

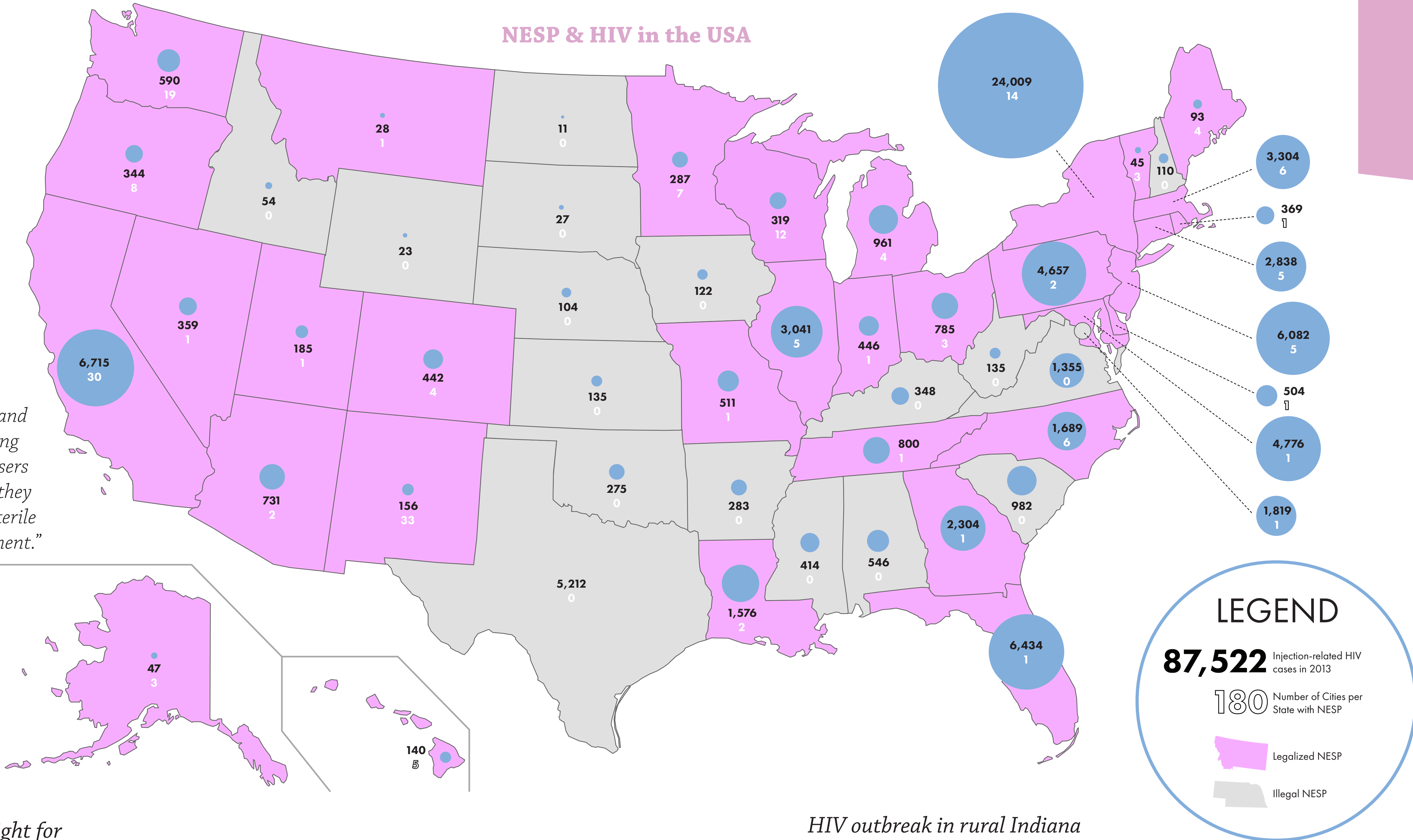
# The Importance of NEEDLE EXCHANGE

## Harm Reduction, Health, and Hope

Harm reduction programs are now present in almost every state and 18 states run legally sanctioned syringe exchange programs.

