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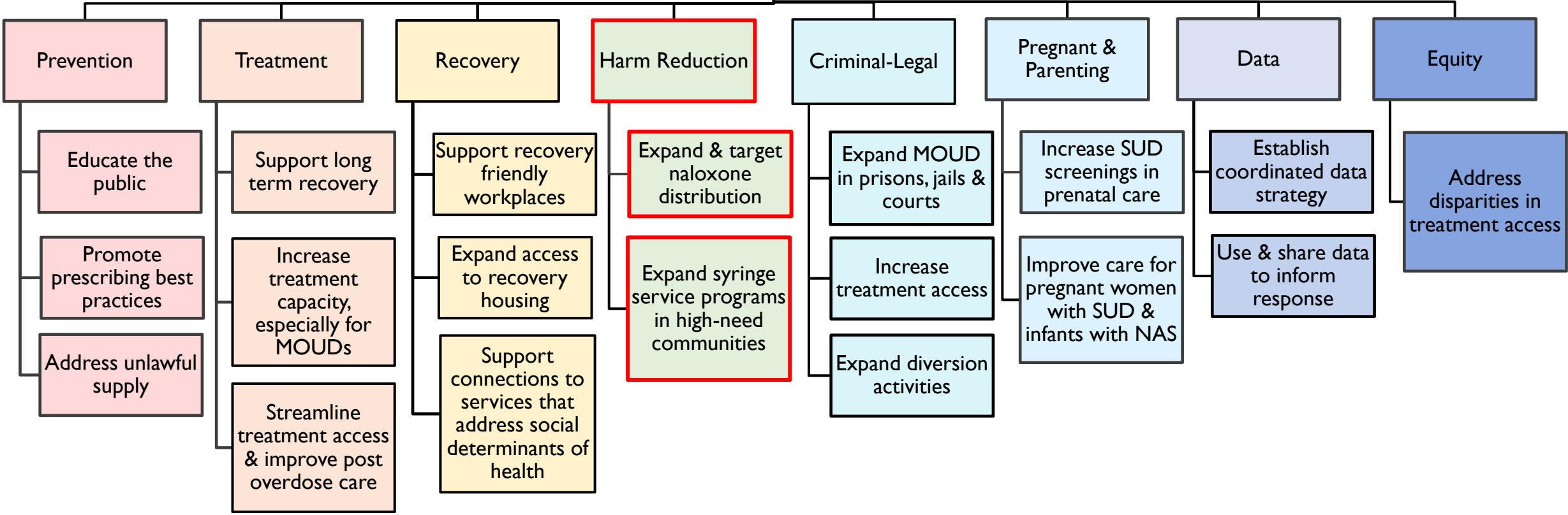
# MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE: HARM REDUCTION SERVICES IN MICHIGAN

# WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

“Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies that includes safer use, managed use, abstinence, meeting people who use drugs “where they’re at,” and addressing conditions of use along with the use itself. Because harm reduction demands that interventions and policies designed to serve people who use drugs reflect specific individual and community needs, there is no universal definition of or formula for implementing harm reduction. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs. Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.”

– Harm Reduction Coalition

State of Michigan Opioids Strategy



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Racial Equity

Elevating voices with lived experience

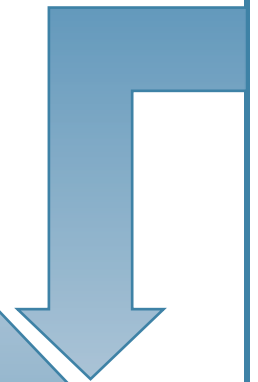
Supporting long-term recovery

Treat those that are using substances



**Treatment**

Services that can be offered to persons, to help them reduce harm to themselves or others

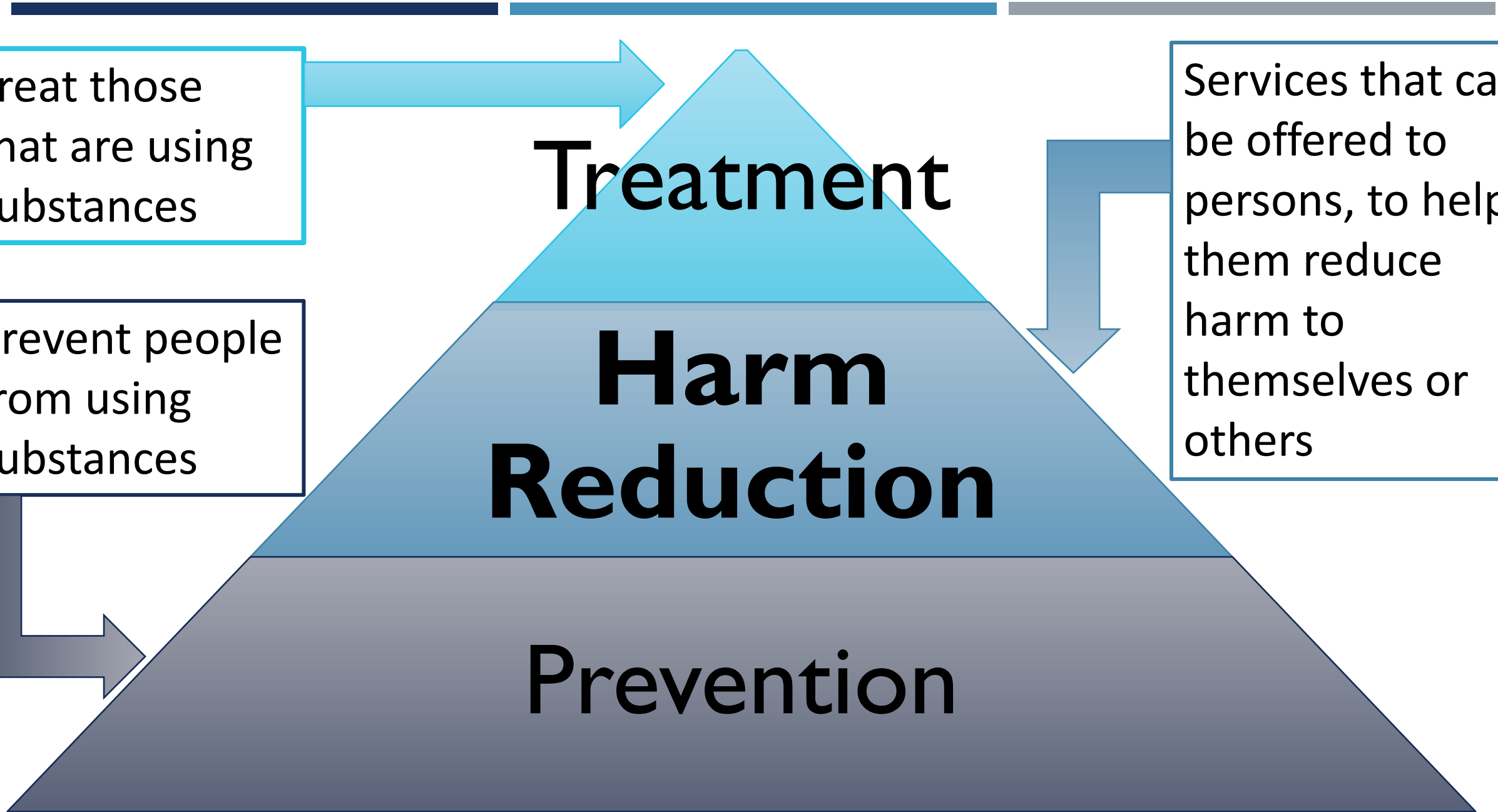


**Harm Reduction**

Prevent people from using substances



**Prevention**



## HARM REDUCTION - PRINCIPALS

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Accepts, for better and or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and choose to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than ignore or condemn them.

