

Harm Reduction Syringe Exchange Program

More than half of Kentucky counties are at risk for an HIV outbreak based on a study by the Centers for Disease Control. Kentucky has some of the highest rates of Hepatitis C in the nation. Syringe exchange programs have been proven to reduce these rates. Austin, Indiana a town just north of Louisville, with a population of around 4,200 people, had more than 180 new HIV cases as a result of needle sharing. The Hopkins County Health Department wants to prevent such an outbreak from happening in our county.

Syringe exchange programs (SEPs) reduce the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C. They do not encourage the initiation of drugs, nor do they increase the frequency of use amongst users. They do not increase community crime. SEPs increase community safety by taking used syringes off the streets, and out of the parks and playgrounds. They may also reduce contaminated sticks to law enforcement and emergency services.

In 2015, House Bill 192 was enacted during the regular legislative session. It enabled the Kentucky Department of Public Health to publish guidelines for Local Health Departments to implement Harm Reduction/Syringe Exchange Programs. In order to initiate a SEP a Health Department has to have Board of Health approval, Fiscal Court approval, and City Council approval in the town in which the SEP will take place.

There are 50 SEPs in Kentucky at this time, but this number is continually changing as more Health Departments work to protect their counties. A SEP program does not just exchange syringes, it offers counseling referrals, rehabilitation referrals, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, as well as linkage into the healthcare system. Health Department Directors have said these clinics have not been disruptive to Health Department services or staff.

The Health Department has already written grants for naloxone and provided training for the Hopkins County Sheriff's Office, Madisonville Police Department, Madisonville Fire Department, and Dawson Springs Police Department to combat the problem with opioid overdose, and to prevent law enforcement from succumbing to inhaling or touching fentanyl tainted drugs. There are also naloxone kits and trained professionals in the 3 high schools. Hopkins County EMS currently administers about 100 doses of naloxone per year for opioid overdoses, therefore opioid drugs are being used in Hopkins County.

Hopkins County is in the lower risk area of Kentucky at this time, but the injectable drug problem is moving this way. The Hopkins County Health Department has been educating civic groups, physician groups, law enforcement, emergency services and the community about the need for this safety initiative and plans to start working toward an SEP in the spring of 2019.

We ask for community support and support from our fellow healthcare professionals as we begin this important preventive endeavor. Thank you to fellow Health Department Directors who have shared information and paved the way for successful Harm Reduction Programs in Kentucky!



10 Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems concerning health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.



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Public Health Director



Richard Lee, Jr., MD
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HOPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2018

VISION STATEMENT

To obtain the highest level of health status possible for citizens of Hopkins County.

MISSION ...

To promote physical and mental health by:

- Assessment of health needs of the county
- Detection of congenital and acquired illnesses and conditions
- Provision and promotion of access to health care
- Promulgation of policies and regulations to improve health

The Hopkins County Health Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability.

UNDUPLICATED PATIENTS SERVED

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Services	Participants
Dental	192
Cancer	286
Adult	787
STDs	496
TB	328
WIC	1,988
Maternity	27
Family Planning	493
Pediatrics	9,766

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Programs	Services/Activities
Food Related Services	570
Bed & Breakfasts	6
Food Borne Disease	1
Retail Food Stores	51
Produce & Farmers Markets	2
Food Safety Training Attendees	30
Hotel or Motels	7
Mobile Home/RV Parks	83
Tattoo Studios	34
Body Piercing Studios	32
Ear Piercing Studios	12
Schools	17
Youth Camp/Day Camps	3
Nuisance Control	313
Onsite Sewage Disposal	1,213
Private Sewage	265
Swimming Areas	14
Rabies Services (Bites)	447
Animal Heads Submitted for Testing	4
Public Plan Reviews	2
Food Service Reviews	499
Onsite Installer Retraining	56
Total	3,661

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