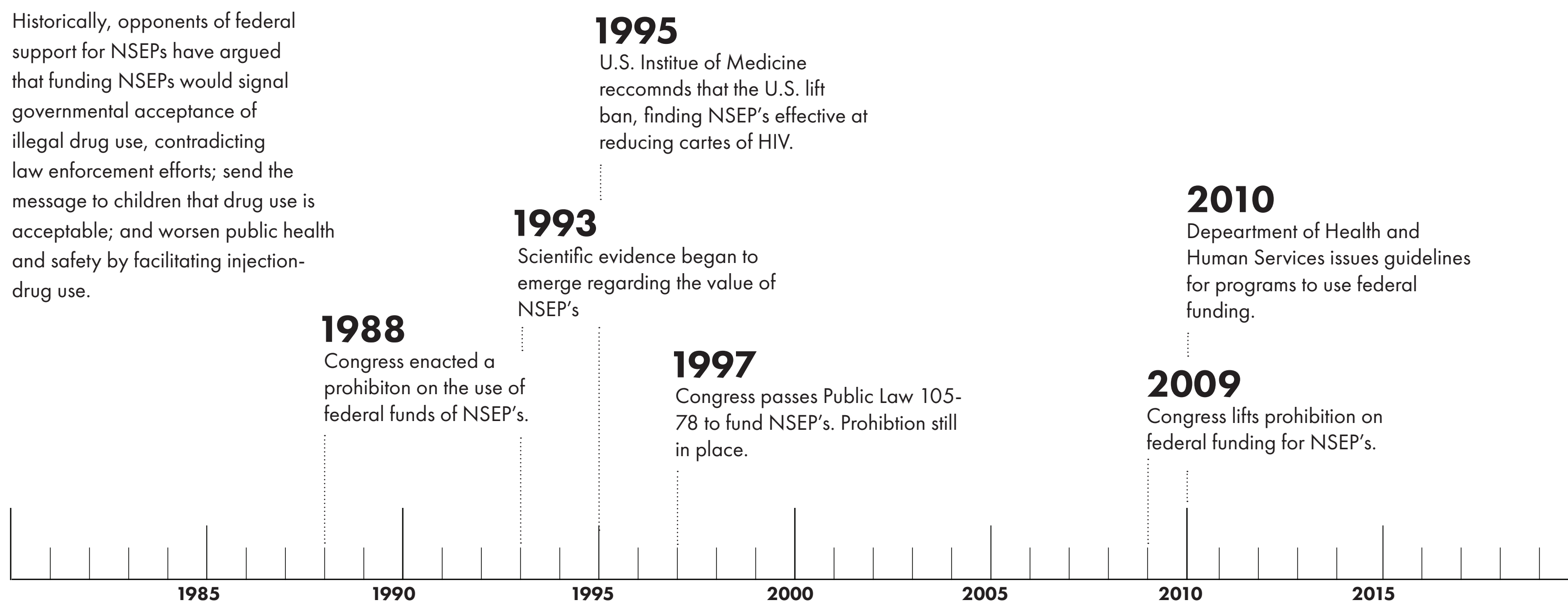
Decades of empirical evidence have shown that rates of HIV and Hepatitis C among injection drug users plummet when they have access to sterile injection equipment. In communities where syringe exchange programs are present, used needles that once crowded playgrounds, alleys and public bathrooms disappear into collection bins and rates of needle-stick injury to police officers drop by more than half. Moreover, decades of research show that syringe exchange programs do not lead to increases in crime or drug use, as opponents claim. In fact, the opposite occurs. Syringe exchange program participants are five times more likely to enter drug treatment than non-participants because the accessibility of harm reduction services facilitates contact with rehabilitation programs.

*"...rates of HIV and hepatitis C among injection drug users plummet when they have access to sterile injection equipment."*



