

PREVENTING THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONSEQUENCES OF THE OPIOIDS CRISIS

FY 2019 President's Budget Request | \$40.0 Million

Mission

CDC prioritizes cost-effective, scalable programs, policies, and research to achieve the greatest impact on reducing the incidence of HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs, and tuberculosis. In addition to CDC's infectious disease programs, CDC works to implement evidence-based drug prevention in school and community settings, and to stop the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs. CDC also works to reduce health disparities associated with these diseases and to help adolescents avoid infection. In recent years, major increases in infectious diseases have occurred as a result of the opioid crisis, including a tripling of the number of hepatitis C infections.

Priority Areas for Investments

Community and clinical interventions can reduce overdose deaths and prevent infectious disease consequences of the opioid crisis. The HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted disease programs, led by CDC and implemented by state and local health departments and community-based organizations, provide an established, nationwide network that can be strengthened to combat the opioid crisis.

Evidence shows that tailored community-based prevention services that include risk reduction, screening, and treatment interventions reduce the transmission of viral hepatitis and HIV, increase the likelihood of entry into treatment and cessation of drug use.

Why We're Here

The United States is experiencing an epidemic of viral hepatitis and HIV outbreaks across the nation, fueled by the opioid crisis. The 2015 HIV and hepatitis C outbreak in Indiana is powerful evidence that persons who inject drugs (PWID) are at high risk for both HIV and viral hepatitis, and that these blood borne infections can gain ground at any time unless the nation remains vigilant about prevention, testing and treatment.

Steps to Elimination



Additional resources provided in the FY 2019 President's Budget Request would strengthen national efforts to prevent infectious disease outbreaks associated with the opioid crisis and to eliminate transmission of infections in select jurisdictions most vulnerable to HIV and/or viral hepatitis outbreaks. Key activities to be undertaken include the following:

- **Detect and respond to outbreaks:** Enhance capacity to conduct network analysis, cluster identification and investigation, and rapid outbreak response for viral hepatitis or HIV infections among people who inject drugs.
- **Enhance existing surveillance systems** in high-risk locations to better track trends in opioid misuse and related behaviors as they pertain to infectious disease.
- **Expand HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD program and clinical infrastructure** to ensure that all facilities provide testing and linkage to prevention services, care for opioid use disorders, and disseminate educational materials about these services.
- **Incorporate substance use prevention interventions in school-based settings** for all students and implement tailored strategies to address the smaller population of students most at risk for opioid use leveraging CDC's school-based programs.
- **Enhance training for STD and HIV clinicians and Disease Investigation Specialists** to identify persons who inject drugs and engage people in substance use treatment



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention