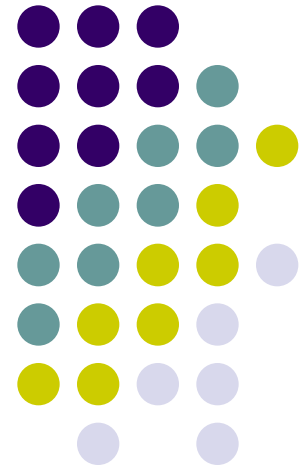


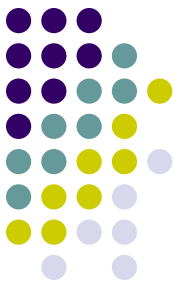
HCV Continuum of Care – Interventions at the Community Level

National Summit on HCV and HIV Diagnosis,
Prevention and Access to Care

June 5, 2015

Michael Ninburg
Executive Director
Hepatitis Education Project

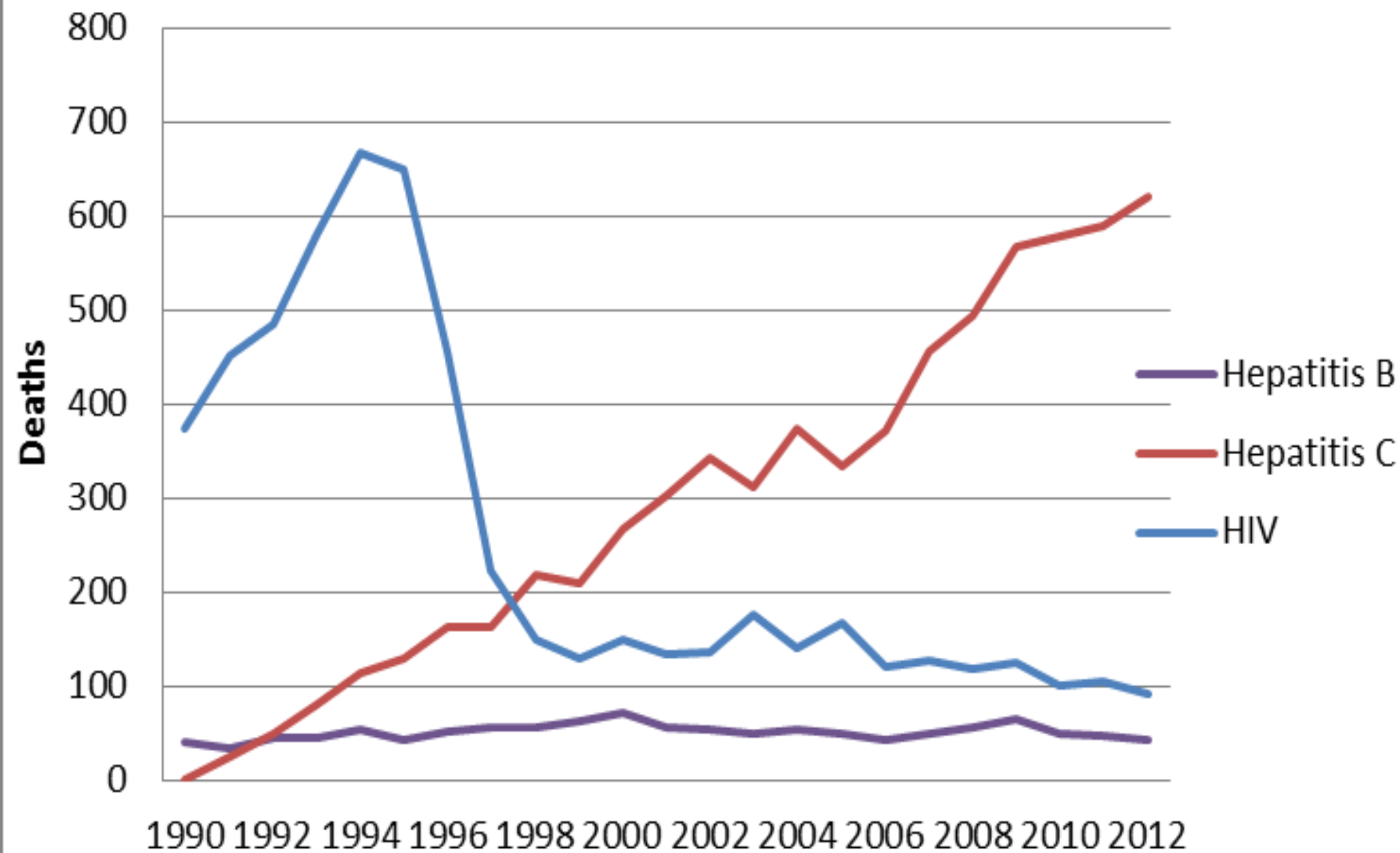




About HEP

- Founded in 1993
- 7 FTE
- Geographic scope – local, state, national, international
- Populations served – uninsured, underinsured, people who use drugs, homeless, at-risk youth, prisoners... and anyone who asks for help
- Manage Hepatitis Resource Center in downtown Seattle

