



FY 2021: Please Fund HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis C Line Item (DPH 4512-0103)

at \$32.8 M: an Increase of \$2 M and

Fully Fund the Harm Reduction Line Item (DPH 4512-0206)

Key Facts for HIV in MA:

- There were 611 new diagnoses 2017
- Between 2016 and 2018, **an outbreak of HIV occurred in the Merrimack Valley**; the majority of these cases were among people who inject drugs (PWID) who were also experiencing homelessness
- Between December 2018 and December 2019, **25 cases have been linked to an outbreak in Boston**

Key Facts for Hepatitis C (HCV):

- In Massachusetts, HCV Cases have remained high, with **8,000 to 9,000** cases reported each year
- **In 2016, 2,408 cases were reported between the ages of 15 and 29**
- Of all of the individuals in MA living with HIV, 17% have also been infected by HCV

Key Facts for Opioid Use:

- In the first nine months of 2019, **there were 1,091 confirmed opioid related overdose deaths** in MA. The Department of Public Health estimates that there was an additional 337 to 402 deaths in the last three months of 2019.
- **As of January 1st, 2020, 52 people were diagnosed with HIV who had injected drugs within the last year.**

Sources:

- <https://www.boston25news.com/news/state-health-officials-confirm-cluster-7-new-hiv-cases-boston/QFOGQ4DQKNDZ7ORR5UUQMVSIVY/dp>
- <https://www.neaetc.org/files/attachment/attachment/2479/HCV%20Update%20-%20MA%20DPH%20Epi.pdf>
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/opioid-related-overdose-deaths-among-ma-residents-november-2019/download>
- <http://aidsvu.org>

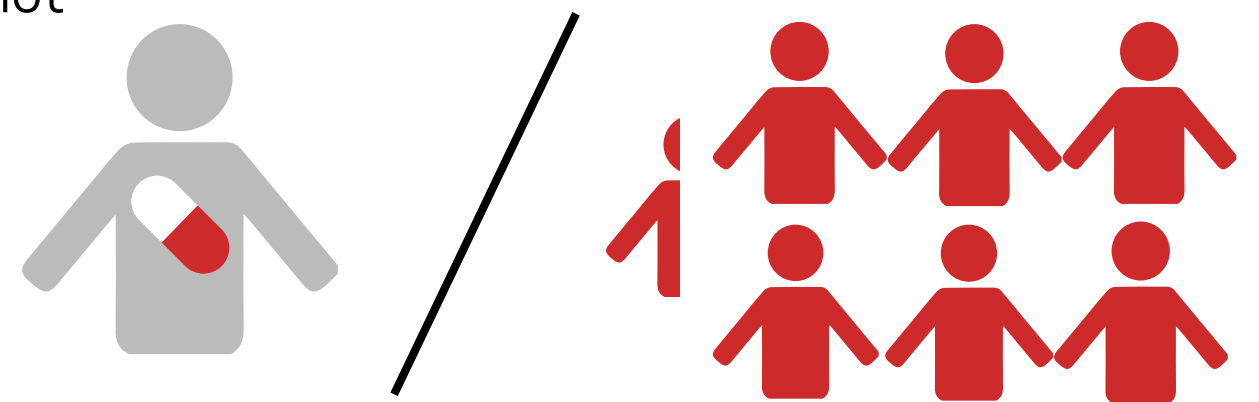
What Does the HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis C Line Item Pay For?

- Services for people living with HIV/AIDS like **Health Navigation** and Housing Support Services
 - Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) and holistic harm reduction drug user health programs
 - Testing for HIV, Hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
 - Linkage to care and navigation to treatment
- Demand for these services has only grown and expanded in the past four years leaving organizations to provide more services to a growing number of people

What an Increase of \$2 M Can Do:

Expand Use of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

- PrEP is a daily prescription medication that reduces sexually transmitted HIV infection by over 90%
- Funding is needed for initiatives to expand the use of PrEP in at-risk populations and reduce new HIV infections
- For **every one person on PrEP there are 6.29 people at risk** who are not



Strengthen the HIV/AIDS/HCV Workforce

- Programs must be able to hire/retain critical clinical and outreach staff to be effective
- The current network of SSPs provides a unique opportunity to increase harm reduction efforts directed at people who inject drugs (PWID)

Link Inmates in County Jails with HIV/AIDS/HCV Services

- New HIV and HCV infections are on the rise among inmates in county jails
- HIV/AIDS/HCV coordinators are needed to link inmates in the county jail system to testing and treatment services

Please support \$32.8M for HIV/AIDS/HCV Line Item (DPH 4512-0103) * Getting To Zero in MA is possible!

More information: maryann.hart@hartgovrelations or (617) 797-8488 * projectablema.org