

## Scientific Support for Safe Syringe Programs AND Safe Disposal of Used Syringes

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## Some of The Facts

- Injection drug use is expanding among non-traditional drugs such as prescription drugs
  - Individuals that abuse prescription drugs often turn to injection; high cost of prescription drugs cause many to transition to heroin
  - Possible new prescribing law may temporarily cause more to turn to heroin due to lack of access to prescription opioids
  - Stimulants, such as meth and cocaine, are also injected, and must be injected much more often
- Per Michigan Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978, Sec. 7457: Distribution of injection supplies (or any drug "paraphernalia") by a state or local governmental agency or by a person authorized by a governmental agency to prevent transmission of infectious agents is legal

## NSDUH Shows Increasing Trend in Heroin Use Among Youth

- Heroin use has doubled among people aged ≥26 years in the past decade
- In 2015, there were 136,000 new initiates of heroin use
  - 11,000 adolescents (aged 12-17 years)
  - 68,000 adults (aged ≥26 years)
  - 57,000 young adults (aged 18-25 years)



\* Difference between this estimate and the 2015 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level

The average age at first heroin use is 25.4 years.

\*Survey is subject to interpretation. The fluctuations in the numbers of heroin initiates in single years may be due to the relatively small numbers of respondents aged ≥12 years who reported that they had used heroin use in the past year. The graph reflects a comparison of initiates aged ≥12 years in a single year, these respondents aged ≥12 years who reported large numbers of people in that age group. Source: S. et al. 2015 NSDUH Survey, 2015.3.34

## Infectious Disease Outbreaks Associated With IDU Are Occurring Throughout the United States

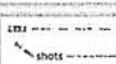
HIV, Hepatitis C outbreak continues in Indiana

Associated Health Department, 2015, 2016, 2017  
 Reported Number: 100,000, 200,000, 300,000  
 Percent by State: Indiana, Michigan, Ohio



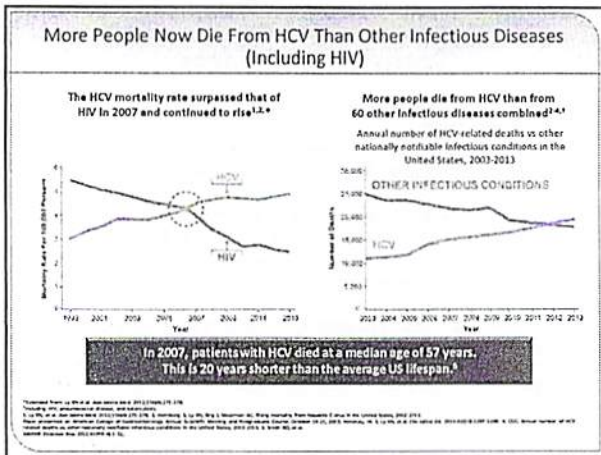
Hepatitis C cases soar with Maine heroin epidemic