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Understands drug use as a complex, multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe abuse to total abstinence and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are safer than others.



## HARM REDUCTION - PRINCIPALS

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Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being (not necessarily cessation of all drug use) as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.

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Calls for non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live to assist them in reducing attendant harm.



## HARM REDUCTION - PRINCIPALS

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Ensures that people using drugs and those with a history of drug use routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.

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Affirms people using drugs as the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use and seeks to empower users to share information and support each other in strategies which meet their actual conditions of use.





# THE NEED FOR HARM REDUCTION IN MICHIGAN

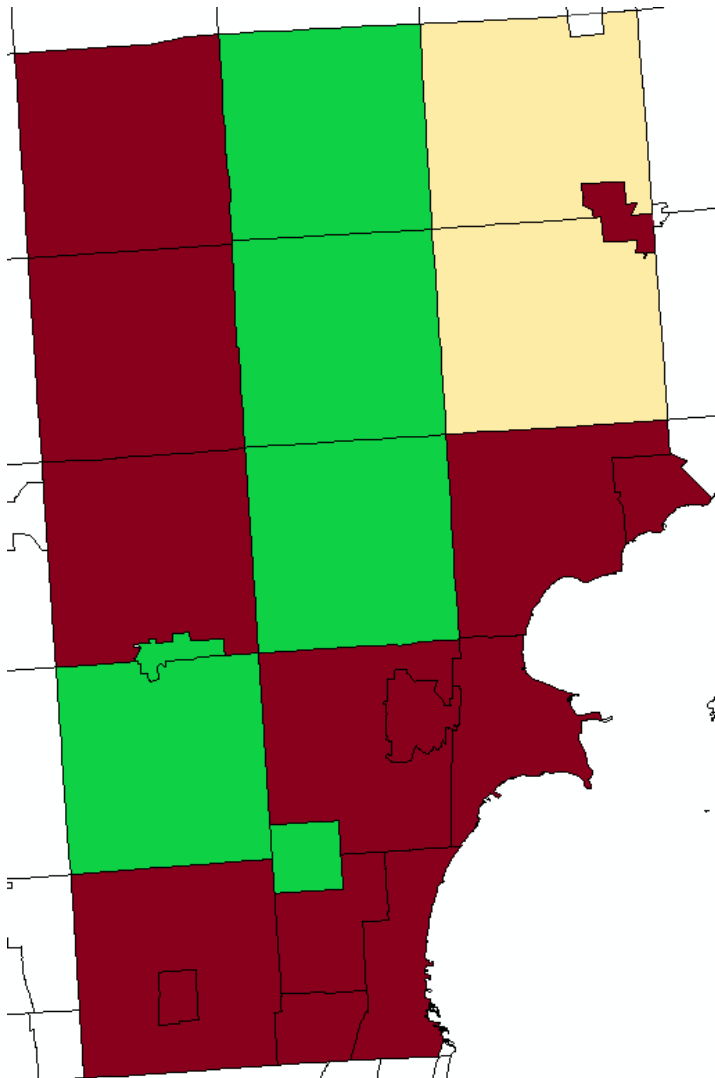
WHAT CAN THE DATA TELL US?






# DRUG PARAPHERNALIA ORDINANCES

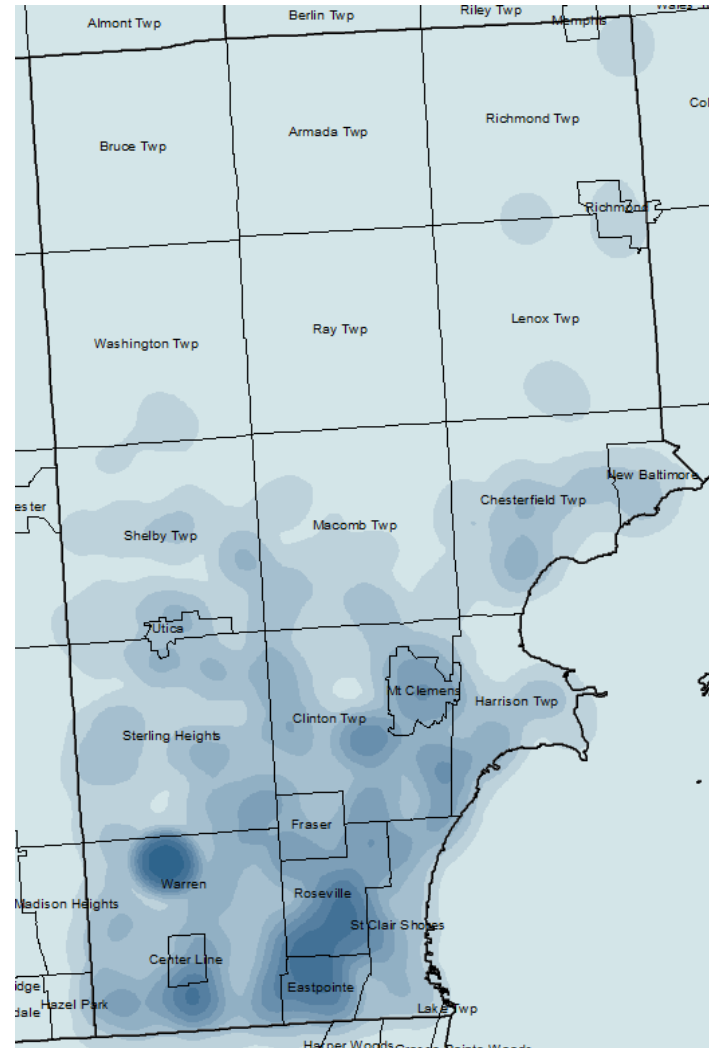
- State Law
  - MCL 333.7451 defines sterile syringes as drug paraphernalia
  - MCL 333.7457(g)
  - Sections 7451 to 7455 do not apply to any of the following:
    - (g) An object sold, offered for sale, or given away by a state or local governmental agency or by a person specifically authorized by a state or local governmental agency to prevent the transmission of infectious agents.
- Some county prosecutors state this only applies to *the sale* of syringes, not *possession*
- Regardless-this requires authorization by a state or local government agency
- Changing *local ordinances* is not more difficult than this
  - Build your case
  - Build your community support
  - Make your request
  - If needed, involve the media
- New legislation in the works- we need your help!!

# DRUG PARAPHERNALIA ORDINANCES



**Syringes  
considered  
Drug  
Paraphernalia?**

-  No
-  Unsure
-  Yes



# History of Syringe Services in Michigan

- ▶ 5 Legacy Programs (pre-2018)
  - ▶ Wellness - Flint
  - ▶ Unified - Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti
  - ▶ Community Health Awareness Group (CHAG) - Detroit
  - ▶ The Grand Rapids Red Project - Grand Rapids
  - ▶ Harm Reduction Michigan
- ▶ First program opened in 1996
  - ▶ Response to HIV epidemic



# HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH SSP

Syringe Access

Safer Shot/Safer Sex  
Supplies

Wound  
Care/Prevention

Overdose Prevention  
with Naloxone

Fentanyl Test Strips

Risk Reduction  
Counseling

Rapid HIV Testing

Rapid HCV Testing

STI Screening Linkage To  
Care/Case Management

Peer Support  
Coaching/Medication  
Assisted Treatment

Linkage To Medical  
Care/Insurance/Benefits  
Navigation

Food, Clothing and  
Other Basic Needs

PrEP/PEP/Vaccinations



A study of Connecticut police officers found that needlestick injuries were reduced by **two-thirds** after implementing SSPs.<sup>1</sup>

New HIV infections have declined by

**80 percent**

among persons who inject drugs since the implementation of SSPs in the late 1980s.<sup>3</sup>



**SSP clients are 5 times**

more likely to enter a drug treatment program than non-clients.<sup>5</sup>

After the implementation of a SSP in Portland, Oregon, research demonstrated a nearly

