
Local authority employee	19	9	30	5	11	20	16	1	24	135
Local authority contractor	4	10	6	0	1	8	1	0	0	30
Member of public, over 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Member of public, under 16	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
Total	23	19	36	6	13	30	17	1	24	169

Q8i Does your local authority have a dedicated team/member of staff to collect discarded needles reported by employees and the public?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
No	24	27	69	20	40	61	33	44	40	41
Yes	70	73	31	73	60	39	67	56	60	58
No, but under consideration	6	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q8ia If yes, which department/section are they based in?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. And Humber (%)	National (%)
Cleansing (client side)	50	36	75	36	11	45	43	20	17	37
Cleansing contractor	42	45	50	55	56	36	50	80	67	51
Environmental Health	33	27	50	9	22	9	14	0	17	20
Wardens	17	9	0	27	11	9	7	0	0	11
Other	0	0	0	0	22	27	7	20	33	11

Q8ib Which other departments are they based in?	
Response	No. of Respondents
Direct Service Organisation	2
Streetscene Services	1
Highways Direct Labour Organisation	1
District Assemblies	1
Neighbourhood Environment	1
Cleansing Direct Labour Organisation	1
Community Services (parks and recreation)	1
Building Cleansing Services	1
Total	9

Base: 9 respondents

Q8ii Do they collect discarded needles for all council departments?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	25	36	75	9	33	27	15	40	17	27
Yes	75	64	25	91	67	73	85	60	83	73
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q8iii Do they collect discarded needles for Registered Social Landlords in the area?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	64	82	50	56	56	73	69	100	50	67
Yes	36	18	50	44	44	27	31	0	50	33
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q8iv Does your local authority put additional resources into monitoring areas where there are high levels of discarded needles?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	69	67	75	64	92	82	76	71	50	73
Yes	31	33	25	36	8	18	24	29	50	27
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q9ia Does your local authority train any of the following staff for the collection of discarded needles?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Refuse collection operatives	24	46	39	60	43	36	57	67	60	46
Street sweepers	53	54	62	80	64	56	76	89	90	67
Parks personnel	12	31	23	33	43	36	62	67	60	39
EHOs/technical assistants	12	46	0	20	21	24	33	11	30	23
Social service workers	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	10	2
Toilet attendants	35	46	8	40	43	36	48	56	70	41
Housing officers	0	23	0	7	0	4	0	22	10	6
School caretakers	0	0	8	13	0	0	0	11	20	4
Contractors	18	15	15	0	7	28	24	11	0	15

Wardens	24	15	8	33	21	16	10	11	10	16
Other	29	20	15	13	13	7	5	0	20	13

Q9ib Which other members of staff do you train?	
Response	No. of Respondents
Pest control officers	4
Cleansing supervisors (client side)	2
Leisure centre staff	2
Clinical waste collection staff	1
Clinical waste collection supervisors	1
Horticultural staff	1
Caretakers	1
Parking attendants	1
Police Community Support Officers	1
Streetscene officer	1
Waste management staff	1
No response	3
Total	19

Base: 19 respondents

Q9iia Does your local authority provide a 'sharps kit' to any of the following staff for the collection of discarded needles?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Refuse collection operatives	29	31	39	53	43	32	48	44	40	39
Street sweepers	47	46	69	73	71	64	71	78	70	65
Parks personnel	12	39	23	33	43	28	52	67	30	35
EHOs/technical assistants	12	54	8	13	14	24	24	11	10	20
Social service workers	0	0	8	0	0	0	5	0	0	2
Toilet attendants	29	46	15	40	50	40	48	33	60	40
Housing officers	0	15	0	0	0	4	0	22	0	4
School caretakers	0	0	8	7	0	0	0	11	0	2
Contractors	18	15	8	0	7	28	33	11	0	16
Wardens	24	15	8	40	21	12	10	11	10	17
Other	29	20	15	0	13	7	0	0	10	11

Q9iib Which other members of staff do you provide a 'sharps kit' for?	
Response	No. of Respondents
Pest control officers	3
Caretakers	1
Cleansing supervisors (client side)	1
Clinical waste collection staff	1
Clinical waste collection supervisors	1
Parish councils	1
Streetscene officer	1
Waste management staff	1
No response	5
Total	15