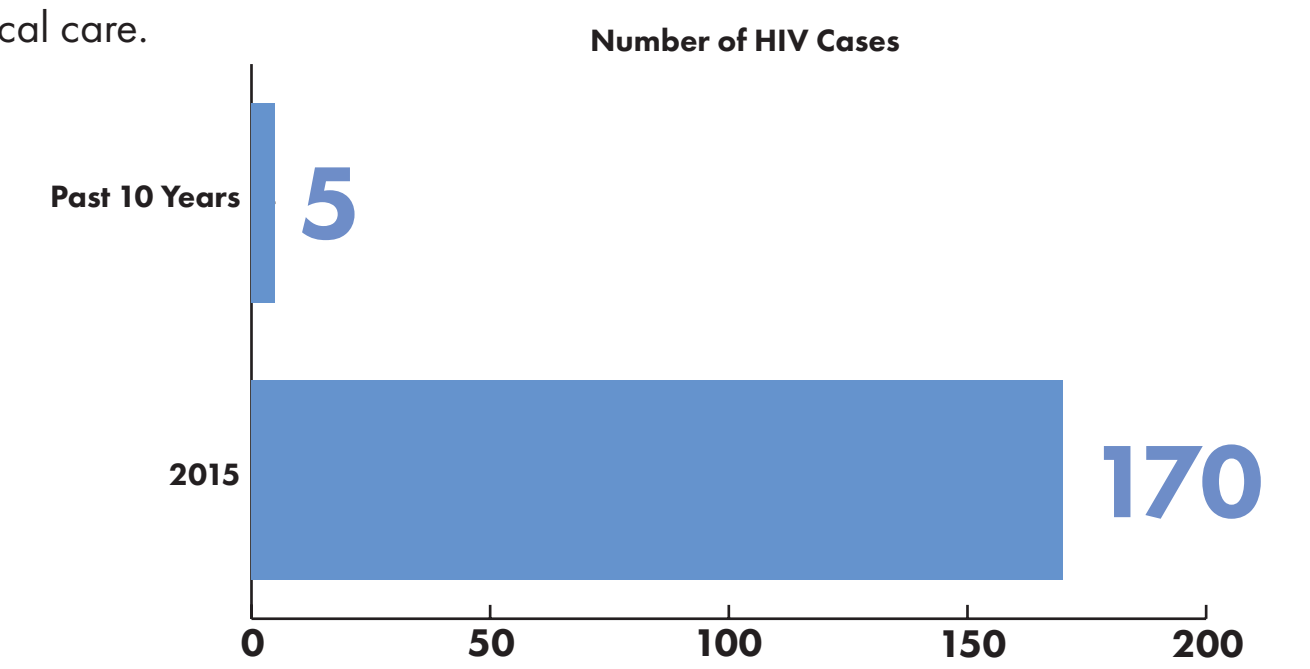
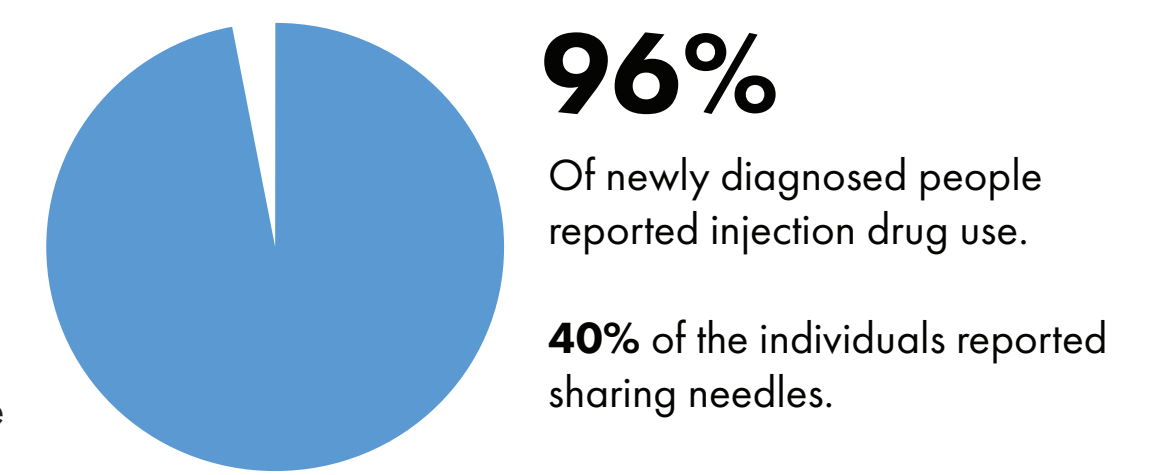
### Back and Forth Fight for Federal Funding

Historically, opponents of federal support for NSEPs have argued that funding NSEPs would signal governmental acceptance of illegal drug use, contradicting law enforcement efforts; send the message to children that drug use is acceptable; and worsen public health and safety by facilitating injection-drug use.

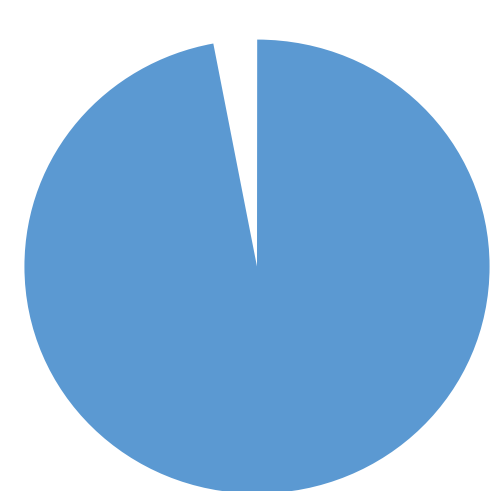


### HIV outbreak in rural Indiana HIV Epidemic

In January 2015, Austin Indiana reported an outbreak of HIV cases. The small population of 4,200 residents didn't have access to a Needle Exchange program, and within a few months there were over 150 newly reported cases of HIV. The city reacted by implementing a NESP, which allowed the affected residents access to necessary medical care.



