

Louisville Metro Syringe Exchange Program

A Progress Report to Metro Council



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH
AND WELLNESS**

Sarah Moyer, MD, MPH

October 8, 2015

A Quick Review!



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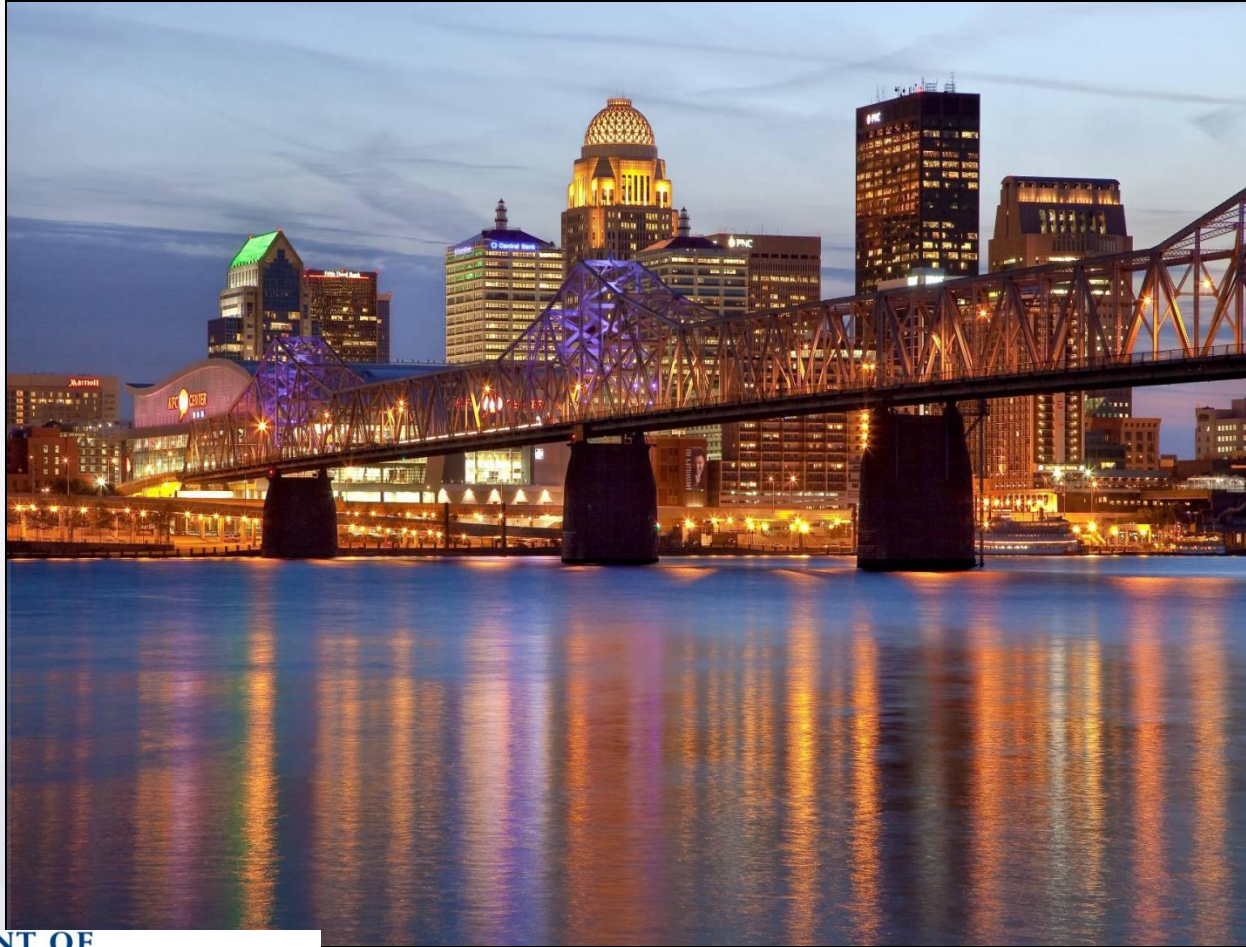
Austin Indiana – just 35 miles from Louisville – has had 181 new HIV cases this year as a result of needle sharing among people who inject drugs.

