

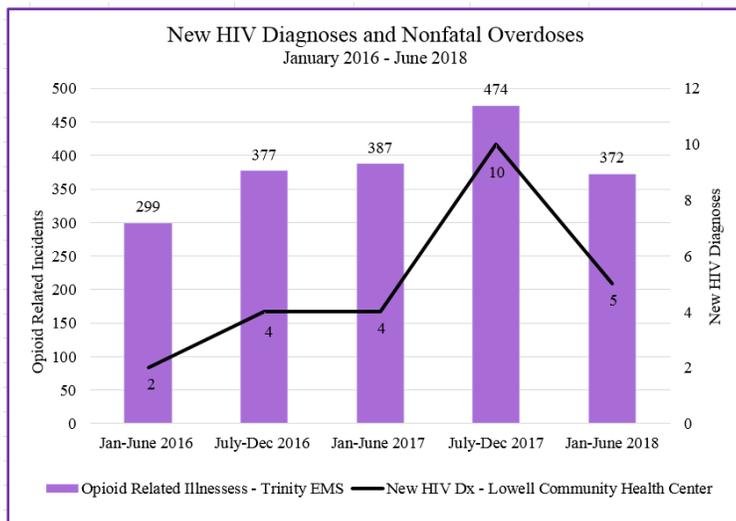
Mayor's Opioid Task Force - Data Subcommittee

Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA

The Mayor's Opioid Task Force Data Subcommittee analyzed various data sets relevant to the opioid epidemic in Lowell. The following observations and recommendations are tailored for community providers to inform their work.

Key Observations

- ◇ In 2018, the CDC conducted an investigation in Lowell and Lawrence due to increased rates of new HIV diagnoses.
- ◇ Data show that when rates of Opioid Related Incidents (ORI) increase so do new diagnoses of HIV. Please note that the data below reflect only new diagnosed HIV cases reported by Lowell Community Health Center.
- ◇ In 2019, two community agencies in Lowell received funding from MDPH to implement Syringe Services Programs.
- ◇ In 2019, the City of Lowell created a Syringe Collection Program Coordinator position to respond to discarded syringe pick-up requests.



Recommendations for Community

Providers

- ◇ Use a harm reduction approach when talking with clients about ways to reduce risk.
- ◇ Ask clients about their risk reduction practices to ensure that they are being practiced correctly (ie. cleaning an injection site with an alcohol pad before injection instead of after).
- ◇ Talk with clients about risk reduction for HIV and opioid overdose together instead of two separate topics.
- ◇ Educate clients about the risk factors of HIV infection and transmission, which include sharing syringes and engaging in unprotected sex.
- ◇ Encourage high risk clients to get tested and inform client of local testing locations. Talk with uninfected high-risk clients about PrEP and other preventative measures to reduce the risk of HIV, HCV, and STIs.
- ◇ Talk with clients who use substances intravenously about using bleach kits, clean syringes, and other harm reduction materials. Harm reduction materials can be accessed via Syringe Services Programs.
- ◇ Educate clients about proper syringe disposal.

Family and Loved Ones

- ◇ Talk with your high-risk loved one about the importance of regular HIV, HCV, and STI screenings.
- ◇ Learn more about new HIV and AIDS treatment, and help to reduce the stigma of HIV and AIDS.

HIV Testing Locations in Lowell

Lowell Community Health Center
978-221-6767
Life Connection Center
978-935-1801
MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
978-970-1250
Health Innovations *mobile van*
339-440-5633

Syringe Services Programs

Life Connection Center
978-935-1801
192 Appleton Street
Health Innovations
339-440-5633
mobile van

Syringe Disposal Locations in Lowell

Lowell Health Department
341 Pine Street
Lowell Community Health Center
101 Jackson Street
Lowell Senior Center
276 Broadway Street
Life Connection Center
192 Appleton Street

Have a suggestion for a topic to be reviewed? Want to share your agency's HIPAA compliant data with the Data Subcommittee? Email Lainnie Emond at LEmond@lowellma.gov.