



**Needle Exchange
Programs:**

**A Proven Practice to
Reduce the Spread of HIV
and Other Blood-borne
Diseases**

**Public Health and Wellness
April 21, 2015**



Definition

- A public health program for people who are intravenous drug users (IDUs)
- Proven to reduce the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne infections



- Provides new, sterile syringes and clean injection equipment.
- Properly disposes of contaminated syringes.

An evidence-based practice to connect IDUs to:

- **Counseling and treatment**
- **Testing for HIV, hepatitis, and other infections**
- **Education about the harms associated with drug use and how to minimize them**
- **Safe disposal of contaminated equipment**



In 194 US cities in 2014 including:

Nashville, TN

Kansas City, MO

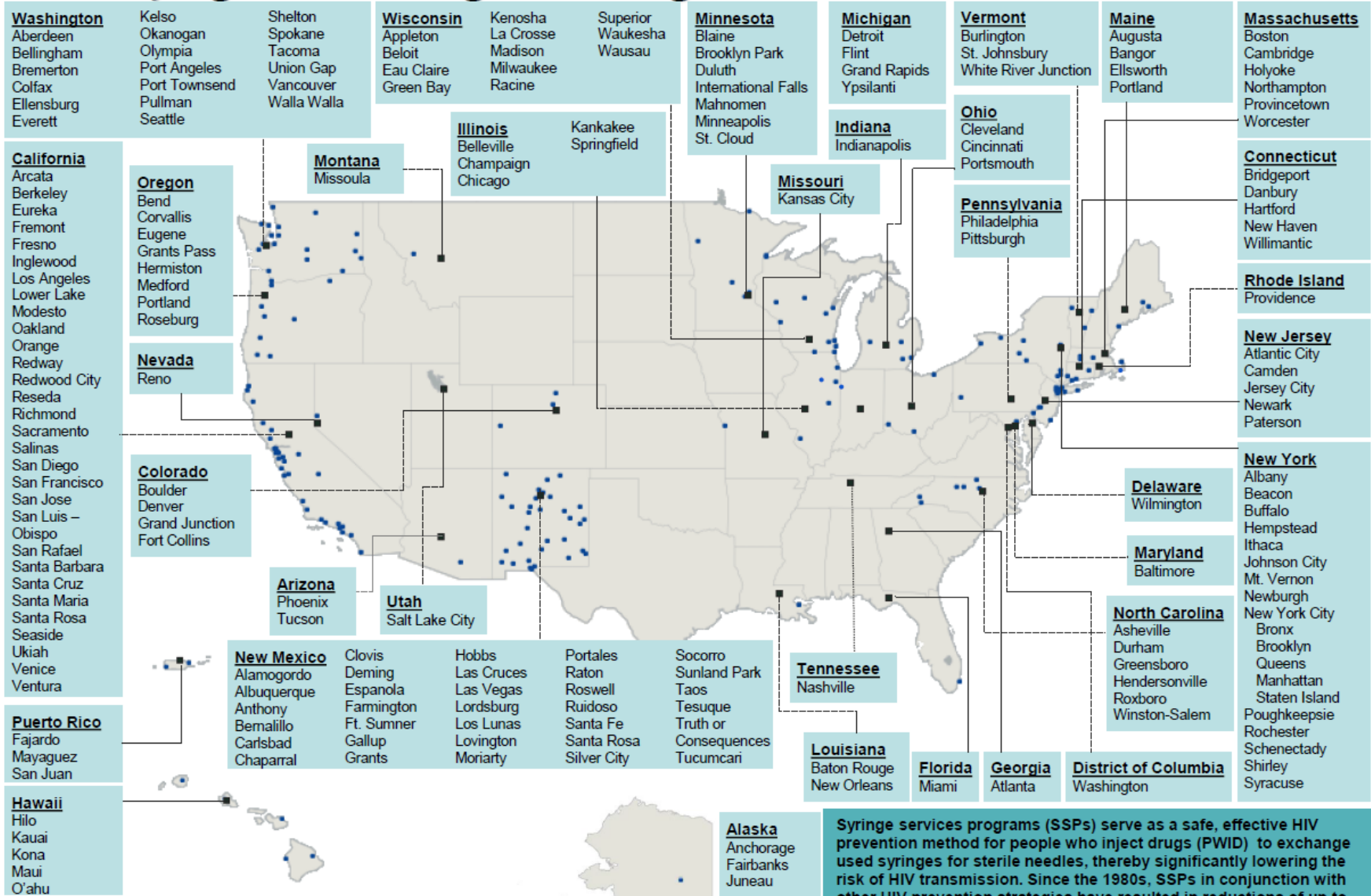
Cincinnati, OH

Pittsburgh, PA

Grand Rapids, MI

Greensboro, NC

Syringe Services Program Coverage in the United States - June 2014



Syringe services programs (SSPs) serve as a safe, effective HIV prevention method for people who inject drugs (PWID) to exchange used syringes for sterile needles, thereby significantly lowering the risk of HIV transmission. Since the 1980s, SSPs in conjunction with other HIV prevention strategies have resulted in reductions of up to 80% in HIV incidence among PWID.

- There are currently 194 syringe services programs in 33 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Indian Nations. (NASEN)
- This map shows the location of 196 cities with SSPs.


This map was prepared by amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research. Information on syringe services programs was provided by the North American Syringe Exchange Network (NASEN) and Mount Sinai Beth Israel from their lists of syringe services programs that confirmed their willingness to have this information made public.

Why Do We Need a Needle Exchange Program?

- In 2004, injection drug use accounted for about one-fifth of all HIV infections and most hepatitis C infections in the U.S.
- Nationwide, 1 in 5 people with HIV don't know they have it
- In 2014 – there were 2,669 people living in Louisville Metro diagnosed with HIV

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Get the facts. Get tested. Get involved.
Find out more about HIV, including where to get tested, at www.hivtest.cdc.gov.

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

- Preventing HIV infection in people who inject drugs also prevents HIV in pregnant women and newborn children
- KY hospitalizations for drug-dependent newborns went from 28 in 2000 to 824 in 2012
- Hospital charges for drug-dependent babies in KY in 2013 was \$40.2 million



- **By working with people who inject drugs we can get them into treatment**
- **Syringes and needles are disposed of safely reducing the number of discarded syringes on our sidewalks, yards, parks and play grounds.**

