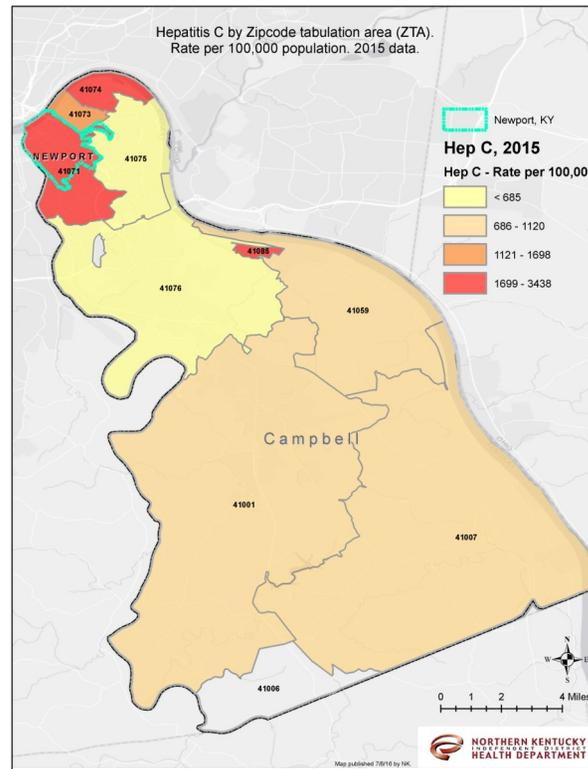


# Syringe Access Exchange Program: Meeting a Need in Newport

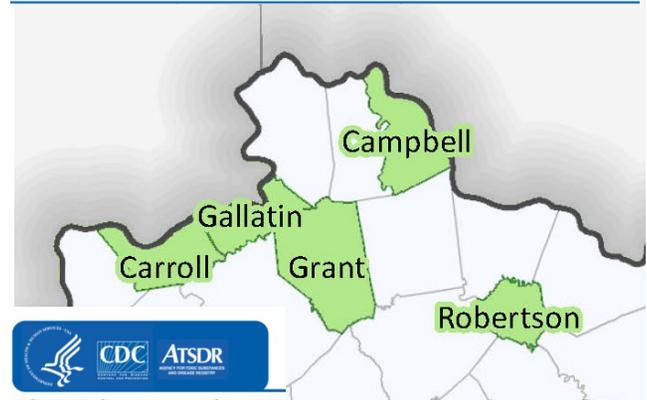
## WHY IS A SYRINGE ACCESS PROGRAM NEEDED NOW?

- **Rates of hepatitis C attributable to IV drug use are high.** In 2015, Newport ZIP codes had a total of 131 cases of hepatitis C. Newport's rate of hepatitis C is higher than other areas of Northern Kentucky, as shown in the map at right.<sup>1</sup>
- In an analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of counties at risk for an HIV outbreak, **Campbell County was among the top 220 counties identified as being vulnerable for an HIV outbreak.**<sup>2</sup> We are now in a window of opportunity to prevent an HIV outbreak such as the one seen in Scott County, Indiana, which required a prolonged crisis response from both state health officials and CDC and during which a syringe exchange was created under emergency order of the governor.
- In 2015, Campbell County had the fourth highest number of overdose deaths in the state. For all drug-related overdoses, **Campbell County has the highest overdose death rate per population in Northern Kentucky**, with 47.2 overdose deaths per 100,000 population in 2015.<sup>3</sup>



*“State and local health departments will need to further explore vulnerability and target interventions to prevent transmission.”* CDC HIV Vulnerability Report, June 2016

County-level Vulnerability to Rapid Dissemination of HIV/HCV Infection Among Persons Who Inject Drugs



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SYRINGE ACCESS EXCHANGE PROGRAM?

- Reduces the transmission of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne diseases.<sup>4</sup>
- Helps remove used needles from public spaces, reducing risk of accidental needle sticks for the public and first responders.<sup>4</sup>
- Facilitates access to addiction treatment. People using syringe access exchange programs are 25 percent more likely to enroll in a drug treatment program.<sup>5</sup>
- Connects individuals who use IV drugs to health services outside the emergency room.<sup>4</sup>



# HEALTH CENTER IS THE BEST LOCATION FOR A SYRINGE ACCESS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Service	Campbell County Health Center	Mobile Unit (Operating 3 hours per week in one location)
Clean injection equipment and disposal of used syringes and equipment	✓	✓
Rapid HIV testing	✓	✓
Rapid hepatitis C testing	✓	✗
Pregnancy testing/women's health services	✓	✗
Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases	✓	✗
Vaccinations (including hepatitis B, hepatitis A, influenza, HPV)	✓	✗
Naloxone kit distribution and education	✓	✓
Referrals to other health care and social service providers, including primary health care and mental health care	✓	✓
On-site substance abuse counseling	✓	?
Located in a ZIP code identified as having high rates of hepatitis C	✓	?
Estimated operating cost per participant per year (based on 300 participants) <sup>1</sup>	\$236.33	\$869.16

Note: Mobile cost estimates include half of the cost to purchase and maintain a unit

## ADVANTGES OF LOCATING AT THE CAMPBELL COUNTY HEALTH CENTER

- Enables staff to provide services in a cost-efficient manner. Staff in the health centers have access to needed lab tests and vaccines and have ability to transition efficiently to other public health services.

- Participants will be seen in a health care facility which protects privacy and helps build trust. A mobile unit is not private.
- Individuals who inject drugs may currently use or have used the Health Department for a variety of services.<sup>1</sup>

## SOURCES

1. Northern Kentucky Health Department data
2. CDC HIV Vulnerability Report (2016)
3. 2015 Overdose Fatality Report, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
4. amFAR Issue Brief: Federal Funding for Syringe Services Programs: Saving Money, Promoting Public Safety, and Improving Public Health
5. Hagan H, et. al. Reduced injection frequency and increased entry and retention in drug treatment associated with needle-exchange participation in Seattle drug injectors. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. 2000;19, 247–252