



Michigan Overdose
Prevention Coalition

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Harm Reduction Education



What we mean when we say harm reduction...

Harm reduction is a public health approach that aims to reduce the negative impacts of substance use. It means meeting people where they are and linking them to life-sustaining health services, including:

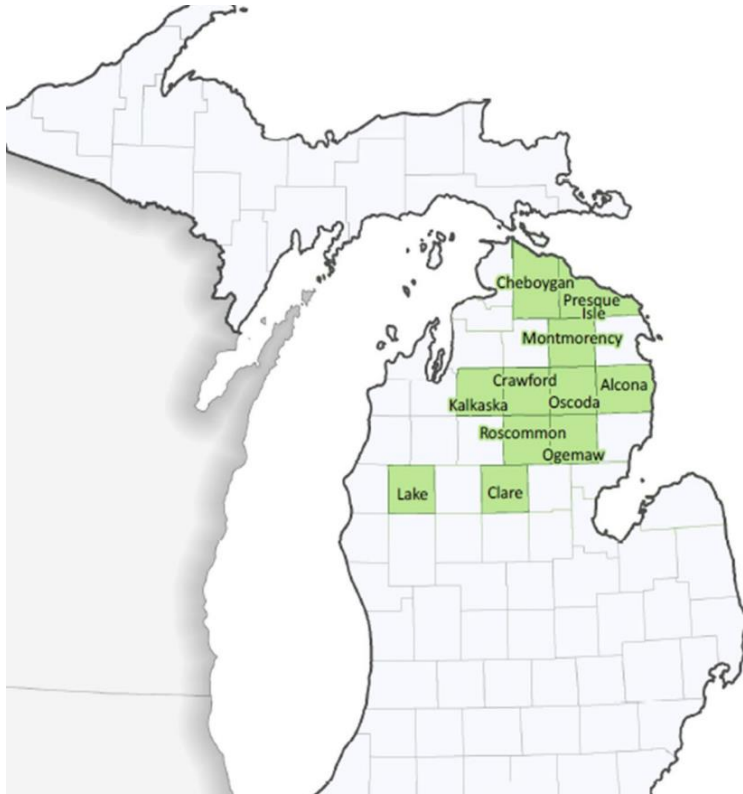
- Community-based access to naloxone
- Syringe service programs
- Education and counseling
- Planning and prevention resource
- Recovery resources
- Minor medical treatments



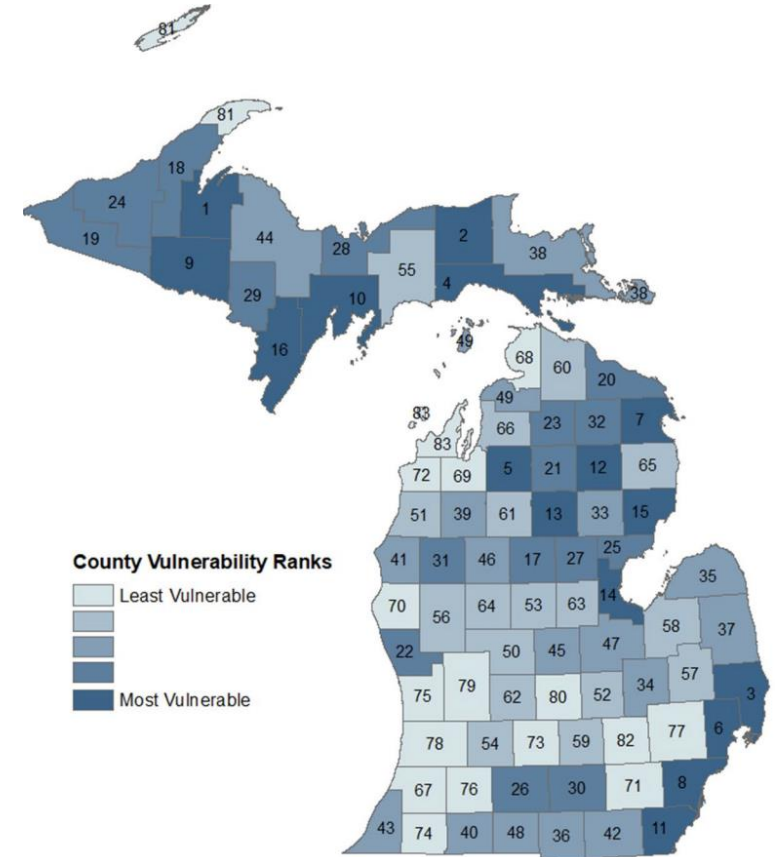
Harm Reduction Needs in Michigan

The CDC has identified 11 counties in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula as having an elevated risk of an injection-fueled HIV outbreak.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services identified 14 additional vulnerable counties.