About 86% of those infected with HIV also have hepatitis C.



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In a city the size of Louisville that would proportionately mean more than **31,600 new HIV** cases and **27,100 new hepatitis C** cases.



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Jefferson County (Louisville) has more drug overdose deaths and more deaths in which heroin is detected than any other county in Kentucky.



- For 2014 (ODCP):
 - 204 overdoses
- For 2015 (LMPD data):
 - 92 overdose deaths, through Sept 28
- EMS Narcan Interventions
 - 2,863 Jan 2014-June 2015



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To prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C and to link people to the health system where they can get drug treatment, the Metro Council and the Board of Health approved the Louisville Metro Syringe Exchange Program ... We opened June 10, 2015.



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... And so far – it's working!

The Louisville Metro Syringe Exchange provides:

- Free sterile syringes
- Sharps containers to safely return used syringes
- HIV testing and prevention supplies
- Hepatitis C testing
- Referrals for addiction treatment
- Education and counselling on STD prevention, wound treatment and syringe disposal
- Naloxone on-site and referrals for the take home use of naloxone



HIV AIDSTM
AWARENESS &
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- A **certified alcohol and substance abuse counselor** provides staffing for the site.
- The Seven Counties Services, Inc., Jefferson Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center (JADAC) has assigned a **full time addictions treatment case manager**:
 - Works with participants on drug treatment options
 - Makes treatment referrals



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We have contracted with **Volunteers of America of Kentucky** to provide outreach.

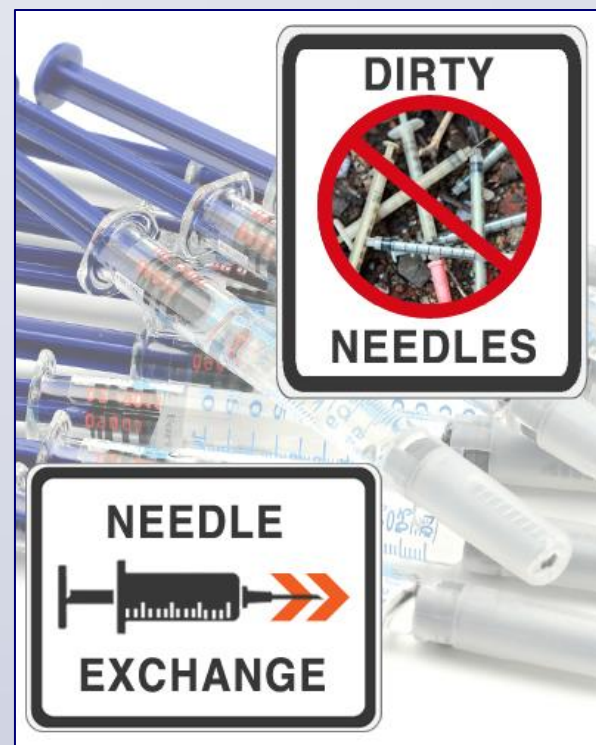
- Announcing the first outreach site next week.
- The news conference will be on Thursday October 15 at 10 a.m.
- All of you are invited. We will be notifying you of the place and other details.
- We also expect to be able to announce other outreach sites in the next few weeks.



