

Syringe Exchange Program Update



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The main goal of all syringe exchange programs (SEPs):

- Prevent the spread of blood-borne diseases in the community
 - HIV
 - Hepatitis C
- Access to clean needles
 - Prevent sharing among people who use drugs
 - Prevent the spread of disease to partners



Syringe Exchange Programs are an Early Intervention

- A starting point to help people begin to make changes, mitigate consequences and, in time, lead healthier, more self-directed lives
- Each visit is an opportunity to develop a relationship that leads to treatment



People who utilize syringe exchanges are **FIVE (5)** times more likely to go into treatment



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Syringe Exchanges Have Existed for Decades

Study after study has proven that they do NOT lead to more drug use and are proven to prevent the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C



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Syringe Exchanges Prevent Needle Sharing

USA Today and the Courier Journal recently reported on a CDC study in which Austin's syringe exchange program has led to an 85% decrease in needle sharing there since it was implemented in April.



Research: Needle-sharing dropped among addicts using Ind. exchange

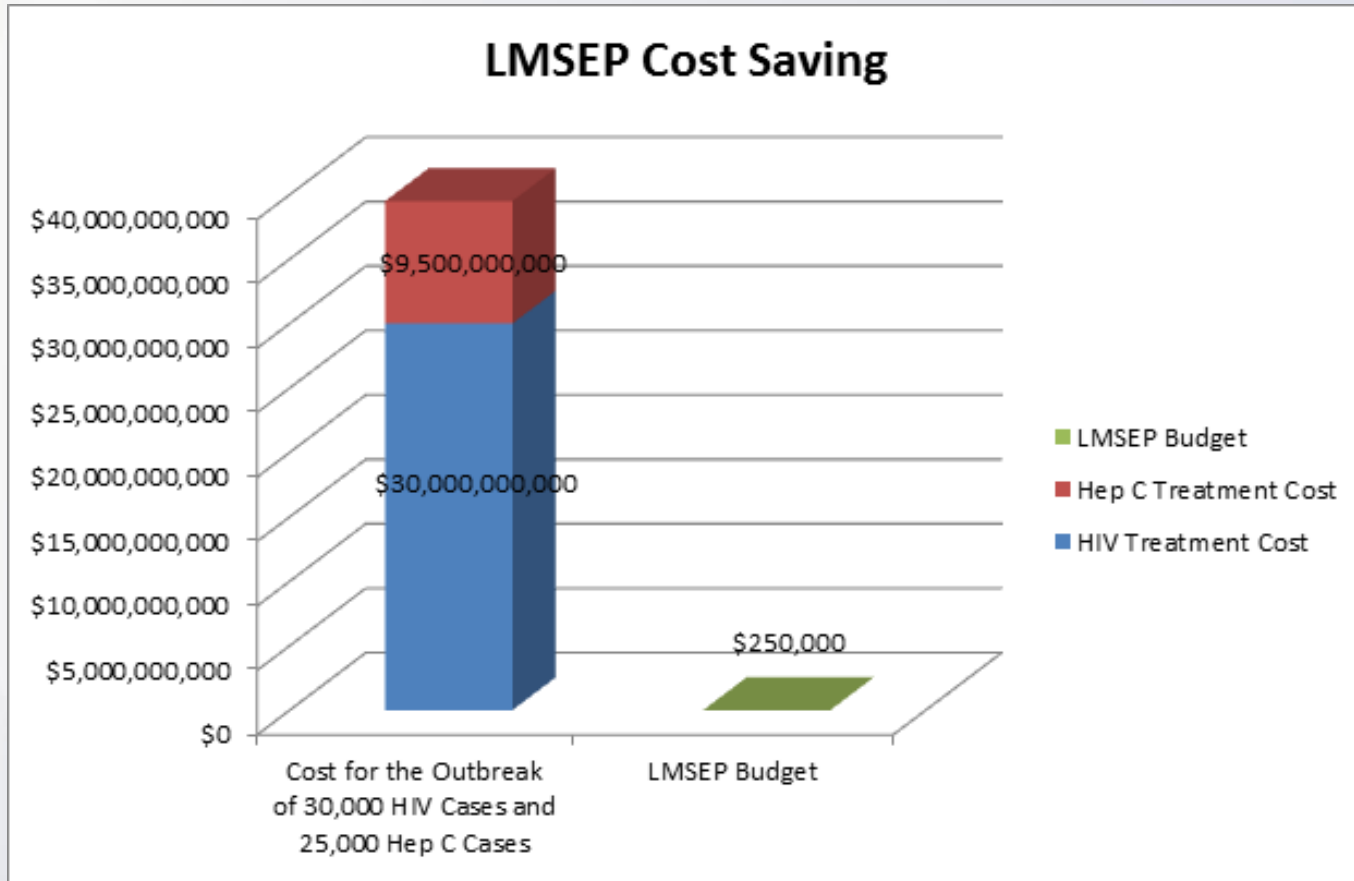
Laura Ungar, USA TODAY 8:11 a.m. EDT October 7, 2015

Needle-sharing dropped significantly among addicts who used a syringe exchange program started in response to Indiana's worst-ever HIV outbreak, says research being released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday.