**66% decrease**



in the number of improperly discarded syringes.<sup>2</sup>



Testing linked to HCV treatment can save an estimated

**320,000 lives.**<sup>4</sup>

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7648290>

2. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1560355>

3. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/fact-sheet-on-hiv-estimates.pdf>

4. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/cdchiv-fs-syringe-services.pdf>

5. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11027894>



A study of Connecticut police officers found that needlestick injuries were reduced by

After the implementation of a SSP in Portland, Oregon, research demonstrated a nearly

**66% decrease**



**Most importantly, SSPs have not shown to be associated with an increase in drug use**

among persons who inject drugs since the implementation of SSPs in the late 1980s.<sup>3</sup>

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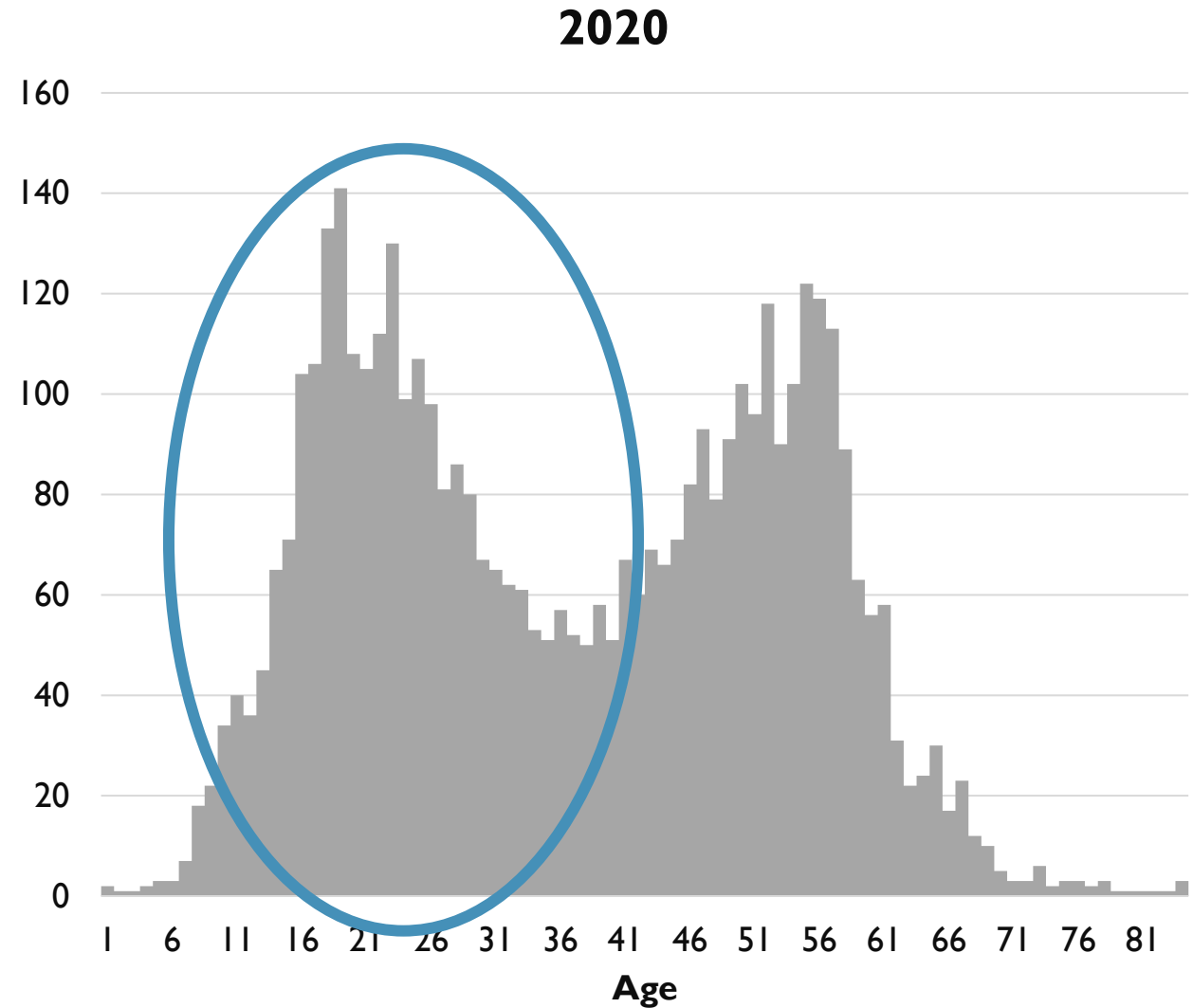
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3. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/fact-sheet-on-hiv-estimates.pdf>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/cdchiv-fs-syringe-services.pdf>
5. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11027894>

## Distribution of New HCV Diagnoses by Year of Birth in Michigan 2020

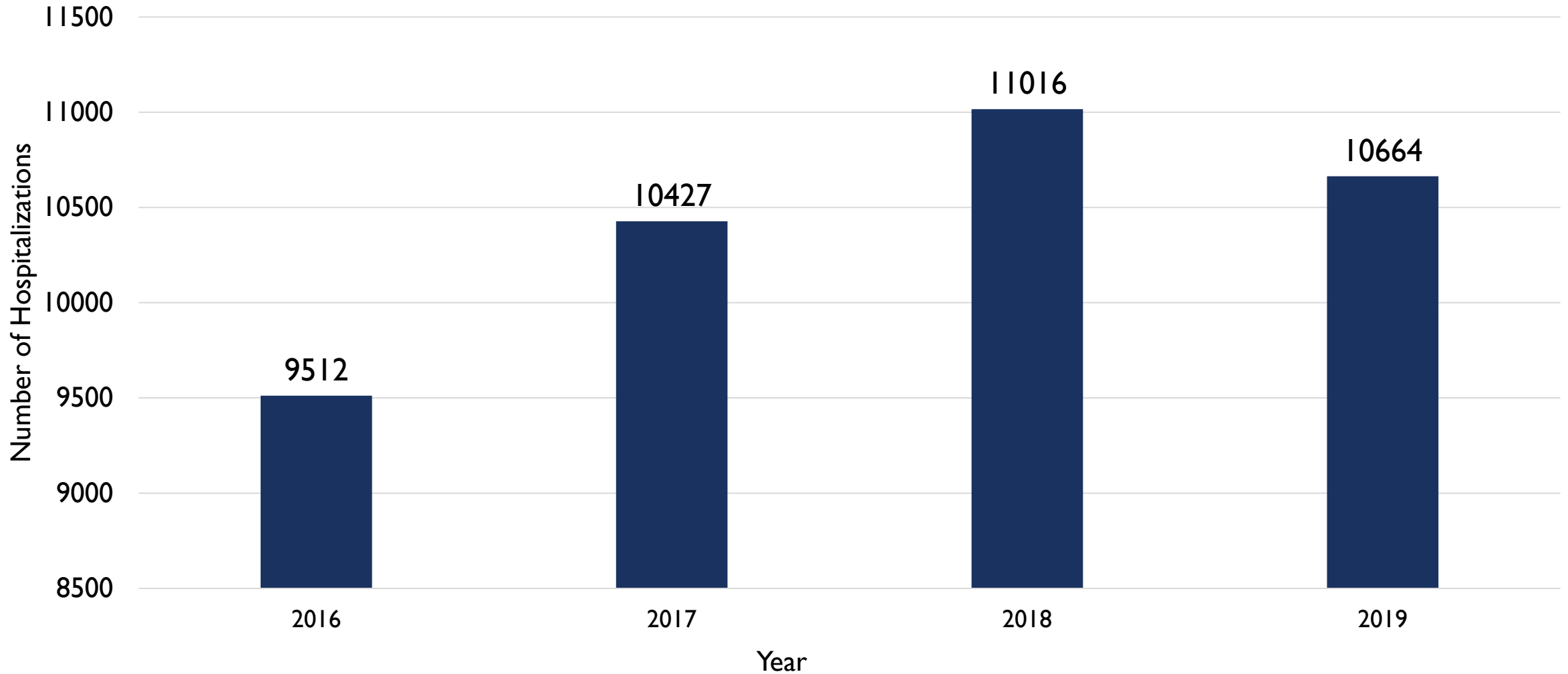
<b>Age (n = 1,657)</b>		
Median	31	
Mean	30.92	
Range	18 - 39	
<b>Sex (n = 1,656)</b>		<b>Rate per 100,000</b>
Female	754 (45.5%)	53.63
Male	901 (54.5%)	62.12
<b>Race (n = 1,535)</b>		<b>Rate per 100,000</b>
White	1108 (72.2%)	50.23
Black	112 (7.3%)	23.35
American Indian or Alaskan Native	19 (1.2%)	63.68
Asian	5 (0.3%)	3.55
Other Race	104 (6.8%)	Not Available
<b>Hispanic Ethnicity (n = 1,114)</b>		<b>Rate per 100,000</b>
Hispanic or Latinx	54 (4.8%)	28.92
Not Hispanic or Latinx	1060 (95.2%)	39.70
<b>Arab Ethnicity (n = 558)</b>		<b>Rate per 100,000</b>
Arab Ethnicity	8 (1.4%)	Not Available
Non-Arab	550 (98.6%)	Not Available
<b>History of IVDU (n = 496)</b>		
Yes	412 (83.1%)	
No	84 (16.9%)	





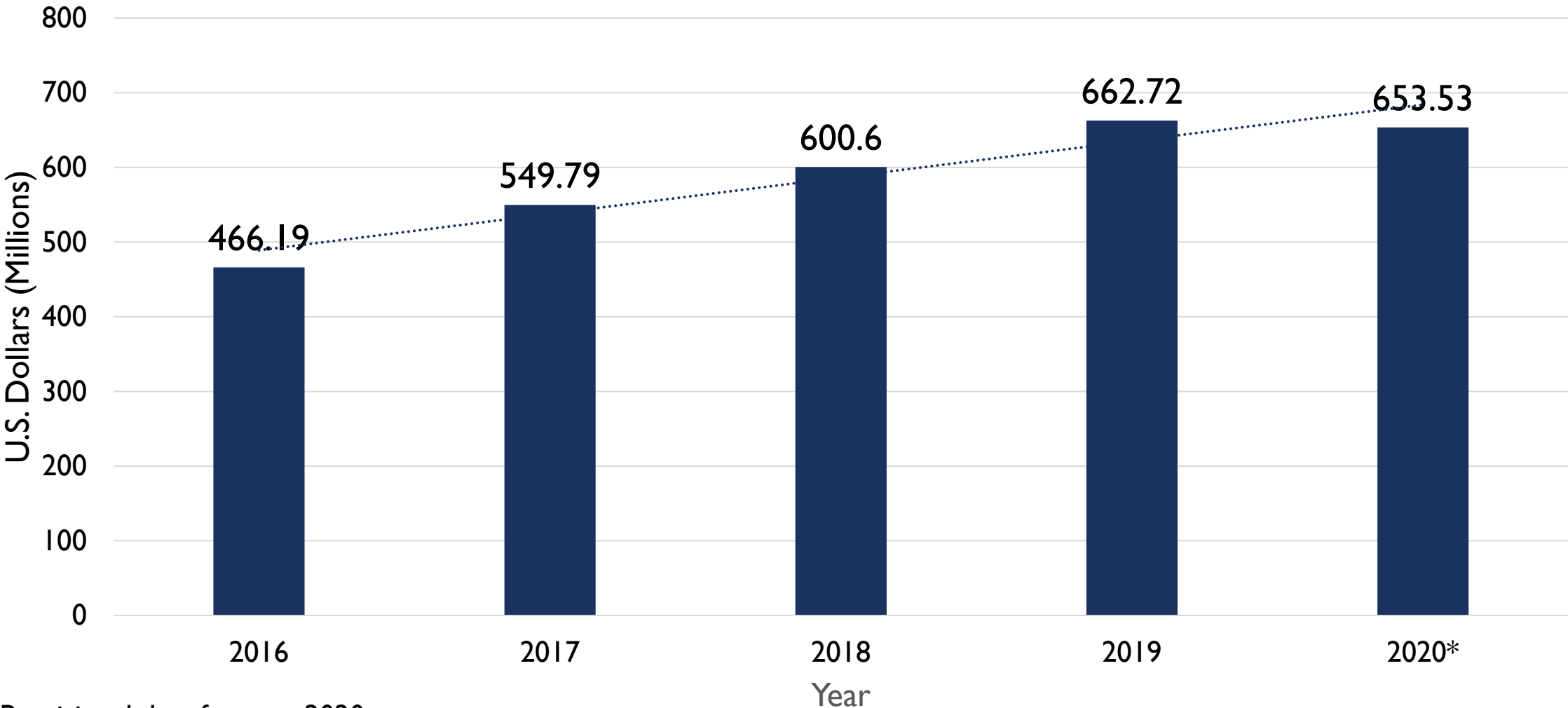
## Annual Hospitalizations

Total Number of MI Hospitalizations Involving Substance Use and Infectious Disease ICD Codes,  
2016-2020



# Cost

MI Hospitalization Costs in Millions of US Dollars Associated with SSTVI and Substance Use , 2016-2020\*



\*Provisional data for year 2020



# THE EXPANSION OF HARM REDUCTION

A CASE STUDY



# RESURGENCE OF HIV IN RURAL AMERICA

## 2015: Scott County, Indiana. A Call to Action

- Had an HIV infection rate as high as countries in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 200+ cases of HIV associated with injection of prescription opioid Opana
- 85% co-infected with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)
- Demographics:
  - Median age: 32 (range 18-57)
  - Sex: 55% Male
  - Syringes and drug injection equipment frequently shared



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

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

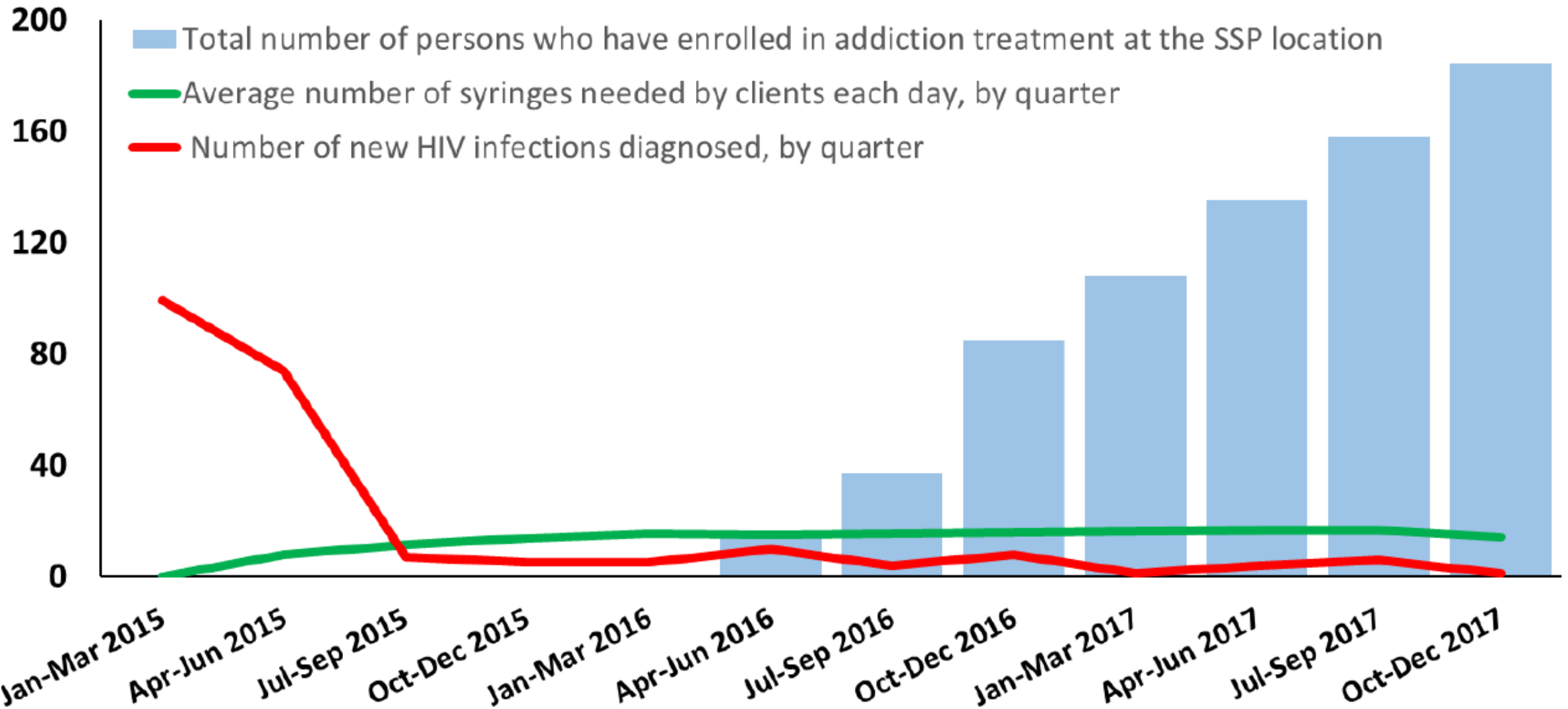


*\*From [AIDS United](#)*

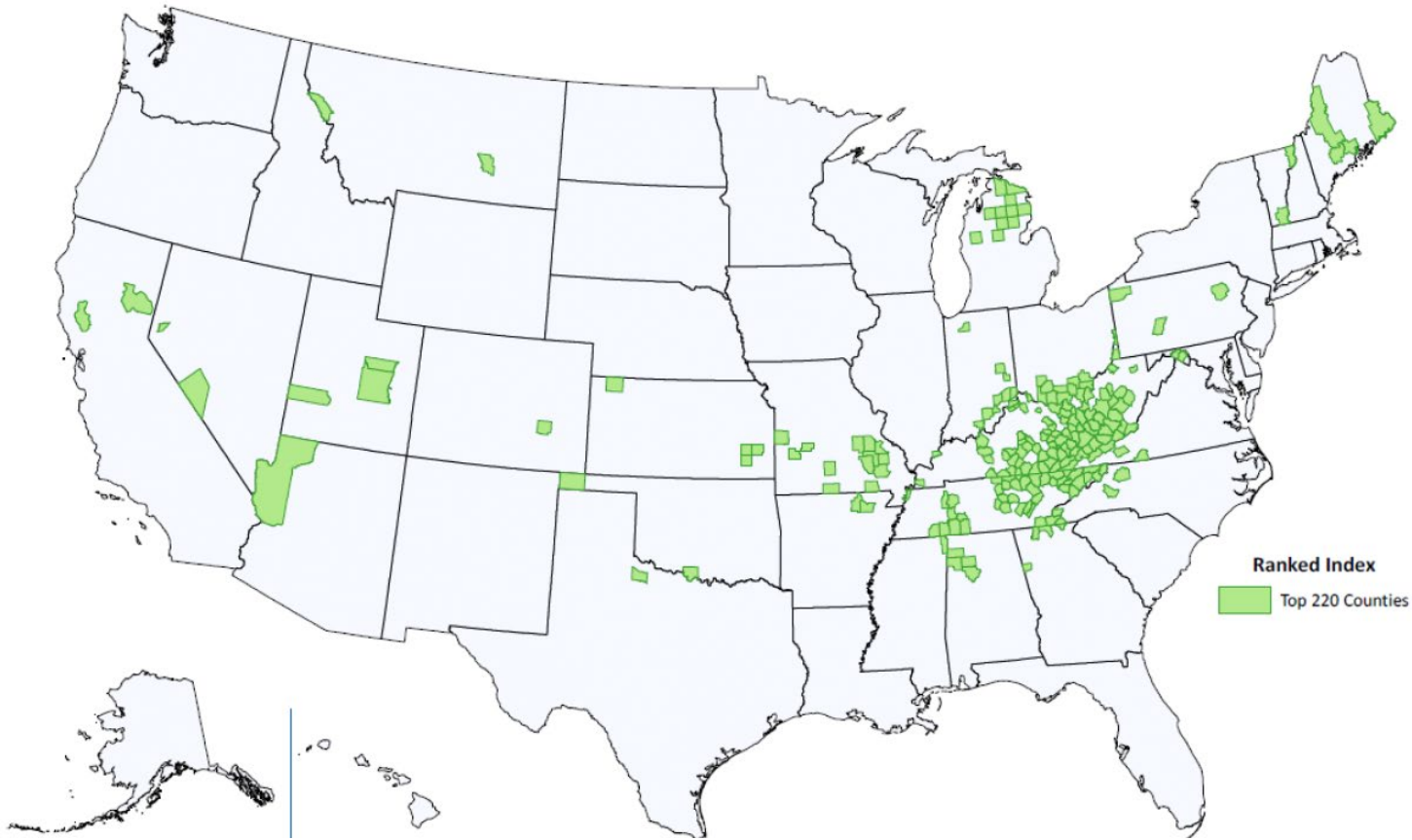
Indiana Governor Mike Pence has signed a bill approved by the state legislature this week giving local officials across the state the ability to create syringe exchange programs if they are experiencing a disease outbreak tied to injection drug use. The signed bill, Senate Enrolled Bill 461, is part 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.



# Progress in Scott County



Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, and IU Fairbanks School of Public Health

