



**Council on
Chemical Abuse**
Concilio de Abuso de Sustancias Químicas

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Deregulation of the Sale of Needles and Syringes in Pennsylvania Pharmacies receiving mixed reviews Pennsylvania Pharmacy Board has recently changed regulations surrounding the sale of hypodermic needles and syringes in pharmacies. They have ruled that a prescription is no longer needed for the purchase of syringes, nor does a customer have to be at least 18 years of age to purchase. The Board has stated that, "Distribution of clean hypodermic needles and syringes has been proven to reduce transmission of hepatitis C and HIV without increasing drug use." They have further explained, "Continuing to restrict access to hypodermic needles and syringes could exacerbate the spread of hepatitis C and HIV."

However, some counties are expressing concerns noting adolescents are now coming into their stores to purchase syringes. They are purchasing large quantities and usually do not even care what size of syringe they are purchasing. These particular SCA's are fearful with prevalent heroin problems more adolescents are now using heroin intravenously. To exacerbate the problem, when the pharmacist has asked the prescriptions they are using, the adolescents are unaware, many stating that the needles are for grandparents.

The Council on Chemical Abuse will be polling various pharmacies in Berks County to discover what they are experiencing surrounding this issue. Results of our findings will be posted once compiled.