

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN KENTUCKY: Harm Reduction Syringe Exchange Programs

Kentucky Ranks #1 in new hepatitis C virus infections

54 of Kentucky's 120 counties were identified as at-risk for a rapid HIV outbreak



Note: CDC stresses that this is a REGION-WIDE risk, not just a county-specific problem.

Harm Reduction Syringe Exchange Programs are a proven strategy to reduce the spread of hepatitis C and HIV.^{1,2,3}

- 1 CDC. Syringe Service Programs for Persons Who Inject Drugs in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas — United States, 2013. MMWR 2015; 64(48):1337-41.
- 2 Wodak A and Cooney A (2005). Effectiveness of sterile needle and syringe programmes. Int J Drug Policy 16S:S31-44.
- 3 Satcher, D. (2000). Evidence-based findings on the efficacy of syringe exchange programs: An analysis of the scientific research completed since April 1998. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Sciences.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ✓ **Encourage your local board of health to adopt or maintain their Syringe Exchange Program.**
- ✓ **Know your county hepatitis C, HIV, overdose, and drug use data.** Share the data often.
- ✓ **Create a community coalition** to enact a comprehensive county-level strategy to reduce drug use.
- ✓ **Find a Syringe Exchange Program near you:** <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/epi/HIVAIDS/prevention.htm>





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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For patients struggling with opioid use disorder, encouraging them to seek treatment is critical.

TREATMENT RESOURCES

<http://findhelpnowky.org>

A real-time treatment locator to help patients, providers, and loved ones find local substance use treatment centers with available beds.

1-833-8KY-HELP (1-833-859-4357)

A statewide toll-free Treatment Referral Line for anyone seeking assistance with a drug addiction in Kentucky. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Additional Treatment Resources

<https://odcp.ky.gov/Pages/Treatment-Resources.aspx>

CASEY'S LAW

Casey's Law provides a way for parents, relatives, and/or friends to petition the court for involuntary treatment on behalf of a person with substance use disorder.

Read more here: <https://odcp.ky.gov/Stop-Overdoses/Pages/Caseys-Law.aspx>

GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

The Good Samaritan Law protects people from prosecution for possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia if they are seeking assistance for themselves or another person experiencing a suspected drug overdose. Read more here: <https://odcp.ky.gov/stop-overdoses/>

KY STOP OVERDOSES WEBSITE

A comprehensive resource site for details on opioid overdoses, naloxone and Harm Reduction Syringe Exchange Program locations, recognizing overdose and response, and more helpful links:

<http://odcp.ky.gov/Stop-Overdoses/>

PREVENTION RESOURCES

Find substance use prevention resources for your community here:

<http://dbhdid.ky.gov/ProviderDirectory/ProviderDirectory.aspx>

ADDITIONAL DATA

The Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center's Drug Overdose Technical Assistance Core (DOTAC) provides the most recent local data on drug overdose trends:

<http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/DOTAC/>