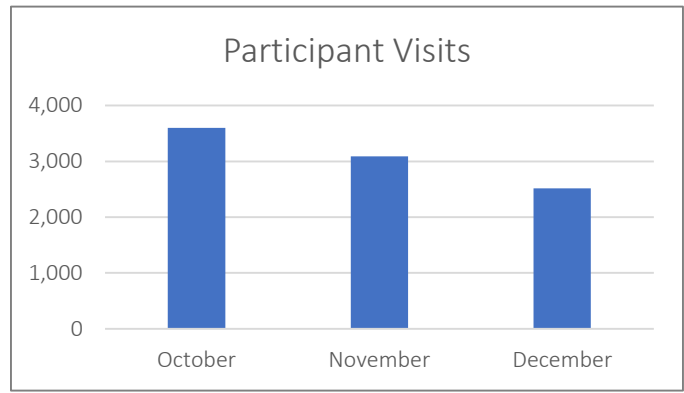


Harm Reduction Program Statewide Report

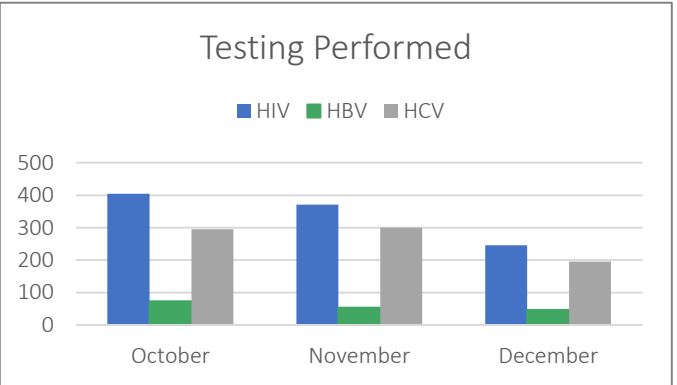
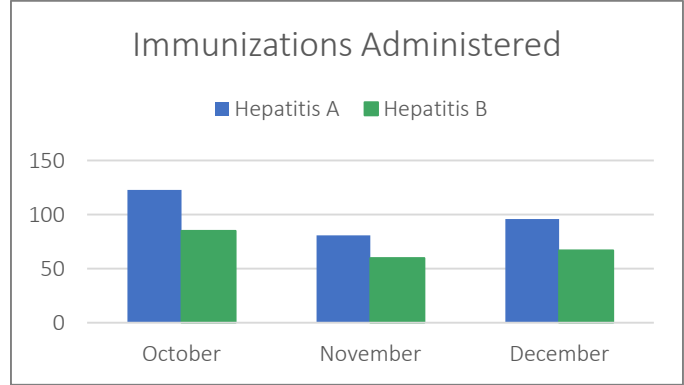
October to December 2019

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 not¹, and three times as likely to stop injecting drugs². By providing sterile injection equipment, harm reduction programs can reduce the number of new HIV and hepatitis C infections¹, keeping PWID healthy until they are ready to seek treatment. Data were reported by 15 harm reduction programs in October/December and 16 programs in November.

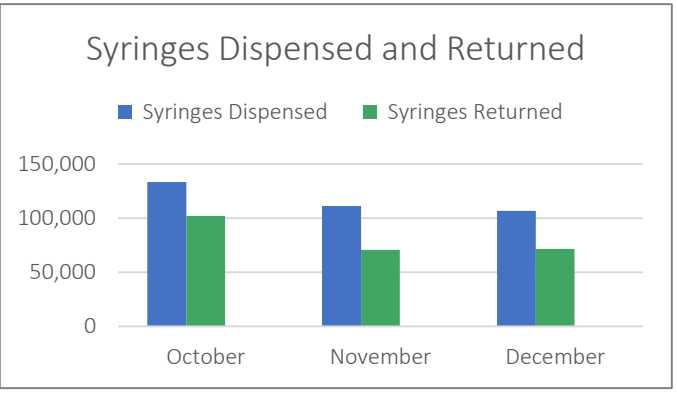


188 participants

were linked to addiction treatment/recovery services this quarter.



69% of syringes dispensed statewide between October and December were returned.



Educational materials were distributed to participants at **8,223 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.

¹www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/cdchiv-fs-syringe-services-pdf
²Hagan 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.