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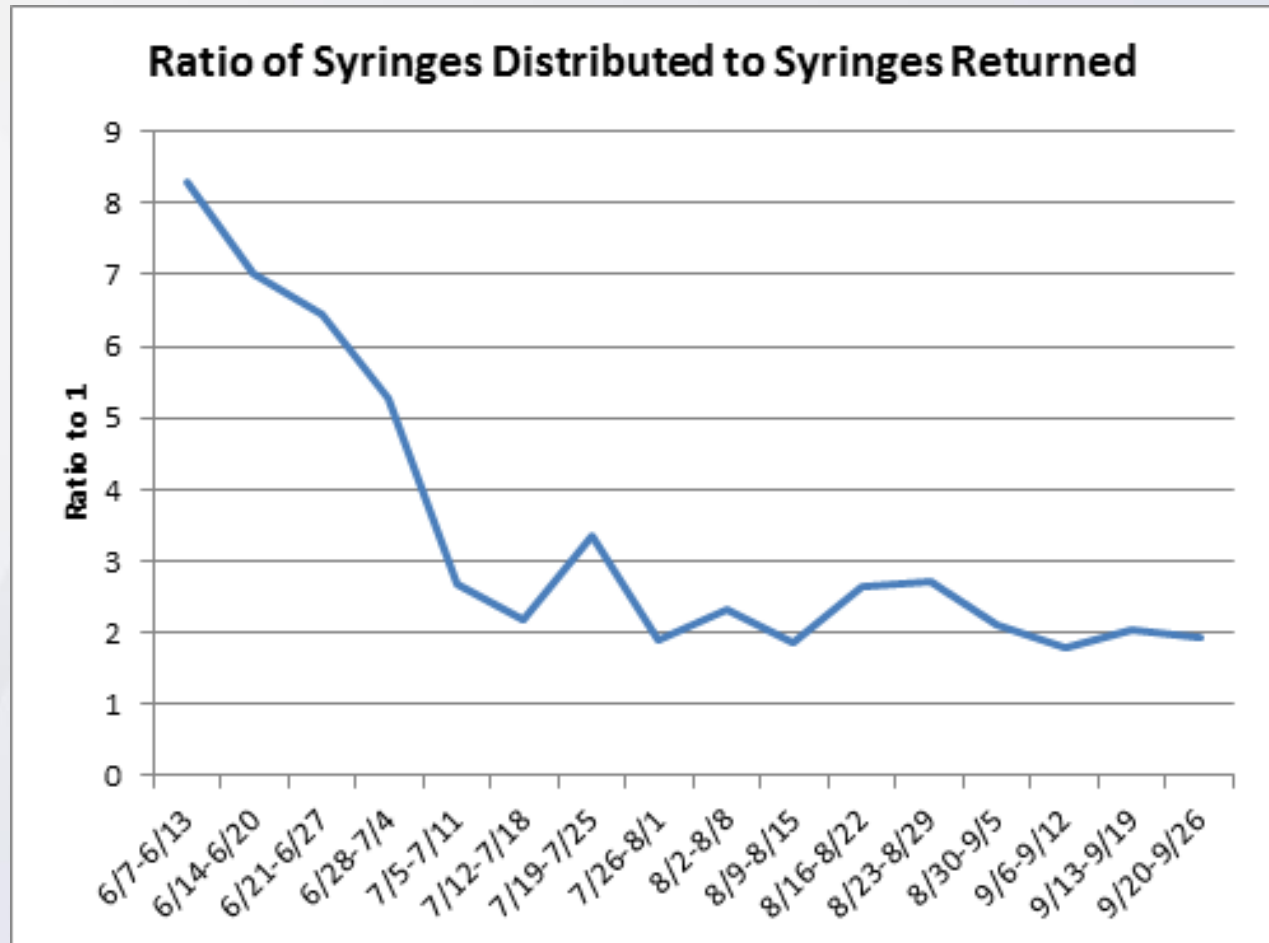
The Louisville Metro Syringe Exchange uses the “needs based negotiation” model. The number of syringes distributed is negotiated based on the participant’s need, the frequency of injection and the length of time until the participant can next access the syringe exchange.

- **Needs based** exchange policies result in over 40% reduction in syringe borrowing over one-for-one exchanges.
- A survey conducted in 2012 of the 192 syringe exchange programs across the country indicated that **84%** encouraged or allowed a secondary exchange (needs based) syringe distribution model.



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More and more syringes are being returned each week as participants come to trust the program. The ratio of sterile syringes distributed to used syringes returned has narrowed each week from a high of 8.3 to 1 in June to 1.8 to 1 in September.



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The program is working!
In its first four months of operation the Louisville Metro Syringe Exchange Program has:

- Had **822** participants with 325 (40%) returning participants
- Tested **103** people for HIV
- Tested **36** for Hep C (last 30 days) 40% positive rate
- Referred **55** people for drug treatment
- Prevented new HIV and Hep C cases



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Questions?



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