Base: 15 respondents

Q10i If a 'sharps kit' is provided, please specify what items are included.										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Sharp box	100	100	100	100	100	96	100	100	100	99
Gloves	93	92	83	92	100	91	100	67	88	91
Tongs/picks/tweezers	100	85	100	100	91	91	79	56	100	89
Sharp bag	21	23	33	15	9	30	11	22	25	21
Report sheet	29	23	42	39	36	17	37	22	63	32
Disinfectant	57	46	42	15	27	35	47	11	88	40
Other	6	7	8	0	7	4	5	11	0	6

Q10ii What other items are included?	
Response	No. of Respondents
Instruction leaflet	2
Dustpan and brush	1
Medical wipes	1
Telescopic Touch Sensor and mirror	1
No response	2
Total	7

Base: 7 respondents

Q11i Has your local authority introduced safety measures of any kind to reduce the risk of needlestick injuries to staff?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	0	8	8	0	7	11	5	11	0	6
Yes	100	92	92	100	93	89	95	89	100	94
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q11ii If yes, what safety measures have been introduced?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Protective gloves	82	75	92	93	85	91	84	100	90	88
Tongs	77	75	92	80	69	70	74	63	100	77
Wheelie bins	24	8	8	20	54	30	37	38	40	29
Training	77	58	92	60	85	78	79	75	100	78
Other protective clothing	35	25	50	13	39	22	26	0	70	30
Other	6	33	27	0	8	4	0	25	20	11

Q11iii What other protective clothing has been introduced as a safety measure?	
Response	No. of Responses
Ballistic trousers	16
Footwear	8
Goggles	2
Overalls	2
Face shield	1
Disposable overalls	1
Apron	1
No response	15
Total	46

Base: 42 respondents – Some respondents gave more than one response.

Q11iv What other safety measures have been introduced?	
Response	No. of Responses
Training	3
Risk assessment	3
Advice card	1
Instruction video	1
Litter warden collects needles, so staff are not in contact with them	1
Needle handling pack	1
No response	9
Total	19

Base: 16 respondents – Some respondents gave more than one response.

Q12i Does your local authority, either alone or with other organisations, provide information for the public about the medical dangers related to needles and/or facilities for the safe disposal of needles?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	35	54	69	57	50	65	55	78	50	57
Yes	65	46	31	43	50	36	45	22	50	43
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q12ii If yes, what has been introduced?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Needles helpline	36	17	75	0	17	33	11	100	75	32
Leaflets	55	50	75	33	50	67	67	100	75	60
Press releases	18	17	25	33	17	56	11	50	25	26
Posters	9	33	25	33	0	44	22	0	50	25
Street syringe deposit bins	9	33	25	0	33	22	22	0	50	21
Needle exchange scheme	27	67	75	67	67	56	78	100	75	61
Other	12	20	8	20	13	4	10	0	0	10

Q12iii What other things have been introduced?	
Response	No. of Responses
Information on Internet	3
Drug and Alcohol Action Team	1
Drug and alcohol meetings	1
Health and safety policy	1
Letters to individuals	1
Free collection service	1
Public meetings	1
Information sheets	1
Public toilets disposal scheme	1
Radio advertisement	1
Work with Primary Care Trust and Drug Action Team	1
No response	1
Total	14

Base 6 respondents – Some respondents gave more than one response

Q13i Are you involved with any other agencies/organisations in work to tackle drugs-related litter?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	38	53	23	13	27	46	24	22	10	31
Yes	63	47	77	87	73	54	76	78	90	69
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q13ii If yes, please state which agencies.										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Police	70	86	70	62	50	57	56	100	56	65
Drug Action Team/drug reference group	80	86	60	69	70	79	44	86	67	69
Needle exchange scheme	40	57	20	31	30	29	25	29	78	35
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)	60	57	50	69	50	43	56	29	56	53
Wardens	50	0	70	62	40	43	38	14	11	40
Other	10	0	22	15	10	7	0	14	0	9

Q13iii Which other agencies/organisations do you work with?	
Response	No. of Respondents
Community Safety Partnership	2
Community organisations	1
Contractors	1
ENCAMS	1
Residents and neighbourhood groups	1
Rough sleepers forum	1
Youth outreach teams	1
No response	1
Total	9

Base: 9 respondents

Q14i Is there is a needle exchange scheme in operation within your area?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	13	13	8	0	0	21	10	11	0	10
Yes	50	47	39	53	60	46	67	44	90	54
Don't know	38	40	54	47	40	32	24	44	10	36
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	99%	101%	99%	100%	100%

Q14ii If yes, what type of scheme is it and if possible give figures of percentage return?

