

# ADDRESSING THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONSEQUENCES OF THE U.S. OPIOID CRISIS: CDC'S WORK IMPROVES HEALTH AND SAVES MONEY

Viral hepatitis is increasing at concerning rates: new hepatitis B infections **rose 20%** from 2014-2015, and new hepatitis C infections **increased 233%** from 2010-2016



**1 of every 10** new HIV infections is among people who inject drugs



The rate of **infants born to hepatitis C-infected mothers increased by 68%** nationally from 2011-2014, primarily due to the nation's opioid crisis

People who inject drugs are at elevated risk for unsafe sexual practices, such as having sex without a condom, having sex partners who are injection drug users, or engaging in sex work. Such high-risk sex behavior puts injectable drug users at elevated risk for acquiring a sexually transmitted disease (STD) and for transmitting an STD to their sexual network

## \$100 MILLION IN MEDICAL COSTS



the result of a 2015 outbreak of diseases linked to opioid use in Indiana



**225 people were diagnosed with HIV**  
**>90% were co-infected with hepatitis C**

## INJECTION DRUG USE, FUELED BY THE U.S. OPIOID CRISIS, IS CAUSING A DRAMATIC RISE IN VIRAL HEPATITIS INFECTIONS

How CDC is Responding to Increases in Viral Hepatitis and HIV Among People Who Inject Drugs

- identified **44 states and one territory** either experiencing or at-risk of a hepatitis C or HIV outbreak due to injection drug use
- provides technical assistance on the **most effective strategies** for engaging people who inject drugs into treatment for drug use and infectious diseases
- invests in efforts that combine public health surveillance and cutting-edge analyses to **identify transmission clusters of viral hepatitis and HIV and respond to outbreaks**
- **promotes school-based primary prevention programs** that include education, connection to screening and services, positive youth development, and parent and community engagement



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for HIV/AIDS,  
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and  
TB Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp>

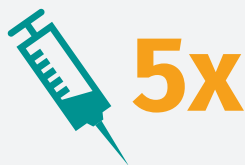
# ADDRESSING THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONSEQUENCES OF THE U.S. OPIOID CRISIS: CDC'S WORK IMPROVES HEALTH AND SAVES MONEY

## PREVENTING HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

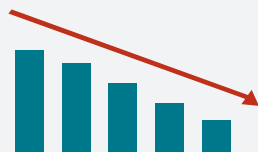
Comprehensive, community-based prevention services are vital to preventing infections among people who inject drugs. These services:

- ➔ **Support drug treatment and recovery**, including medication-assisted therapy, which can help people stop injecting
- ➔ Provide a range of **services to reduce transmission of viral hepatitis and HIV**—including testing, hepatitis A and B vaccination, linkage to care and treatment, and access to sterile syringes and injection equipment

## SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS KEEP AMERICANS SAFE



New users of syringe services programs were **5 times as likely to enter drug treatment** as those who never used the program



When used in combination with medication-assisted therapies to help people stop injecting drugs, syringe services programs can lead to a **70% decrease** in hepatitis C transmission



**1 in 3 officers may be stuck** with a needle during their career; **SSPs reduce needlestick injuries** by providing proper disposal



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for HIV/AIDS,  
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and  
TB Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp>

CS 290677-D