Deaths in Washington State Hepatitis C, B, and HIV



HCV Testing



Began offering free hepatitis C testing in 2008

- From 2008-2012, used dried blood spot test
- In 2012, transitioned to HCV rapid antibody test
- Also in 2012, HEP received CDC Testing, Linkage to Care grant

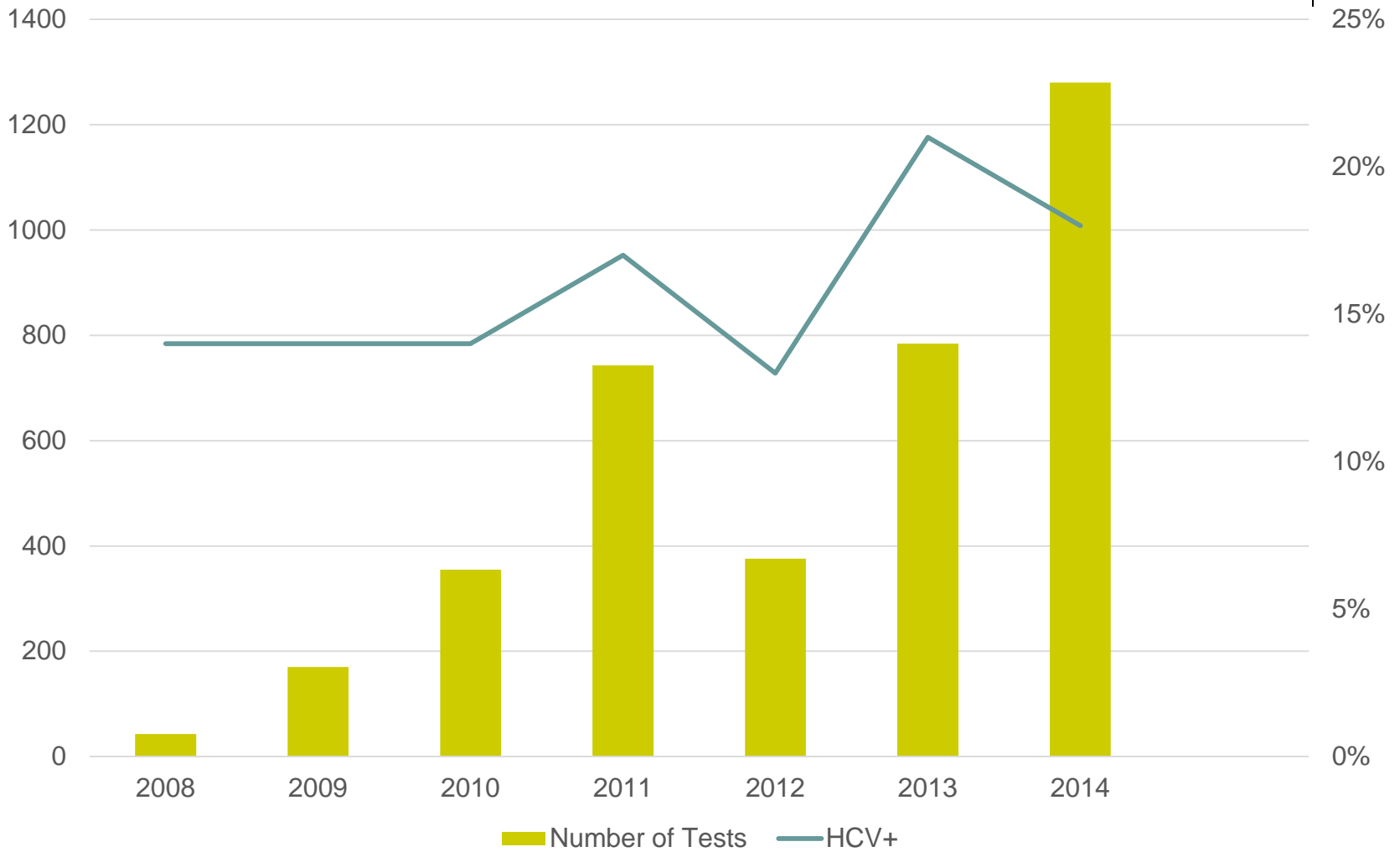
HEP offers confirmatory testing:

- Contract with local lab – HEP will pay for PCR, if necessary
- At consumer-run syringe exchange – People’s Harm Reduction Alliance
- HEP staff just completed phlebotomy training and certification

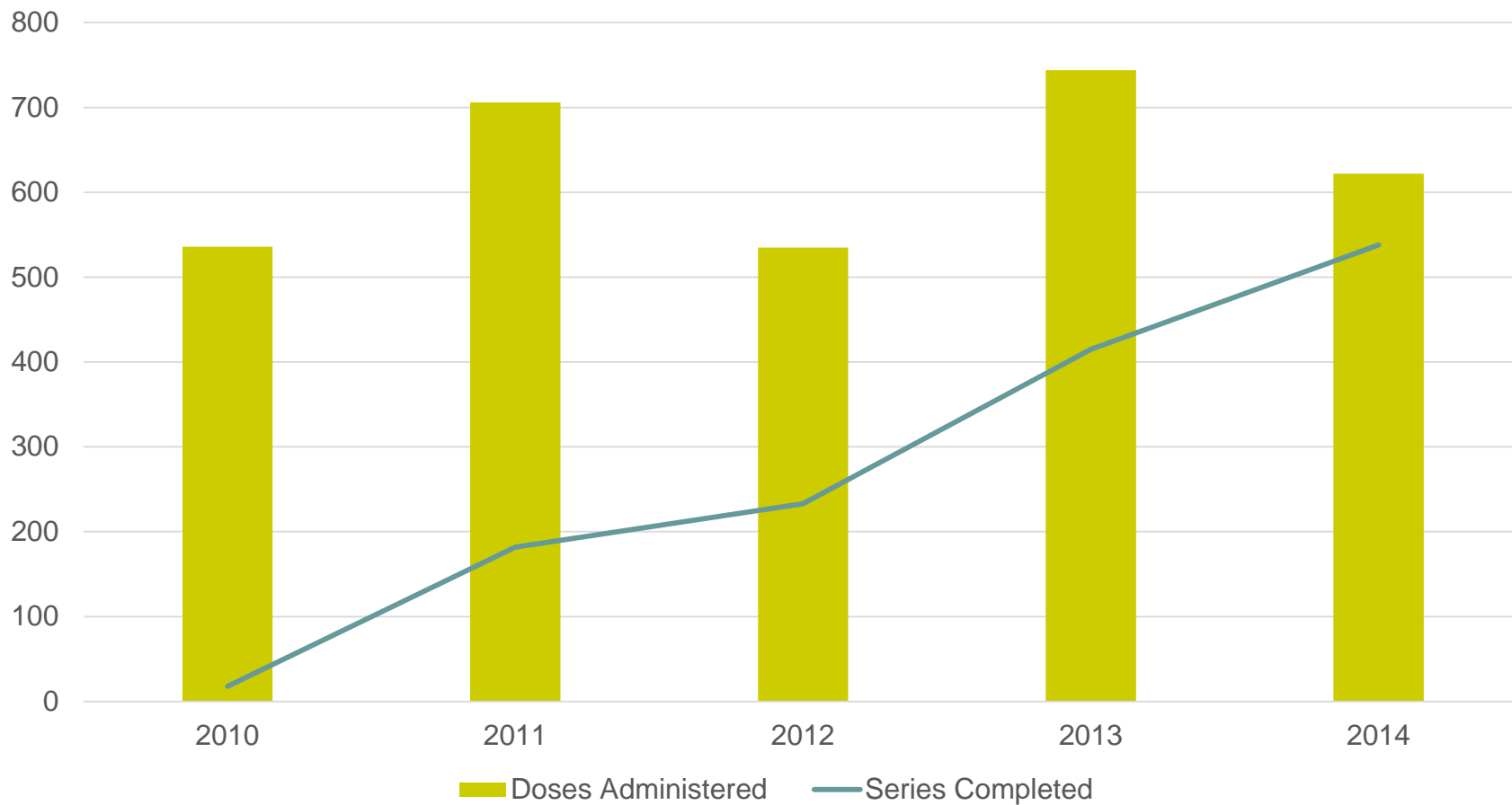
Sites include:

- Syringe Exchange Programs
- Opioid Treatment Programs
- Low-income housing/ Homeless shelters (Housing Health Outreach Team)
- AIDS Service Organizations

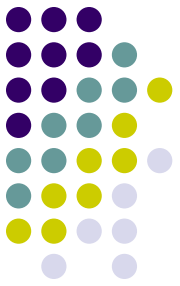
HCV Testing Numbers, 2008-14



HAV/HBV Vaccination, 2010-2014



Youth Outreach - Education, Prevention and Testing



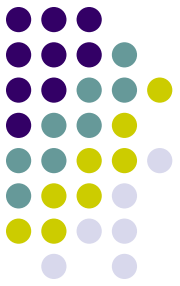
Began in 2005:

- Focused on young people aged 13-25; reach about 1,000 people/year
- In 2011, first AmeriCorps volunteer to run program
- Curriculum is a living document – youth contribute to content and design; current project is a zine on *Hepatitis ABCs*

Partners/sites include:

- Seattle Public Schools
- Area youth shelters
- Youth detention center

Medical Case Management



Started in 2012; hired 2 MSW to manage program in 2014

Clients enroll through:

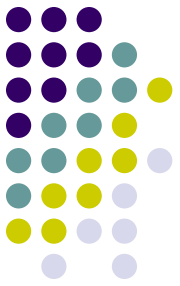
- Testing positive on antibody screening at HEP outreach events
- Referrals by medical providers or community partners
- Client self-referral

Impact of Affordable Care Act – HEP has four certified patient navigators;
Medicaid expansion

Excellent network of regional providers:

- Multiple health care systems
- University of Washington Project ECHO

Medical Case Management



CDC Test and Cure grant awarded in 2014

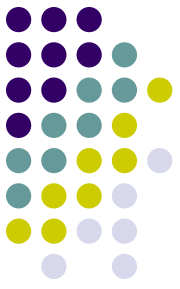
Growth:

- April, 2014 – 86 clients; ~50 active
- May, 2015 – 317 clients; ~200 active; ~80 confirmed chronic

As of June 1, 2015:

- 9 clients cured
- 6 awaiting SVR 12 testing
- 8 on treatment
- 12 waiting for approval from insurance

Medical Case Management - Challenges



Client recruitment and retention

- Some individuals not ready for linkage to care
- Some don't need HEP's assistance

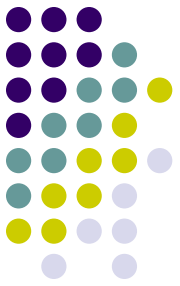
Technology and data management

- Current technology has limited ability to evaluate program
- Will improve with new case management database

Caseload management

- How to balance/prioritize clients
- Current caseload warrants one more FTE medical case manager
- Insurance appeals

HCV in Corrections



Three distinct programs:

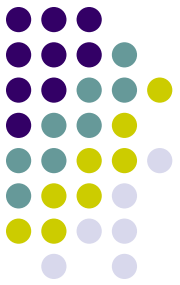
- Hepatitis and blood-borne infections prevention/education – Washington State Prisons (DOC), since 2003
 1. About 50 classes/year, reaching about 900 men and women
 2. New this year – some classes via WebEx

- Hepatitis and blood-borne infections prevention/education – King County Correctional Facility (KCCF), since 2008
 1. 3x/month, reach about 150/year
 2. Unfunded since 2011

