

Syringe Access Exchange Program:

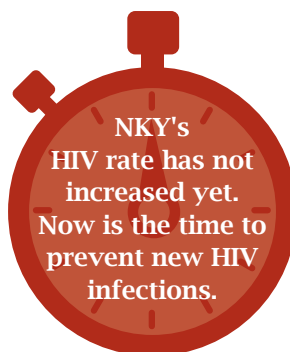
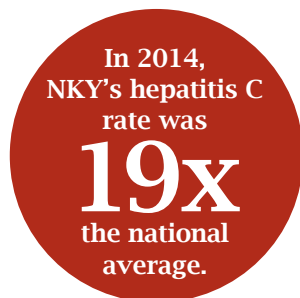
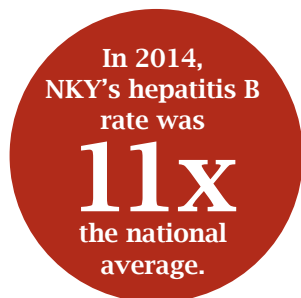
Meeting the Need in Northern Kentucky

What is a Syringe Access Exchange Program?

A public health program that:

- Reduces the spread of communicable diseases like hepatitis C and B and HIV in people who inject drugs.
- Exchanges sterile syringes and needles for contaminated equipment, and properly disposes of contaminated equipment.
- Provides access to other health services, such as drug treatment, along with education, counseling and enrollment in health care coverage.

Northern Kentucky is gaining national attention for its rates of blood-borne diseases.



What are the Benefits of a Syringe Access Exchange Program?

- Reduces the spread of HIV and hepatitis C.
- Helps remove used needles from the street, reducing the risk of accidental needlesticks for the public and first responders.
- Facilitates entrance into treatment. Individuals in syringe access exchange programs are 25 percent more likely to eventually enroll in a drug treatment program.

The Health Department is required by statute to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and is uniquely positioned to provide a syringe access exchange program due to its facilities, qualified staff and on-going partnerships with the community.

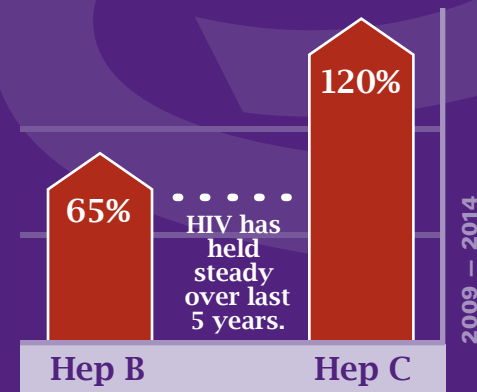


NORTHERN KENTUCKY
INDEPENDENT DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

www.nkyhealth.org



Rates of hepatitis B and hepatitis C in Northern Kentucky have increased dramatically in the last five years.



While HIV infection did not increase from 2009 to 2014, Northern Kentucky is primed for a rapid increase among IV drug users.

Treatment of blood-borne diseases is expensive. Syringe access programs are cost effective. For every \$1 spent on such a program, up to \$7 is saved in HIV treatment costs alone.



A syringe access exchange program is a critical part of Northern Kentucky's response to injection drug use. It prevents further spread of infectious diseases and protects the public and law enforcement from accidental needlesticks.