



# Syringe Support Services



Reduce Disease Transmission  
Provide Wound Care and Referral  
Educate Communities  
Rescue Loved Ones

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Reduction Services*



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# One Case Says it All

- Middle aged client well known to the staff
- Long history of opioid use and syringe service
- Found to test positive for active syphilis
- Repeatedly evaded attempts for intervention and treatment
- Client would agree to treatment and a team dispatched but he would depart the area, incentives were ineffective
- Collaboration between STD/DIS, SSP and SPOT mobile services established a new protocol
- Finally, almost 10 months after original test, SSP connected the client successfully and he was treated



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# The Cost of Substance Use



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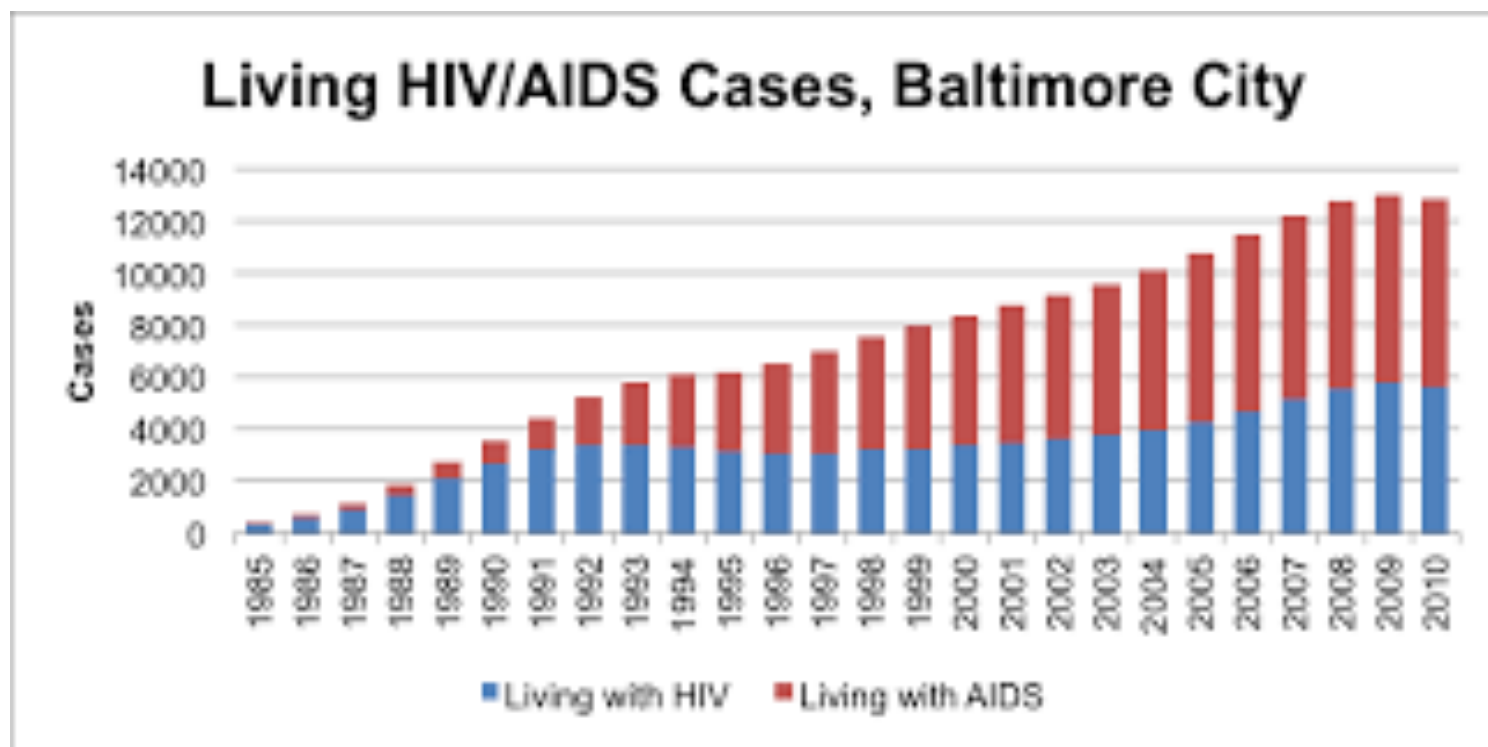
# Syringe Support Services Prevent Disease Transmission



