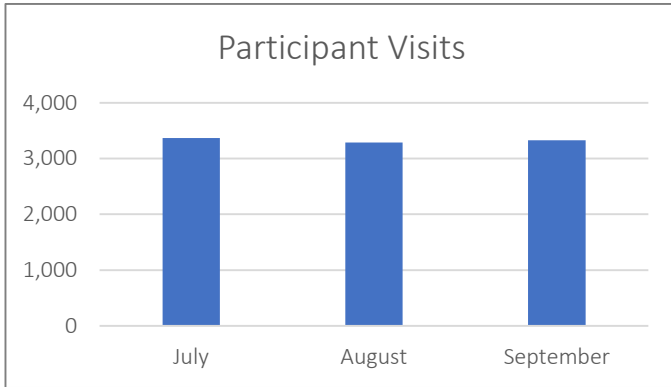


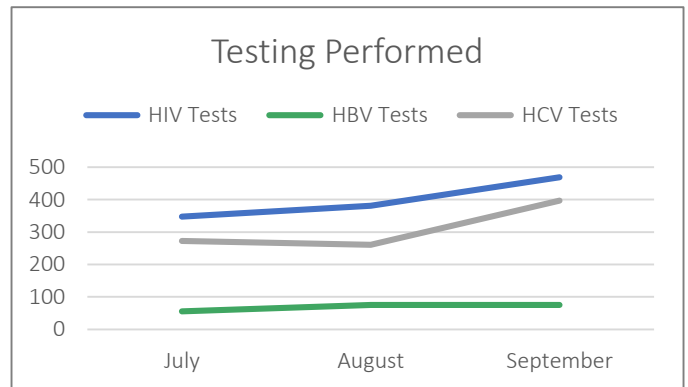
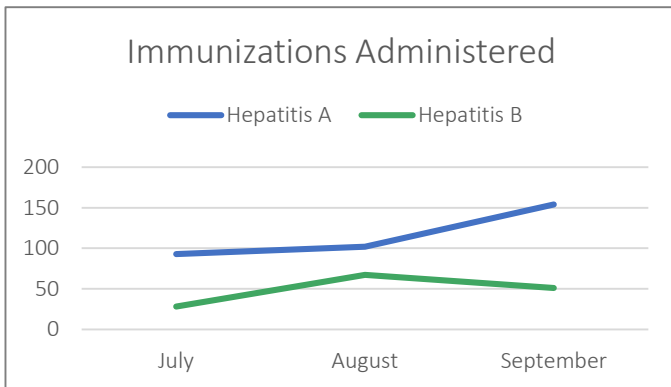
# Harm Reduction Program Statewide Report

## July to September 2019

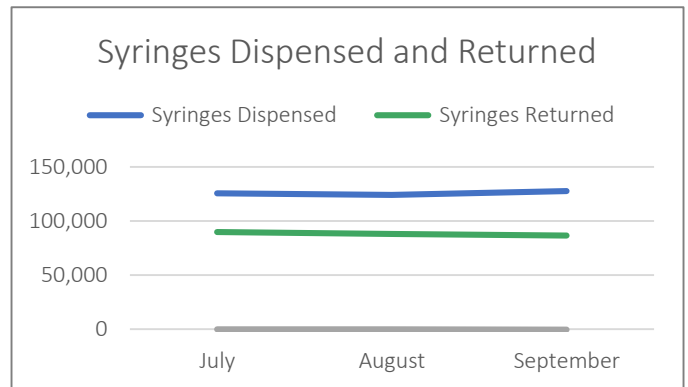
Harm reduction is a comprehensive set of public health strategies that aim to reduce sickness and death among people who inject drugs (PWID). PWID who use these programs are five times as likely to enter treatment for substance use disorder than those who do not<sup>1</sup>, and three times as likely to stop injecting drugs<sup>2</sup>. By providing sterile injection equipment, harm reduction programs can reduce the number of new HIV and hepatitis C infections<sup>1</sup>, keeping PWID healthy until they are ready to seek treatment.



**375 participants**  
were referred to addiction/  
recovery services this quarter



**70%** of syringes  
dispensed statewide between  
July and September were  
returned



Educational materials were distributed in **over 10,000** visits this quarter.

Data are self-reported by program and collected monthly by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health via a standardized data collection form. Data collection began in August 2018. Data were reported by 17 programs in July and August and 16 programs in September.

<sup>1</sup>[www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/cdchiv-fs-syringe-services-pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/cdchiv-fs-syringe-services-pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Hagan H, McGough JP, Thiede H, Hopkins S, Duchin J, Alexander ER. Reduced injection frequency and increased entry and retention in drug treatment associated with needle-exchange participation in Seattle drug injectors. *J Subst Abuse Treat* 2000;19(3):247-52.