	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Centre based	14 (% return not specified)	67 (90% return rate)	100 (% return not specified)	57 (101% return rate)*	75 (% return not specified)	27 (% return not specified)	54 (96% return rate)	50 (44% return rate)	57 (90% return rate)	52 (84% return rate)
Mobile service	0 (N/A)	17 (% return not specified)	25 (% return not specified)	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	9 (% return not specified)	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	14 (% return rate not specified)	6 (% return not specified)
Pharmacy based	100 (% return not specified)	67 (% return not specified)	100 (% return not specified)	86 (95% return rate)	63 (% return not specified)	91 (54% return rate)	54 (% return not specified)	100 (44% return rate)	86 (83% return rate)	79 (72% return rate)
Other	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	15 (% return not specified)	0 (N/A)	0 (N/A)	3 (% return not specified)

* 1 local authority stated that they issued fewer needles than were returned.

Q14iii If other, please specify.

Response	No. of Respondents
Hospital based	1
Turning Point	1
Total	2

Base: 2 respondents

Q15 Do any of your local authority boundaries cover a seaside area?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	94	73	100	53	87	74	48	100	80	76
Yes	6	27	0	47	13	26	52	0	20	24
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q16a If yes, are you aware of any discarded needles that have been reported or retrieved on the beach?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
No	100	25	N/A	33	0	43	30	N/A	0	28
Yes	0	75	N/A	67	100	57	70	N/A	100	72
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q16bi What safeguards are carried out to minimise the exposure to the public of needles on the beach?										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Mechanically raked, summer/daily	100	0	N/A	29	0	20	50	N/A	100	35
Mechanically raked, summer/weekly	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	13	N/A	0	3
Litter pickers, general areas	0	75	N/A	86	100	80	100	N/A	100	86
Litter pickers, secluded areas	0	50	N/A	71	0	60	50	N/A	100	55
Other	0	7	N/A	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	1

Q16bii What other safeguards are carried out?	
Response	No. of Respondents
If aware of problem areas, will litter pick daily	1
No response	1
Total	2

Q17i Please specify the other types of litter related to drugs, which you find within your authority.										
	East Mids. (%)	East of England (%)	London (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West Mids. (%)	Yorks. and Humber (%)	National (%)
Aerosols	27	54	75	83	46	59	65	71	60	58
Aluminium foil	67	69	88	75	73	88	94	71	90	80
Bags	33	46	75	67	46	53	59	14	40	49
Bongs	27	23	63	42	36	47	24	29	60	37
Bottles	53	31	75	83	27	53	71	57	60	56
Packaging	53	39	75	42	18	41	65	71	60	50
Papers	33	31	75	58	55	59	53	43	40	49
Pipes	27	31	63	33	27	35	41	14	30	34
Spoons	67	39	75	67	46	47	65	57	60	57
Swabs	47	23	75	42	27	47	35	29	40	40
Wraps	47	23	75	50	46	47	59	43	50	47
Other	0	7	8	0	0	11	0	0	0	12

Q17ii What other types of litter related to drugs do you find within your authority?	
Response	No. of Responses
Citric acid sachets/Vit C	3
Belts/straps	1
Tippex	1
Stolen goods	1
Tourniquets	1
Total	7

Base 5 respondents – Some respondents gave more than one response.