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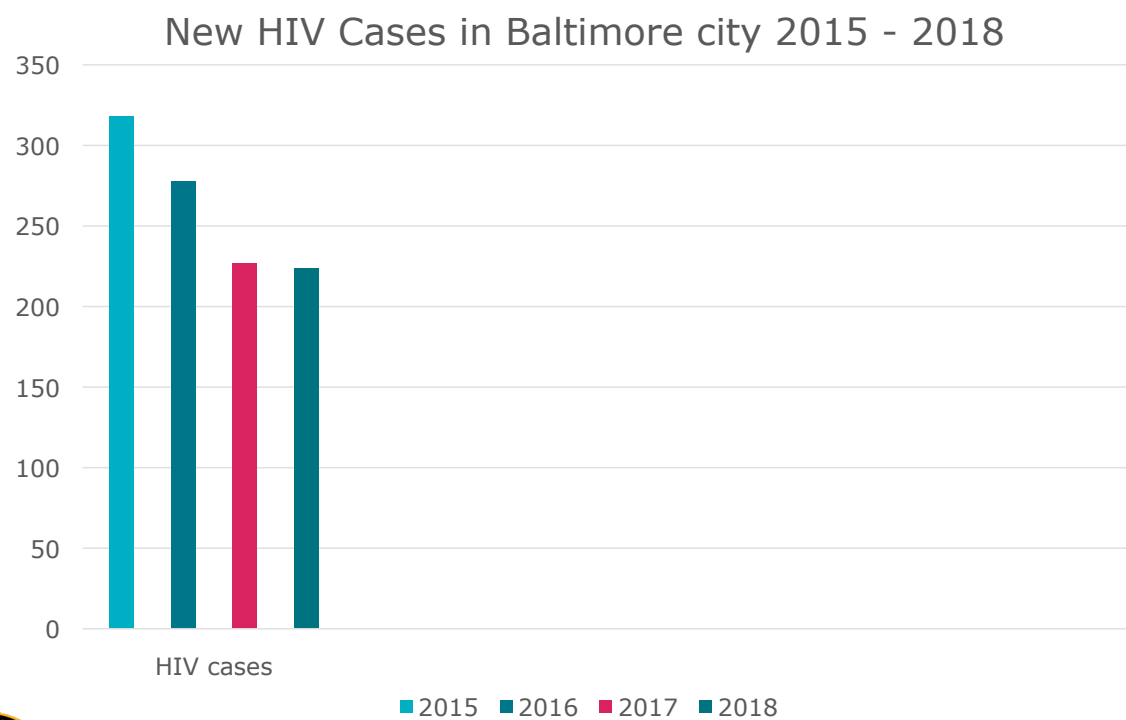
# HIV in Baltimore 1985-2010



