



Syringe Services Program Decreased Injection-Drug-Use Risks in Indiana Town

Scott County, Indiana, recently saw a major outbreak of HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs.

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People who inject drugs (PWID) in Scott County, Indiana, the nonurban site of a major recent outbreak of HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) among this population, greatly reduced drug-use behaviors that increase the risk of transmission of these viruses after the establishment of a syringe services program (SSP) in the small town, Medical Xpress reports.

Publishing their findings in the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, researchers conducted a study of 148 Scott County residents attending the local SSP, or 62 percent of those using the program.

During a median 10 weeks of follow-up (and a range of 1 to 23 weeks), the proportion of those reporting sharing syringes to inject drugs decreased from 18 percent to 2 percent; sharing syringes in order to divide drugs declined from 19 percent to 4 percent; and sharing other injection equipment such as cookers declined from 24 percent to 5 percent. The study participants' median number of uses of the same syringe declined from 2 to 1 during the follow-up period.

While responses to questions about the frequency of drug injection were mixed, overall there was no apparent change.

To read the Medical Xpress article, [click here](#).

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).