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Saving Lives, Investing in Disease Prevention



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One for One Exchange Policies Fail to Increase Syringe Return Rates.

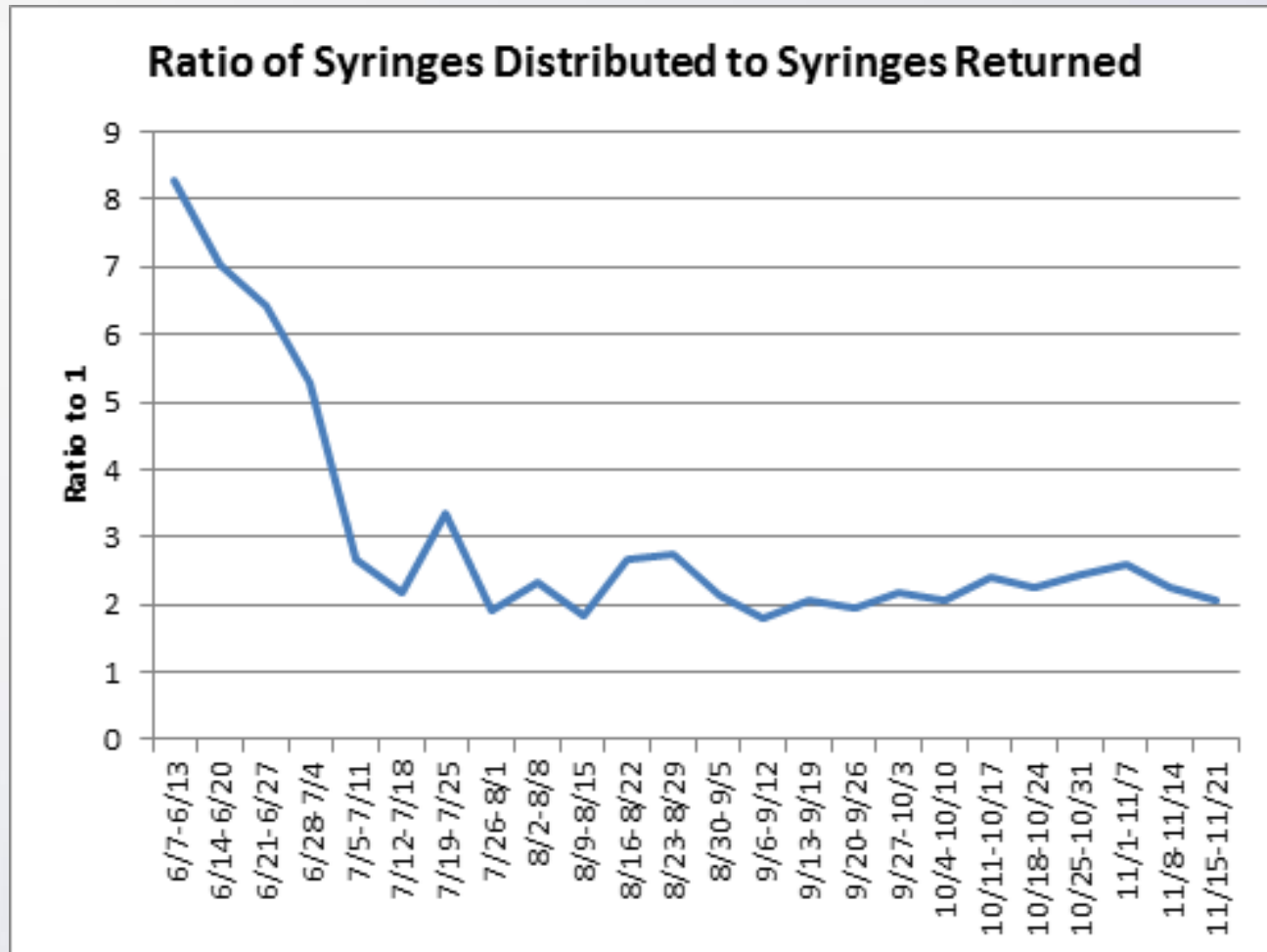
A 2007 research study found that after investigating syringe return rates in three US cities -- Oakland, Chicago and Hartford -- that returns were highest (nearly 90 percent) in the city with the most liberal policy (Chicago) and lowest (only 50 percent) in the city with the most restrictive policy (Hartford).*

[*Bluthenthal RN¹, Ridgeway G, Schell T, Anderson R, Flynn NM, Kral AH.](#)
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17286637>



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Participants are Returning Syringes



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Community Syringe Clean Up

- Coordinated and provided by KY Harm Reduction, VOA, Young People in Recovery
- 18 community clean ups to date
- Call **311** or **574-6520** to report discarded syringes



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Data thru 11/21/2015

- **1,329** participants with 325 (43%) returning participants total, 70% weekly return rate
- Tested **156** people for HIV
 - No positives
- Tested **86** people for Hepatitis C
 - **52 positive**, referred for medical treatment
- Referred **88** people for drug treatment



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The program is working!

New Community Exchange Sites

- Began October 22
 - Lake Dreamland Fire Station, 4603 Cane Run Rd.
 - Thursdays, 11a - 2p
- **New!** Coming in December...
 - Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3640 River Park Dr.
 - Tuesdays, 11a - 2p



Questions?



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