Kentucky sees significant growth in hepatitis C infections among women 15 to 44



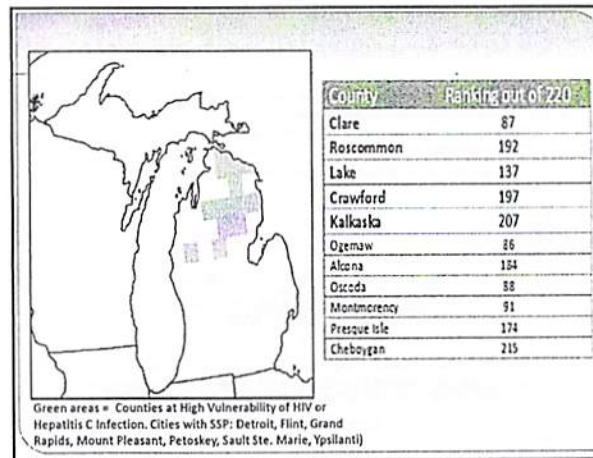
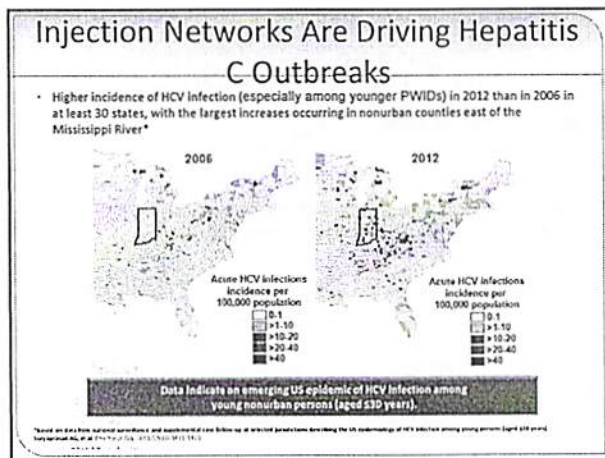
CDC Warns More HIV, Hepatitis C Outbreaks Likely Among Drug Users

How the Heroin Crisis Unleashed a Hepatitis C Epidemic



### Need for SSP

- Outbreaks of HIV and hepatitis C have already occurred in the United States
  - November 2014 to October 2015, 181 individuals in Scott County, Indiana were newly diagnosed with HIV, and 92% of them were found to be co-infected with hepatitis C
  - Outbreak was linked to unsterile injection of a prescription opioid.
  - Syringe access was credited as a major tool used to stop this outbreak.
- A study done in 2016 found 11 Northern Michigan counties among 220 counties nationwide at risk for a HIV and/or hepatitis C outbreak similar to that faced by Scott County.




### Emergency Declaration and New Law Permitted Syringe Exchange in Response to Outbreak

After Temporary Emergency Actions, Indiana Passes Law to Allow Syringe Exchange Programs

*From AIDS Alert*

Indiana Governor Mike Pence has signed a bill approved by the state legislature this week giving local officials across the state the ability to create syringe exchange programs if they are experiencing a disease outbreak tied to injection drug use. The signed bill, Senate Enrolled Bill 461, is part of a broader response to the recent outbreak of HIV infections in the southeastern part of the state, which was initially caught surprised and ill-equipped for HIV prevention or response.



Provided by IF Brinks, CDC

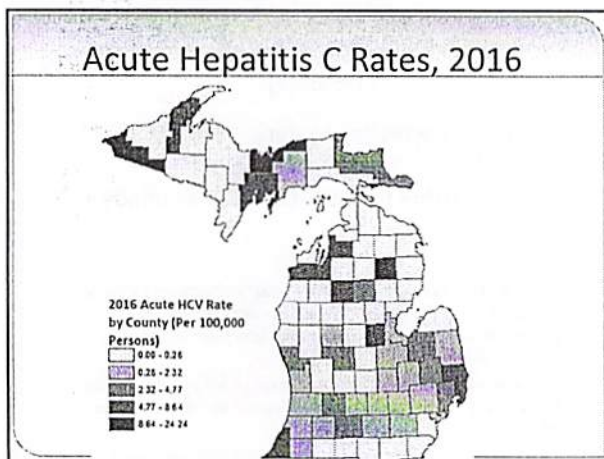
[http://chioidscollaction.org/wp-content/uploads/OAC-Policy-Update-5\\_8\\_15.pdf](http://chioidscollaction.org/wp-content/uploads/OAC-Policy-Update-5_8_15.pdf)