Q18 Has your local authority been involved with any initiatives to tackle drugs-related litter? Please feel free to comment further.	
Response	No. of Respondents
More than 200 staff and 50 managers trained/Developed a sharps database to monitor drugs-related litter	1
We invite community groups to apply for a small grant (up to £2,000) to tackle drugs-related litter in their area. Funding for the initiative is from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	1
The Community Safety Partnership works closely with the needle exchange through the Drug and Alcohol Reference Group (DARG)	1
CrackOUT – a joint programme between the local authority, the police and the community. It is designed to reduce the supply and use of crack cocaine in the area. It has funding from the Home Office 'Communities Against Drugs' programme	1
Discarded needle awareness training for front-line staff, delivered by the Harm Reduction Service	1
Drug Action Team, held a 'Drug Awareness' week, offer internal training courses on needle handling	1
Drug and Alcohol Action Team and held a clean up to target hotspots	1
Work is ongoing to get a prescribing service in areas not currently covered	1
Drug awareness training for residents groups	1
Ran a sharps safe collection programme in conjunction with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team	1
Implemented a Drugs Warden to tackle Class A drugs, GIS mapping of drugs-related litter and an information network of hotspot areas	1
In high drugs-related litter areas, we ran an awareness campaign targeting people that are non-English speaking. Five foreign language posters were produced and displayed in relevant premises and businesses	1
In conjunction with needle exchanges, information was handed out with needle packs at some needle exchanges, which indicated how needles should be disposed of in a responsible way	1
Information on where drugs-related litter is found is shared with Drug Action Team on a quarterly basis. Hotspot areas are reported to community drug workers, as they become evident, so that outreach services can be offered	1
Installed sharps bins in hotspot areas	1

Needle exchange schemes, run by the Drug Action Team, are targeted in hotspot areas	1
Needles found in public places are reported to police	1
Drug awareness seminars, school education initiatives, support www.talktofrank.com	1
Publicity in council's newsletter, which goes to all households, and publicity in conjunction with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team	1
Poster campaign – advertising a telephone number to call if the public find a needle and a leaflet promotion	1
Working to improve our reporting and monitoring system	1
Working to produce a leaflet for distribution in partnership with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team	1
Monitoring finds and report hotspot areas to police	1
Take part in a multi-agency education event, which is aimed at primary schools	1
Part of the Drug and Alcohol Reference Group (DARG)	1
Work with needle exchange and the Community Safety Officer	1
Working with a community group regarding drugs-related litter within a park and publishing a leaflet on drugs-related litter	1
Work with Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Drug and Alcohol Action Team	1
Operate a Drug Action Response Team	1
Work with community groups. Needle finds are highlighted to all departments to identify any possible hotspots	1
Work with local police	1
No response	113
Total	144

Appendix B – Copy of the Questionnaire

DRUGS-RELATED LITTER



QUESTIONNAIRE 2004

If you would like a summary of the main findings of this survey, please tick this box

Contact Name	
Department/Section	
Authority Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email address	

Throughout the questionnaire, needles refer to syringes used for illegal drugs or for medical reasons.

(Q1) Has your Local Authority implemented an official procedure to recover discarded needles if:

(a) found by staff?: No Yes In the process of doing so

(b) found by a member of the public? No Yes In the process of doing so

If you have implemented an official procedure to recover discarded needles found by staff and/or members of the public, please could you attach a copy, when returning the questionnaire.

(Q2) Are discarded needles collected from the following types of non-local authority land? If yes, is there a collection charge? (Please tick boxes and enter amount if applicable)

	Collected	Collection Charge	£
Residential premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools / colleges or universities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privately operated car parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railway land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If other, please specify		

- (Q3)** Does your Local Authority provide any dedicated ways for members of the public to report discarded needles? No
 Yes

If yes please state what is provided. (Tick all that apply)

- Telephone hotline Email address
 Link on website Other

If other, please specify.....

- (Q4)** Does your Local Authority aim to collect reported discarded needles within a time period?

- No Yes

If yes, please specify:

- Immediately Half a day
 1 hour or less Same day/24hrs
 3 hours or less

- (Q5)** Are you aware of any littered/discarded needles being reported/discovered in the last three years? No
 Yes

If No, go to Q6

Do you keep records of the number of cases? No Yes

What is the total number of discarded needles cases reported? If detailed figures are not kept then please give an estimate:

	Number	Are these figures estimated?
April 01 – March 02	<input type="text"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
April 02 – March 03	<input type="text"/>	
April 03 – March 04	<input type="text"/>	

In which areas have discarded needles been reported? (Please tick all that apply)

- Parks/playing fields Road gullies
 School grounds Drains
 Residential areas Civic amenity sites
 Private gardens Public toilets
 Car parks Abandoned vehicles
 Lay-bys Beaches
 Footpaths House clearance
 Litter bins Churchyards
 Inland waterways

Other, please specify.....