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# Decreasing New HIV Cases



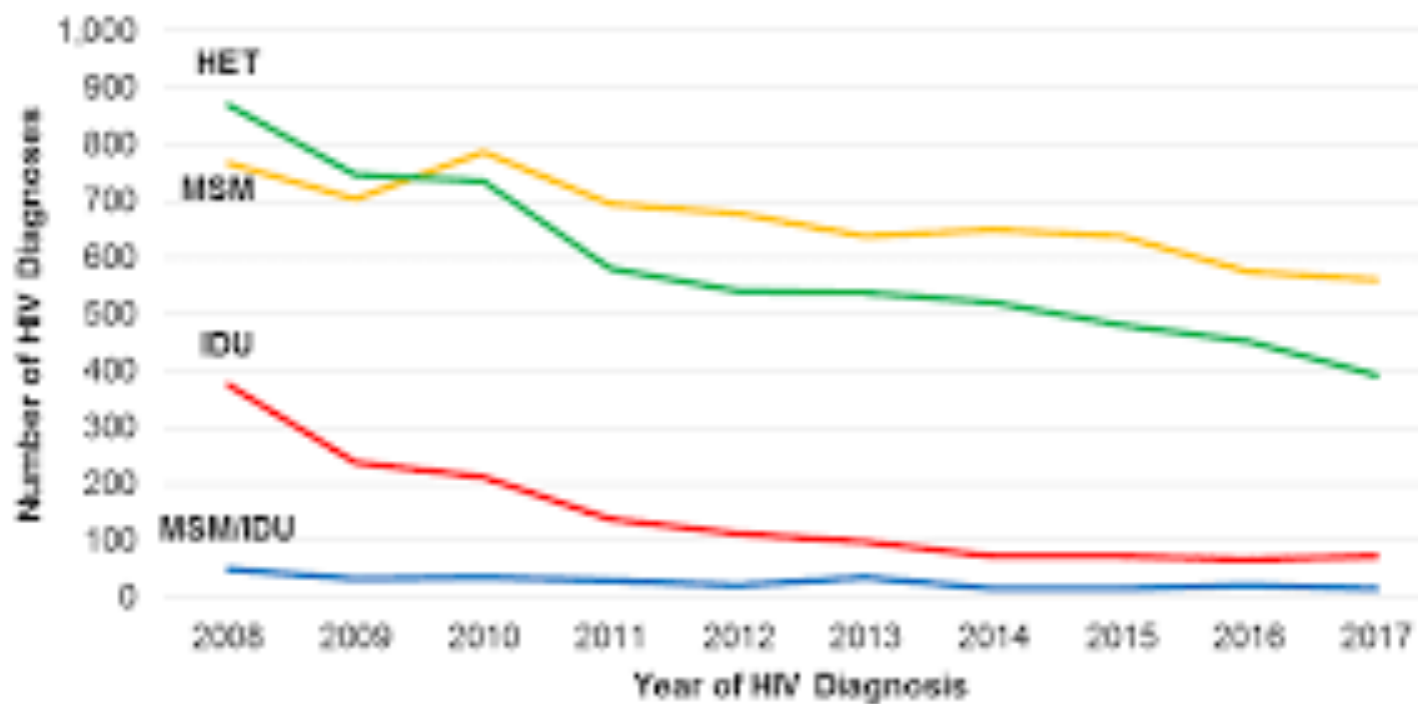
Note: PWID are now only 10% of new (as of June 30, 2018) HIV cases, compared to 88% attributable to sexual behavior.



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**Trends in Maryland Adult/Adolescent HIV Diagnoses by Exposure Category, 2008-2017, Reported through 06/30/2018**



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# Hepatitis C

- Highest hepatitis C prevalence by birth cohort is among persons born during 1945 to 1969
- Baltimore City has the **highest** number of HCV cases in the state-384.9/100,000 (2017 data)
- In 2016 there were 2, 214 cases reported in Baltimore City.
- These likely represent **under** counting given the nature of the illness (often mild symptoms), exposure history may be unclear/unknown.
- Closely linked to drug injection - clean equipment has been shown to decrease transmission.



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# Syringe Support Services Community Education Resource



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# Community Education is Critical

- With a sharp increase in opioid use, opioid overdose and associated disease transmission – education is critical
- Syringe support services provide education in groups from 1 - 100+. Topics include drug overdose, overdose reversal, types of drugs abused, safe injection and preventing disease transmission.
- Education is inclusive and for all ages, tailored – of course – to the population and the need.
- Syringe support services also engage and educate the communities they serve, *beginning with establishing a relationship*. (next presentation)
- Helping parents, teachers, community members understand the signs and symptoms of drug use and drug overdose.