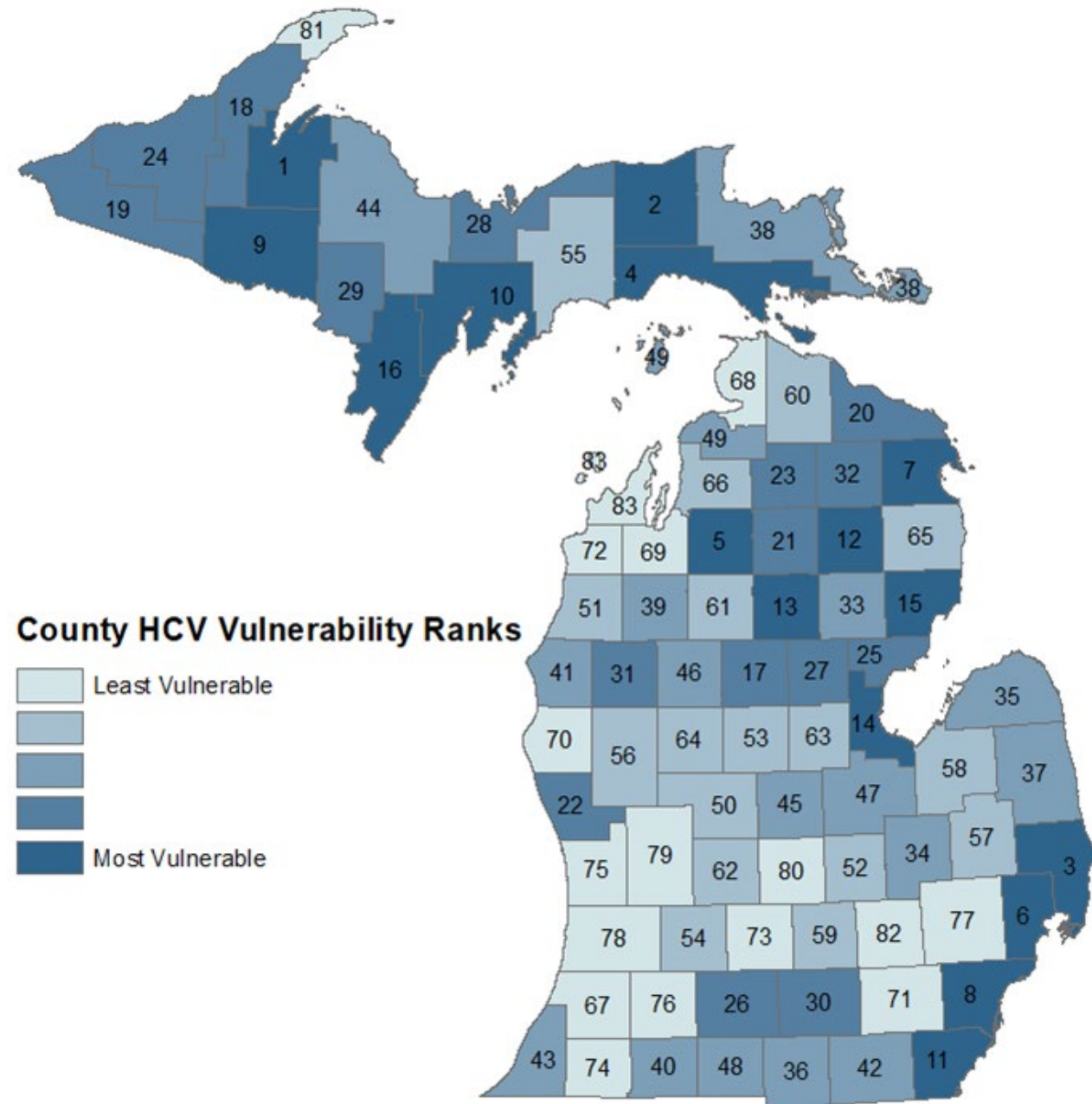
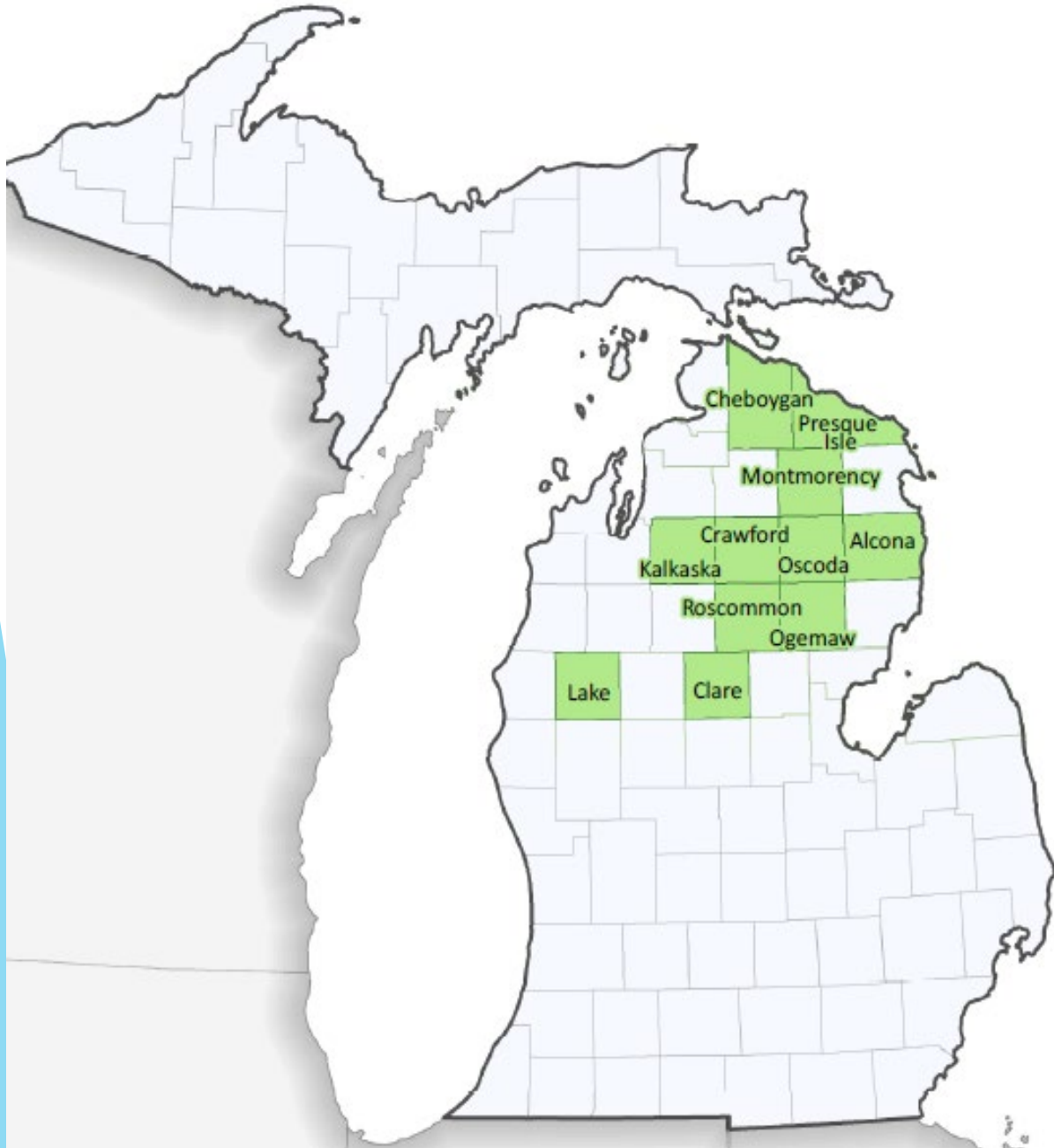


Vulnerability to Rapid Dissemination of HIV/HCV Infections Among  
Persons Who Inject Drugs: Ranked index using regression model coefficients