**Table 4.4b Response of Completed Acute Hepatitis C Reports\* by Risk Behavior, Michigan, 2016**

Risk Behavior	Yes*	No*	Unknown*	Yes Responses U.S. Wide 2014
Injection Drug User	57%	32%	11%	68.2%
Used Street Drugs	47%	36%	17%	-
Hemodialysis	1%	87%	13%	0.2%
Received Blood Products	5%	72%	23%	-
Received a Tattoo	36%	37%	33%	-
Accidental Needle Stick	8%	61%	31%	7.7%
Contact of Person with Hepatitis C	31%	28%	41%	-
Other Surgery	28%	47%	25%	12.2%
Oral Surgery or Dental Work	20%	45%	35%	-
Employed in Medical Field	6%	71%	24%	1.0%
Employed as Public Safety Officer	1%	76%	24%	-
Incarceration Longer than 6 Months	12%	52%	36%	-
Any Part of Body Pierced (other than ear)	13%	50%	37%	-

\* Percentages calculated based upon those who completed the field, excludes missing data

Table 4.4b shows the responses among the completed questions by risk behavior. Injection drug use stands out as the predominant risk for acquiring HCV infection, as is reported in the literature. Only 1% of acute HCV cases reported being a hemodialysis patient.



- ### First Principles of Syringe Services
- 1) Sterile syringes and needles should be used for all injections into the human body.
  - 2) Used, potentially infectious syringes and needles should be safely disposed of.
  - 3) Addiction is a chronic, treatable illness, given the right conditions, support and treatment.

### Some of The Facts

- SAPs typically provide a variety of services in addition to syringe exchange and improve welfare of participants
  - Increase in SAP programs in NYC from 1990 to 2001 associated with 78% decrease in HIV prevalence in IDUs and decrease in HCV from 90% to 63%
  - One study: within 6 months of use of SAP, clients saw 45% increase in employment, 25% more likely to be referred to mental health treatment and prescribed medication
  - New Jersey: 22% of SAP clients enter drug treatment; Seattle: more likely to significantly decrease IDU, stop IDU, remain in treatment
  - Proven to not increase, encourage starting drug use, or transitioning to injection drug use

### Many organizations support SSP

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ American Academy of Family Physicians</li> <li>○ American Academy of Pediatrics</li> <li>○ American Bar Association</li> <li>○ American Medical Association</li> <li>○ American Public Health Association</li> <li>○ American Society of Addiction Medicine</li> <li>○ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</li> <li>○ International Red Cross-Red Crescent Society</li> <li>○ Latino Commission on AIDS</li> <li>○ NAACP</li> <li>○ National Academy of Sciences</li> <li>○ National Black Police Association</li> <li>○ National Institute on Drug Abuse</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Office of National Drug Control Policy</li> <li>○ Presidential Advisory Committee on AIDS</li> <li>○ US Conference of Mayors</li> <li>○ World Bank</li> <li>○ World Health Organization</li> </ul> <p><b>Faith Communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Central Conference of American Rabbis</li> <li>○ Episcopal Church</li> <li>○ National Council on Jewish Women</li> <li>○ Presbyterian Church of the United States</li> <li>○ Society of Christian Ethics</li> <li>○ Union for Reform Judaism</li> <li>○ Unitarian Universalist Association</li> <li>○ United Church of Christ</li> </ul> |
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### Some of The Facts

- Statistics show that SAP services improve public health and safety
  - Decrease in break-ins, burglaries; reduced needle stick injuries to law enforcement, EMS, firefighters, other first responders
- SAPs are highly cost-effective
  - Lifetime cost of treating HIV-positive person estimated to be \$385,200-\$618,900; medication for hepatitis C costs \$34,000
  - Estimated that every dollar invested in SAP saves \$3 to \$7 by prevented HIV infections alone

### Harm Reduction Michigan's Hepatitis C Project (to date)

**Traverse City testing to date: 50% HCV antibody +**

**Detroit testing to date: 10% HCV antibody +**

Equally important public health impacts of syringe exchange include access to substance use disorder treatment, prevention of overdose, and testing and referral to treatment for HIV, HCV, TB and STDs.

In the absence of additional prevention efforts, 19 million hepatitis related deaths are anticipated worldwide from 2015 – 2030.