CDC Evaluation



MDHHS Evaluation

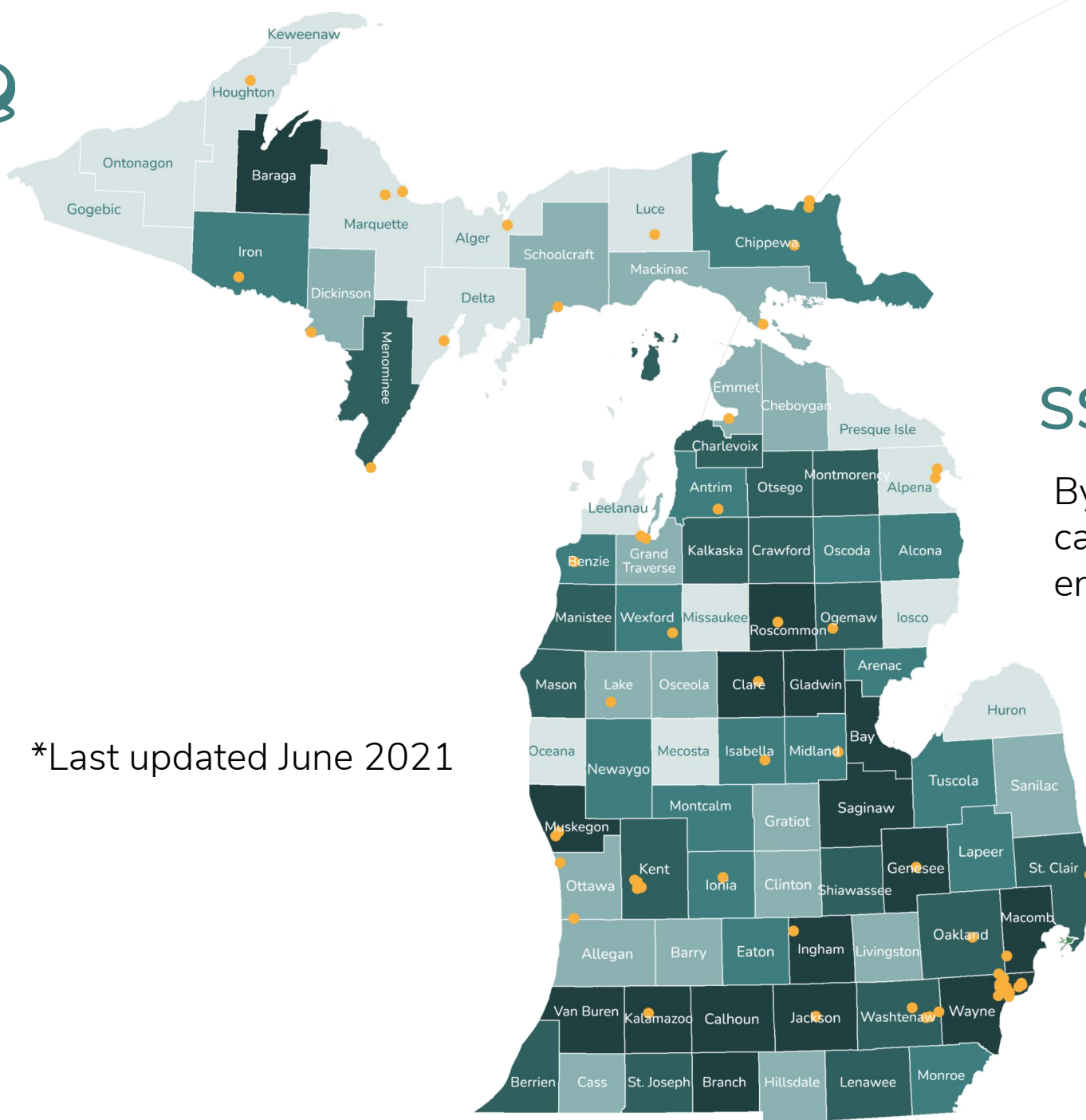


Syringe Service Program Access



What Services Do SSPs Provide?

- Training in overdose prevention and response with access to Narcan/naloxone
- Hepatitis A and B vaccines
- HIV and Hepatitis C testing and linkage to care
- Connect people to substance use treatment
- Assistance in accessing medical care
- Basic wound care that reduces emergency room visits and hospitalizations from untreated minor injuries
- Access to safer sex education and supplies
- Access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment.



SSPs in Michigan

By expanding SSPs statewide, counties can provide more resources and encourage safer, healthier communities.

*Last updated June 2021



Public Health Benefits of SSPs



- SSPs **reduce** HIV prevalence by as much as 50 percent
- SSPs **reduce** Hepatitis C prevalence by as much as 50 percent
- SSP participants have been shown to be up to **five times more likely** to access substance use disorder and recovery services, and stay enrolled in those services, than people injecting drugs and not utilizing an SSP





Current SSP Barriers

- Inconsistent laws across the state
- Stigma
- Not in my backyard
- Burnout and grief



SSPs will save our state money.

- Hospitalizations due to substance-use related infections resulted in **\$1.3 Billion** in healthcare costs.
- The price of one new syringe, which can prevent transmission of infections, costs only **6 cents**.



SSPs decrease drug use and crime.

- Studies show that in areas where SSPs operate, clients are five times more likely to enter a drug treatment program than those who do not seek services at SSPs.
- HIV infections have decreased by 80% since the implementation of the first SSPs in the 1980s.
- About 1 in 4 Michigan SSP clients that have been referred to substance use treatment centers received treatment.
- Studies of cities that have implemented needle exchange programs found that there was not a corresponding increase in crime.



The problem is in our backyards. The solution needs to be, too.

- There are currently 35 programs with 64 sites operating across the state. By expanding SSPs statewide, districts will have more resources for users and will encourage safer and cleaner communities.
- The CDC found that within two similar cities, when compared, the city with an SSP had **86% fewer** syringes in public places like parks and sidewalks.



Solutions Presented in House Bill 5178

1. Authorizes the operation of SSPs across Michigan.
2. Clarifies that equipment provided by SSPs, such as needles and syringes, are not considered drug paraphernalia under state or local law.
3. Protects individuals working at an SSP and those obtaining or returning syringes from criminal prosecution.



Questions?