### Needle Exchange Programs offer many Health Services

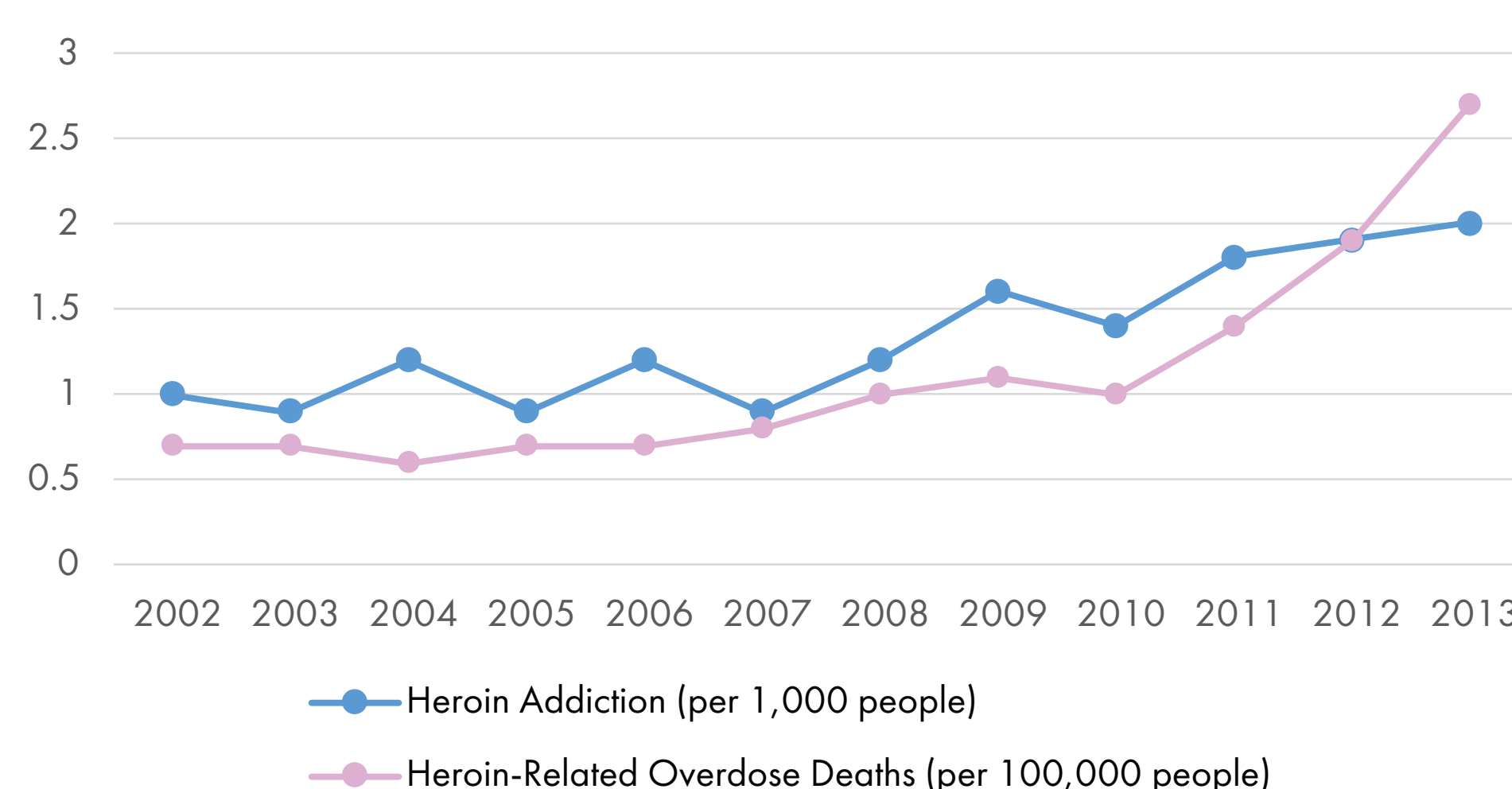


**97%**

NSEPs offer a variety of Health Services other than Needle Exchange

1. Referral to substance abuse treatment
2. Prevention education for sexually transmitted diseases
3. HIV counseling and testing
4. Tuberculosis screening
5. Primary health care.

### Nationwide Heroin Use All Time High



### Supporting Needle Exchange Costs Less