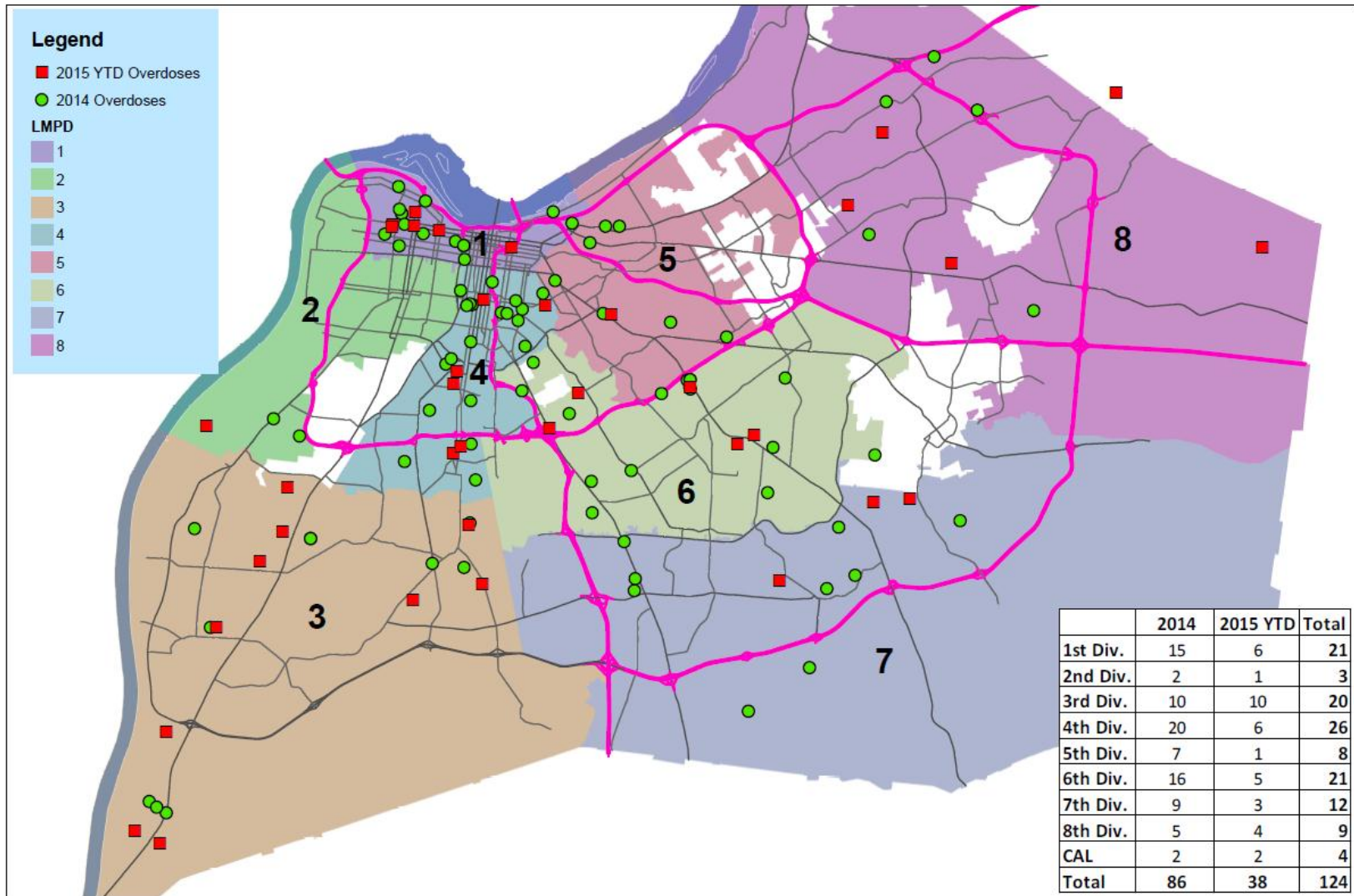
Who are We Trying to Reach?

- **Intravenous drug users (IDUs)**
 - 18-25 year olds fastest growing segment of IDUs





LMPD Overdoses



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Information Obtained from LMPD Homicide Unit

LMPD Crime Information Center
WCS 4/1/2015

Our Work to Date:

- **March 24, 2015 – KY General Assembly gives municipalities authority**
- **April 2 – LMPHW convenes 14 community partner agencies**
 - **12 agencies volunteered to form special work group for program design and implementation**
 - **Researched best practices**
 - **Surveyed IDUs in treatment for knowledge about the target audience**

Partner Agencies

- **Kentuckiana AIDS Association**
- **UofL Emergency Department**
- **COPEs, Inc.**
- **Center for Behavioral Health**
- **Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Abuse Center (JADAC)**
- **Walgreens**
- **UofL School of Public Health**
- **Metro Corrections**
- **Metro Louisville Harm Reduction Task Force**
- **Neighborhood Place Fairdale**
- **Family Health Centers Phoenix**
- **550 Clinic**
- **Center for Behavioral Health**
- **AIDS Interfaith Ministries of KY**

Next Steps

- **Metro Council enacts an ordinance granting approval**
- **Select location(s), dates and times of operation (*in progress*)**
- **Determine policies, procedures, SOG, staffing (*in progress*)**
- **Cost analysis**
- **Purchase materials, supplies**
- **Continue to work with community partners to enlist connections to treatment and other resources**
- **Community education and outreach**
- **Begin operation by July 2015**

Questions?

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