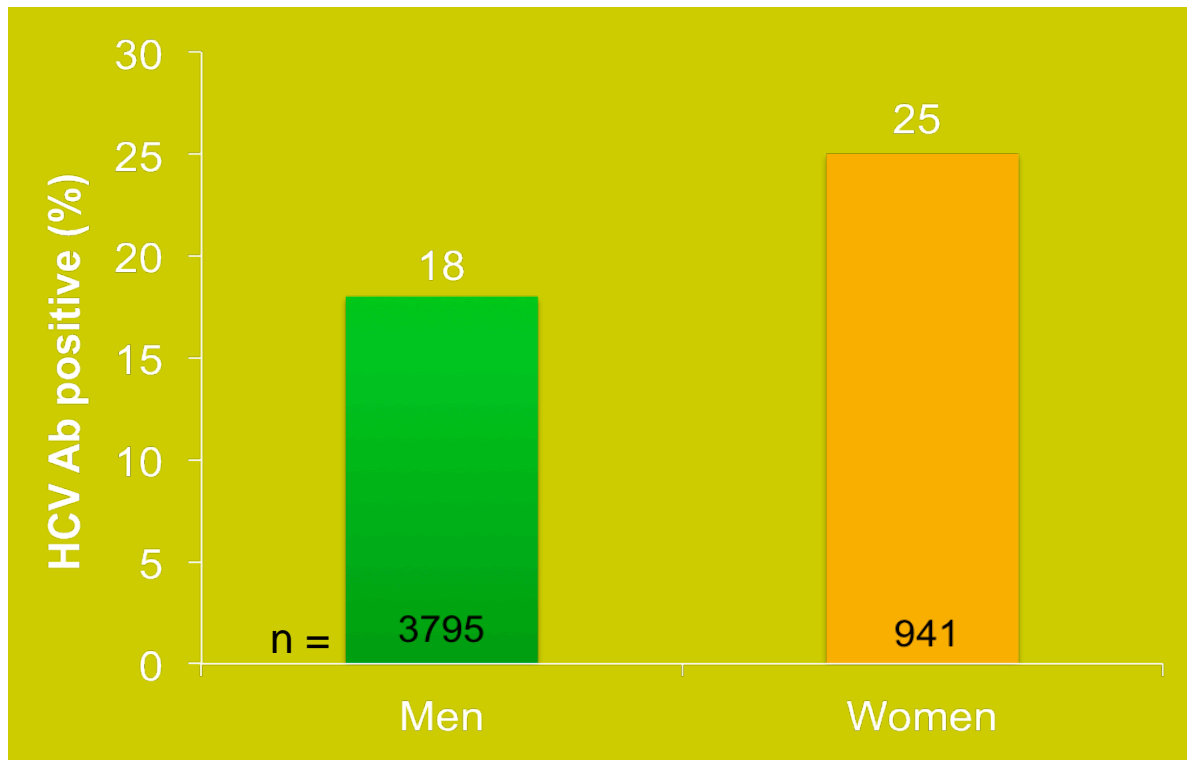
- Peer Education program, Project SHIELD DEBI– Washington DOC
 1. First funded as part of NIDA grant
 2. Customized for correctional setting, and to focus equally on HCV and HIV

Also manage National Hepatitis Corrections Network - www.hcvinprison.org

HCV Epidemiology in WA Prisons, 2008-2015







- Opt-out testing program for viral hepatitis and HIV
- Overall prevalence of HCV Ab+ is 19%¹



1. Strick, L, MD, Washington State Department of Corrections. Personal Communication. May 14, 2015.

What is **hepatitis C (HCV)**?

Hepatitis C, is a virus  that can hurt your liver  and is mainly spread through infected **blood**.  Many people do not get sick from HCV, but others get severe liver scarring called **cirrhosis**. HCV is **curable**. 

How do I get hepatitis C (HCV)?

You get HCV when the blood of someone who has HCV gets into your body through an open cut or an open sore.

✗ **Easiest ways to get hepatitis C (HCV):**



Sharing needles, cookers, cottons, water and other injection drug equipment. **Boiling, burning, or rinsing needles with water or bleach does NOT protect against HCV transmission!*



Sharing tattoo needles, tattoo ink, tattoo guns, or piercing equipment.



Blood transfusions that occurred before 1992.

⊘ **Other ways to get hepatitis C (HCV):**

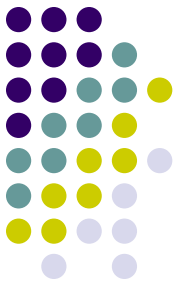
Policy and Advocacy



Examples of successful efforts to improve access to HCV testing and treatment in Washington State

- Corrections – since 2003 HEP has had seat on DOC HCV protocol committee
- State legislature – 2003, DOH mandated to create state HCV Strategic Plan
- State legislature – 2008-9, funding secured to implement state HCV Plan
- State Medicaid/ Health Care Authority – 2014-5, improve access to HCV treatment for state Medicaid patients
- State legislature – 2015, increase in funding for HCV treatment in state prisons

How Did We Get Here?



- Grew programs deliberately
- Our programs complement one another
- Made excellent use of volunteers (nurses, graduate students, AmeriCorps)
- Leveraged partnerships (public health, syringe exchange, ASOs, industry)
- Longstanding relationships with provider networks, public health, community-based organizations
- Engaged our clients for program development
- Made it personal