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# Education will continue despite COVID

- Educational sessions were paused during the state-of-emergency
- Educational sessions prior to COVID **33**
- Calls for educational session in the last 3 months **17**
- Target date for these sessions to resume (virtually) **October 1, 2020**
- Number of safe injecting kits distributed YTD **13,689**
- Number of naloxone rescues aboard van a month (range) **497**



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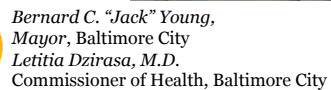
# Syringe Support Services

## Wound Care and Referral



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# Syringe Support Services

## Help for the Wounded

### Wounds - *External*

- Skin Abscesses (skin Popping)
- Excoriations (deep scratches from itchy skin)
- Boils
- Necrotizing fascitis – can expose tendons
- Deep tissue loss +/- gangrene
- Endocarditis (heart valve infection)
- Lung abscess and more

### Wounds - *Internal*

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicidality
- Self-loathing
- Stigma
- PTSD
- Violence survivor



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# Syringe Support Services

## Help for the Wounded

### Wounds - External



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# Internal Wounds Leave Deep Scars

*They can't be seen - just experienced*



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# Syringe Support Services

## Collaboration with Law Enforcement



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# Collaboration with Law Enforcement

- Law enforcement will identify areas with increased rates of overdose
- Partnering with SSP can involve
  - Warning clients about ‘bad’ drugs
  - Ensure clients have naloxone reversal kits
  - Educate clients about reversal kit use
- Community education sessions



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# Summary

## What Syringe Support Services Provide



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# Syringe Support Services

## Many Functions



Injection/Drug Services

syringes

naloxone

testing, referral  
and tracking



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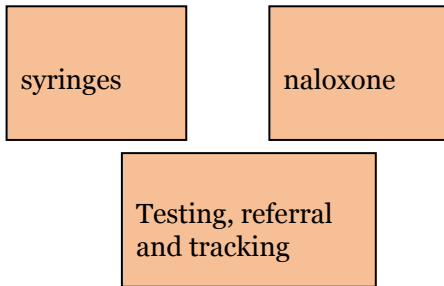
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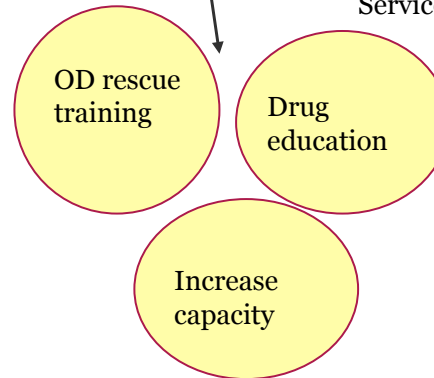
## Many Functions



### Injection/Drug Services



### Community Education Services



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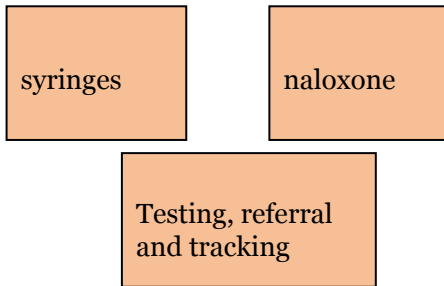


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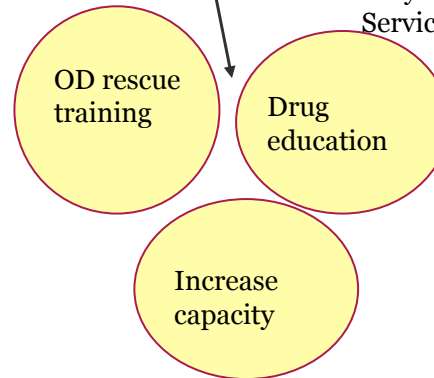
## Many Functions



### Injection/Drug Services



### Community Education Services



### Wound and referral services



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