26 States with 1 or  
more vulnerable  
counties

## CDC Study to predict County-level Vulnerability for Rapid Dissemination of HIV/HCV among PWIDs

# CDC vs. Michigan HIV/HCV County-Level Vulnerability Ranking





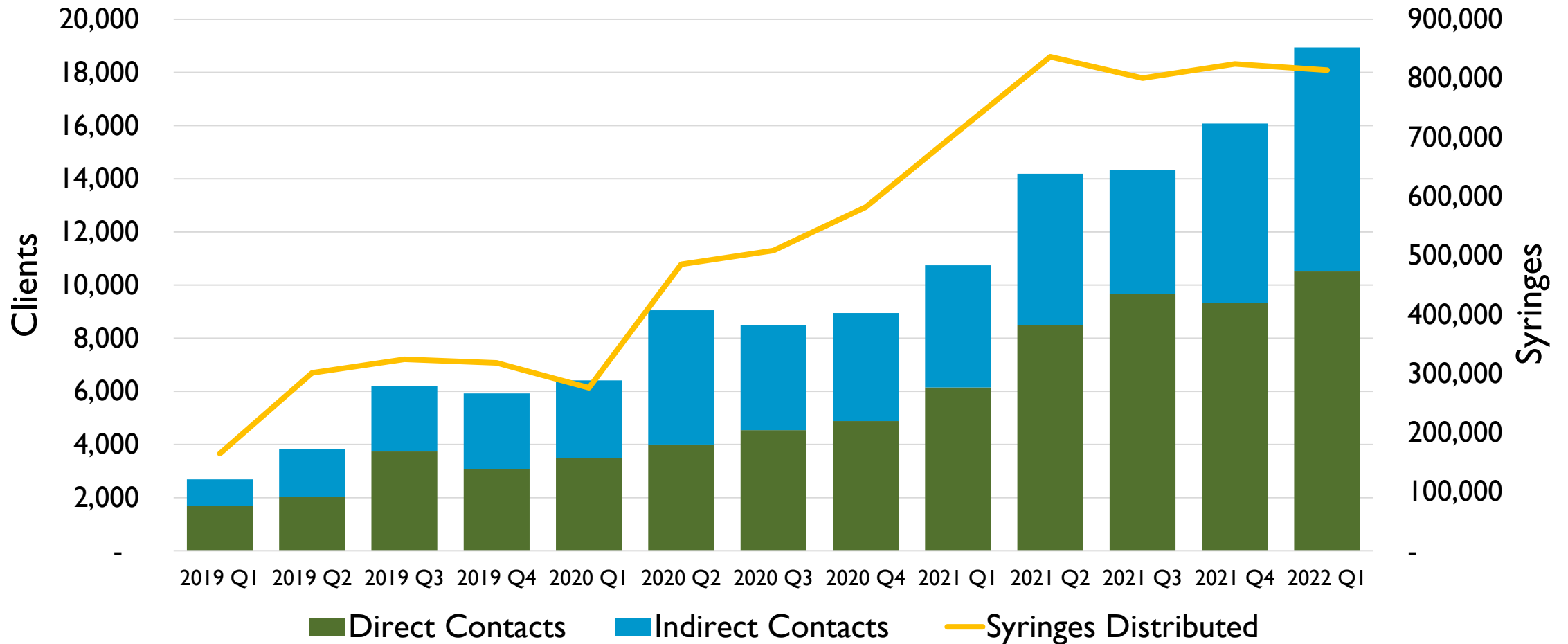
# CDC Determination of Need Request

- ▶ In 2016, Michigan applied for a determination of need from the CDC to allow for the redirection of federal funding to support syringe services programs
- ▶ The CDC concluded:

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.



# SYRINGES DISTRIBUTED AND CLIENT ENCOUNTERS BY QUARTER, 2018-2021



## SINCE Q4 2018...

**129,000+** client encounters

**Over 7.1 million** syringes distributed

**6,200+** clients referred to substance use treatment

**118,000+** Naloxone kits distributed, almost 7,012 kits successfully used to reverse a fatal overdose

**2,000+** clients tested for HIV infection (15 positive)

**1,300+** clients tested for HCV infection (281 positive)



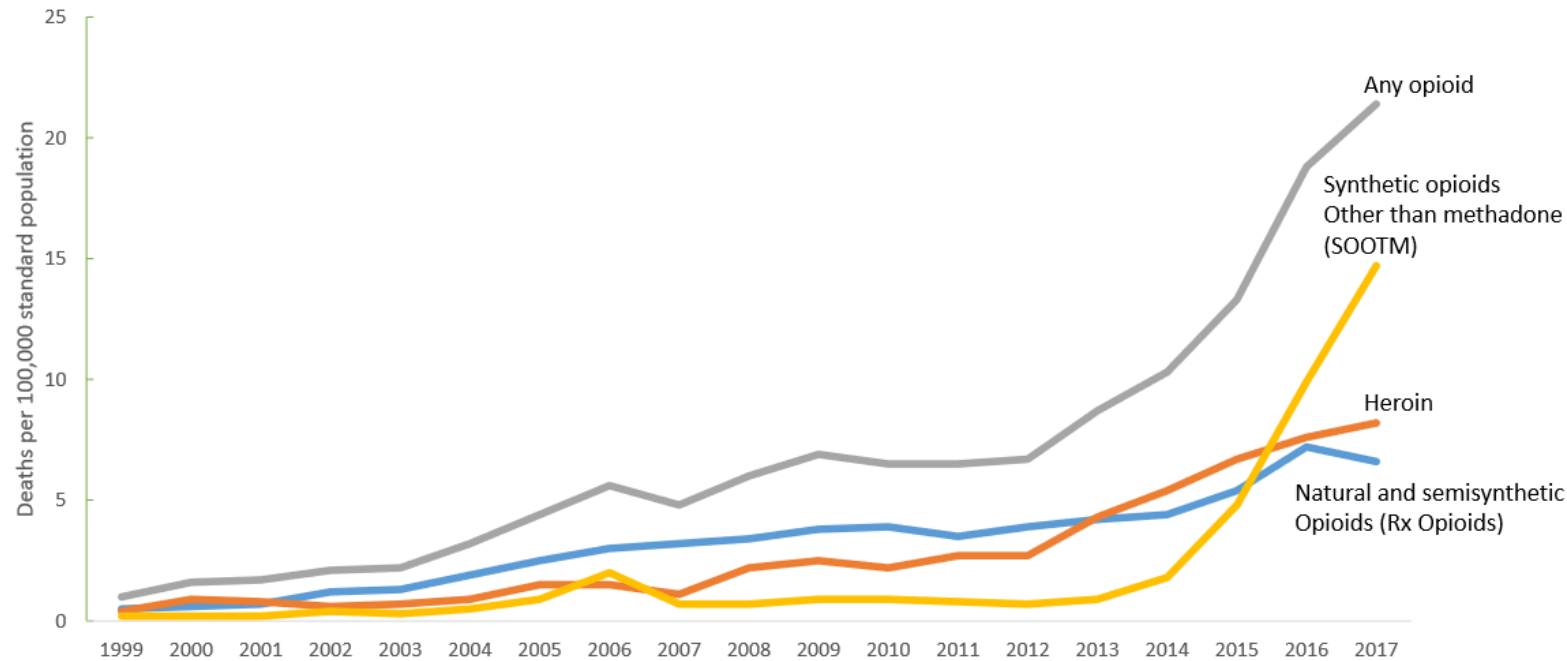
# REDUCING OVERDOSE FATALITY

HOW SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMS CAN PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY



# OPIOID OVERDOSE TRENDS

Age-adjusted drug overdose death rates, by opioid category: MI, 1999-2017



Drug categories are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Michigan Death Certificates, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics/Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