When monitoring discarded needles, do you include reports from other organisations/other departments?

No Yes

If yes, please state which organisations.

- Police
- Drug Action Team / drug reference group
- Needle exchange scheme
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)
- Wardens
- Other department within your Local Authority
Please state which department
- Other
Please specify

(Q6) Has your Local Authority introduced safety measures of any kind to reduce the risk of injuries to the **public** caused by needles?

No Yes

If yes, what safety measures have been introduced?:

- Leaflets/posters Providing personal sharps containers
- Wheelie bins Free clinical waste collection
- Providing sharps bins in public places, such as toilets and car parks
- Other, please specify

(Q7) Are you aware of any injuries since 2001 in your Local Authority, due to discarded needles?

No Yes

If yes, who was injured and how many injuries occurred?

		Number
Local Authority employee	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Local Authority contractor	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Member of public, over 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Member of public, under 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

(Q8) Does your Local Authority have a dedicated team/member of staff to collect discarded needles reported by employees and the public?

No Yes No, but under consideration

If yes,

(i) Which Department/Section are they based in?

Cleansing (client side) Environmental Health

Cleansing Contractor Wardens

Other, please specify

(ii) Do they collect discarded needles for all council departments?

No Yes

(iii) Do they collect discarded needles for Registered Social Landlords in the area?

No Yes

(iv) Does your Local Authority put additional resources into monitoring areas where there are high levels of discarded needles?

No Yes

(Q9) Does your Local Authority train or provide a 'Sharps Kit' to any of the following staff for the collection of discarded needles? (Please tick all applicable boxes)

	Trained?	'Sharps kits' provided?
Refuse collection operatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street sweepers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks personnel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EHOs / Technical Assistants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social service workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilet attendants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing officers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School caretakers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contractors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify		

(Q10) If 'Sharps Kits' are provided, please specify what items are included:

Sharp box Sharp bag

Gloves Report sheet

Disinfectant

Other, please specify

(Q11) Has your Local Authority introduced safety measures of any kind to reduce the risk of needlestick injuries to **staff**?

No Yes If yes, what safety measures have been introduced?

Protective gloves	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheelie bins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tongs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other protective clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	please specify
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	please specify

(Q12) Does your Local Authority, either alone or with other organisations, provide information for the public about the medical dangers related to needles and/or facilities for the safe disposal of needles?

No Yes

If yes, what has been introduced? (Please send samples if possible).

Needles helpline	<input type="checkbox"/>	Posters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaflets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Street syringe deposit bins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Press releases	<input type="checkbox"/>	Needle exchange scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify		

(Q13) Are you involved with any other agencies/organisations in work to tackle drugs-related litter?

No Yes

If yes, please state which agencies.

- Police
- Drug Action Team / drug reference group
- Needle exchange scheme
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)
- Wardens
- Other

Other, please specify.....

(Q14) Is there is a needle exchange scheme in operation within your area?

No Yes Don't know

If yes, what type of scheme is it and if possible give figures of percentage return?

	Tick	% Return
Centre based	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mobile service	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Pharmacy based	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

If other, please specify_____

(Q15) Do any of your Local Authority boundaries cover a seaside area?

No Yes

If No, go to Q17

(Q16) (a) Are you aware of any discarded needles that have been reported or retrieved on the beach?

No Yes

(b) What safeguards are carried out to minimise the exposure to the public of needles on the beach?

Mechanically raked, summer/daily

Mechanically raked, summer/weekly

Litter pickers, general areas

Litter pickers, secluded areas

Other, please specify

.....

(Q17) Please specify the other types of litter related to drugs which you find within your authority:

Aerosols Papers

Aluminium foil Pipes

Bags Spoons

Bongs Swabs

Bottles Wraps

Packaging

Other, please specify

.....
.....

(Q18) Has your Local Authority been involved with any initiatives to tackle drugs-related litter? Please feel free to comment further.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

ENCAMS may wish to contact you about this initiative with a view to using it as a case study in our forthcoming knowledge bank on drugs-related litter. If you would prefer us not to contact you about the initiative, please tick this box.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please return it by **Monday 20th December 2004** to:

Market Research Department
ENCAMS
Elizabeth House
The Pier
Wigan
WN3 4EX

Or email it to:

market.research@encams.org