



June 25, 2016

Mr. Joe Coyle
Viral Hepatitis Unit Manager
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Capitol View Building, 201 Townsend Street
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Dear Mr. Coyle,

The Michigan Department of Public Health and Human Services submitted a determination of need request to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with data examining whether the jurisdiction is experiencing or at risk for an increase in viral hepatitis or HIV infection due to injection drug use. Consulting with CDC on this data is a requirement in the process of seeking approval to use of federal funds to support syringe services programs (SSPs). All such requests are reviewed by a panel of CDC subject matter experts who evaluate submitted data in accordance with the *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Implementation Guidance to Support Certain Components of Syringe Services Programs, 2016*.

After careful review of your submission, CDC concurs that Michigan is experiencing an increase in viral hepatitis or HIV infections due to injection drug use. The submitted data provide sufficient evidence to determine a need for SSPs within the jurisdiction. Specifically, the requestor presents statewide data on increases in acute HCV infections and total HCV infections, and that a predominance of new cases are attributed to injection drug use. Epidemiologic trend data in other areas (deaths from heroin and prescription opioids as well as heroin substance abuse treatment admissions) indicate increases in unsafe injection of drugs consistent with risk for a significant increase in viral hepatitis or HIV.

The requestor also provided data from a published study (Suryaprasad AG et al. *Emerging Epidemic of Hepatitis C Virus Infections Among Young Nonurban Persons Who Inject Drugs in the United States, 2006–2012*. Clin Infect Dis. (2014) 59 (10): 1411-1419) in which the state of Michigan participated. In this study, young persons (<30 years of age) newly diagnosed with HCV were interviewed. Among Michigan participants, 94% of interviewees reported a history of injecting drugs, 92% reported a history of using heroin, 37% reported sharing needles, 47% reported sharing cookers, 53% reported sharing cotton, and 65% reported sharing a water source for drug use and preparation.

This notice may be used by state, local, territorial, or tribal health departments or eligible HHS-funded recipients to apply to direct federal funds to support SSPs. As there is no expiration date for this notice, Michigan may elect to either (1) immediately request to direct FY 2016 funds to support SSPs or (2) delay requests to direct funds to support SSPs until a subsequent fiscal year. Michigan is strongly encouraged to discuss plans to direct funds for SSPs with their respective federal funding agency.

Only CDC directly-funded, eligible awardees should submit a request to CDC to direct funding for SSP activities.

Thank you for your interest in the public health implications of injection drug use in Michigan. If you have any questions or require further technical assistance, please do not hesitate to send an email to SSPCoordinator@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,
CDC SSP Determination Panel