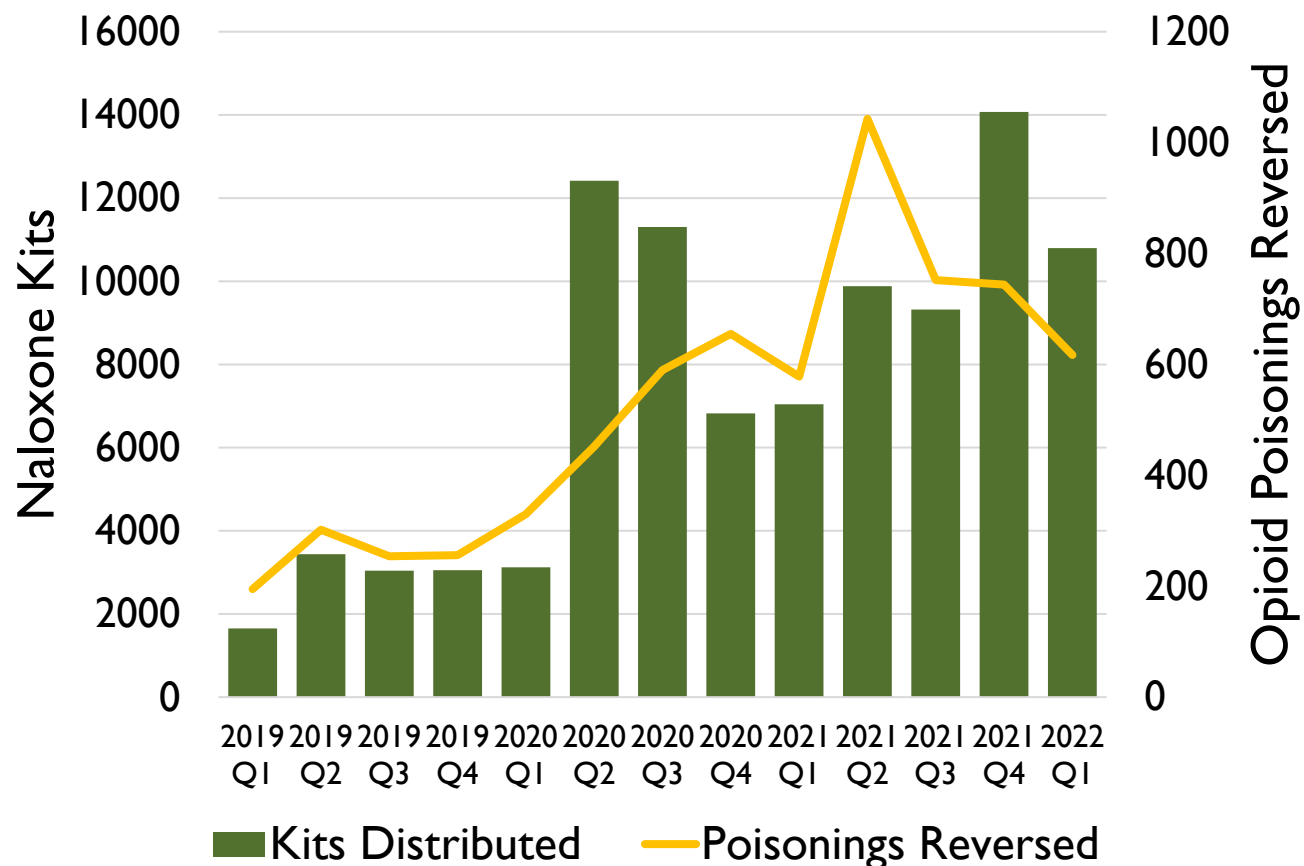
- Prescription opioids drove rises in overdose fatality beginning in late 90's
- Fatality continued to increase despite improvements in prescribing practice
- Heroin began driving rise in overdose as Rx opioid availability decreased
- Rising rates now attributed to synthetic opioids



## State of Michigan Naloxone Portal

- Launched Jan. 2020
- [CBHJ Naloxone Toolkit for Jails](#)
- Community-based organizations can request bulk mail-order Naloxone at no-cost
  - Access SOM portal: [Michigan.gov/opioids](https://Michigan.gov/opioids) under ‘**Find Help**’
- Individuals can mail-order naloxone through a partnership with NEXT Naloxone
  - Request free kits at [nextdistro.org/Michigan](https://nextdistro.org/Michigan)
- To date, SOM portal distributed **over 150,000 kits**

# OVERDOSE PREVENTION: NALOXONE



- Jan. 2020: SOM Naloxone Portal launched with 50,000 kits on hand
- Targeted distribution to:
  - Individuals leaving jails
  - First responders
  - Treatment courts
  - General community
- 1 in 225 naloxone kits is expected to save a life. Closer to 1 in 10 when distributed at an SSP



## FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

- Originally designed for urinalysis
- Can be used to detect fentanyl in extremely small samples of substances
- Easy to use and interpret
- Inexpensive (<\$1.00 each)
- Create awareness of contaminated drug supply in communities
- Have been shown to increase harm reducing behaviors



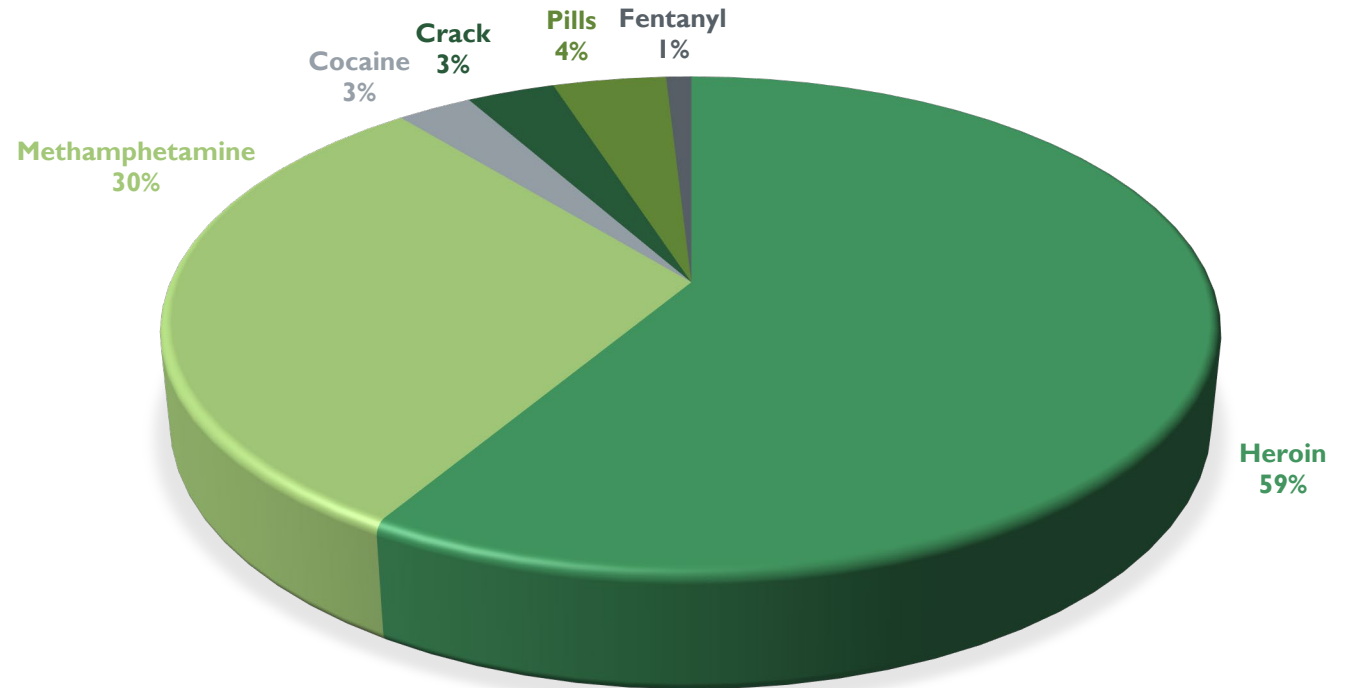
Do not wet above

# FENTANYL TEST STRIP UTILIZATION

## Statewide Positive FTS Testing Results 4/1/21 – 10/31/21

- Heroin: 129
- Methamphetamine: 67
- Cocaine: 6
- Crack: 7
- Pills: 9
- Fentanyl: 2

## POSITIVE FENTANYL TEST STRIP RESULTS



# ANTI-STIGMA CAMPAIGN

**CHANGE.**

AT YOUR  
OWN PACE.

“Harm reduction is **nonjudgmental**. We help people who use drugs make healthier choices to **prevent overdoses, HIV, and hepatitis C.**”



**FIND NALOXONE NEAR YOU**  
MICHIGAN.GOV/OPIOIDS

**CHANGE.**

AT YOUR  
OWN PACE.

“Using sterile syringes **prevents Hepatitis C and HIV.**”



**FIND NALOXONE NEAR YOU**  
MICHIGAN.GOV/OPIOIDS

**CHANGE.**

AT YOUR  
OWN PACE.

“I care about helping people who use drugs **be safe.**”



**FIND NALOXONE NEAR YOU**  
MICHIGAN.GOV/OPIOIDS



# QUESTIONS?

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