

Syringe Services: Expansion Update

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Health Committee



Whatcom County
HEALTH
Department



Syringe Services Program

- Testing for HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted or blood borne diseases.
- Vaccination (Hepatitis A and B)
- Referrals and linkage to drug treatment, housing, healthcare and family planning services.
- Provide harm reduction education
 - provide clean supplies and exchange clean syringes for used ones
- Provide overdose prevention education and naloxone.
- Offer other health services such as wound assessment and discussion of other health concerns.



Best Practices & Research

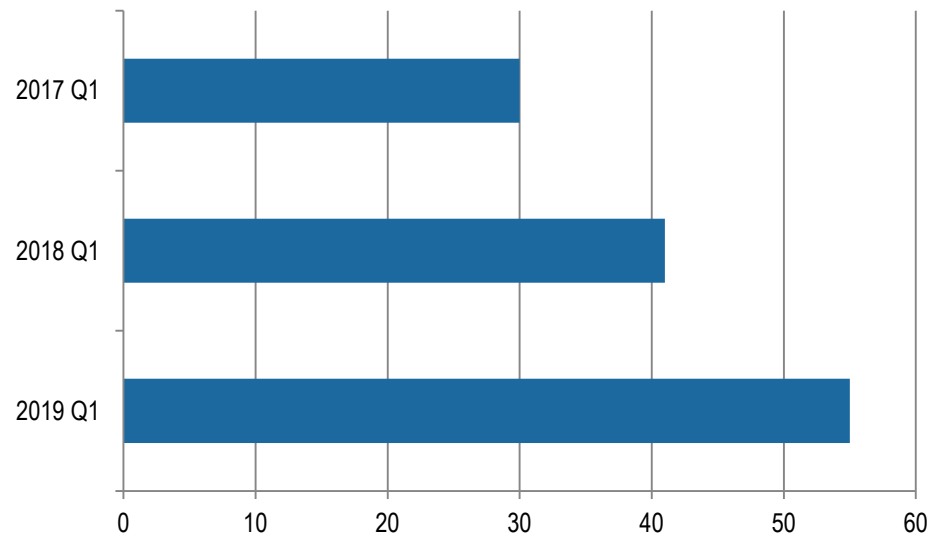
Mobile and Satellite Syringe Services Programs

- Increase access to treatment in real time.
- Increase opportunities for connection in underserved areas
- Attract different clients through variety of venues and locations.
- Increase the availability of sterile injecting equipment at times and places where coverage is poor.
 - Prevent blood-borne infections by parking in convenient locations.
 - Decrease infections associated with reusing/sharing supplies
- Mobile vans increase accessibility for clients who
 - do not have a vehicle or money for transportation, and/or
 - may be too drug-impaired to drive to the fixed-site

2017 WA State Syringe Exchange Health Survey

- Most people who used heroin as their main drug were interested in reducing or stopping their opioid use (78%).
- The proportion of people who used opioids who had a naloxone kit more than doubled from 24% in 2015 to 59% in 2017 (among those outside of King County.)
- Whatcom Syringe Services participants have a wide and complex range of health concerns beyond substance use and face multiple hurdles and stigma when accessing health care.
 - 50% of respondents said there was a time they should have gotten medical care but didn't.
 - 68% are very or somewhat concerned about their mental health

Washington State Fentanyl Related Deaths



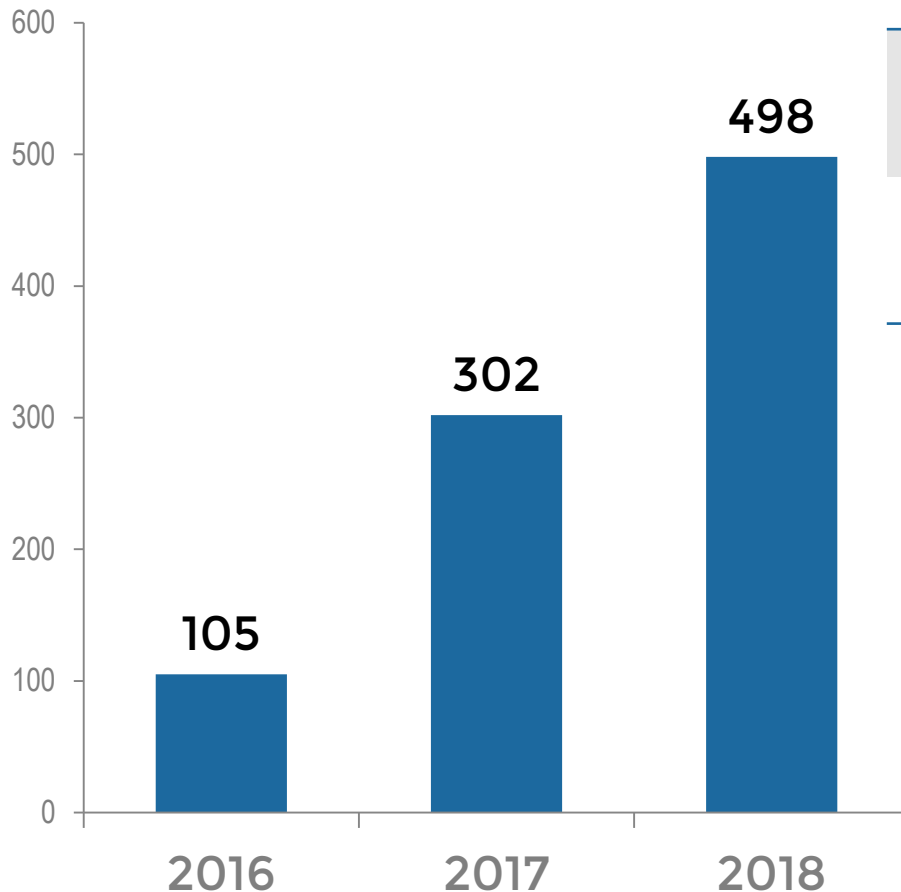
Source: UW ADAI

WCHD SSP Program Naloxone Distribution

Naloxone Distribution

Number of naloxone kits distributed since the beginning of the syringe services program.

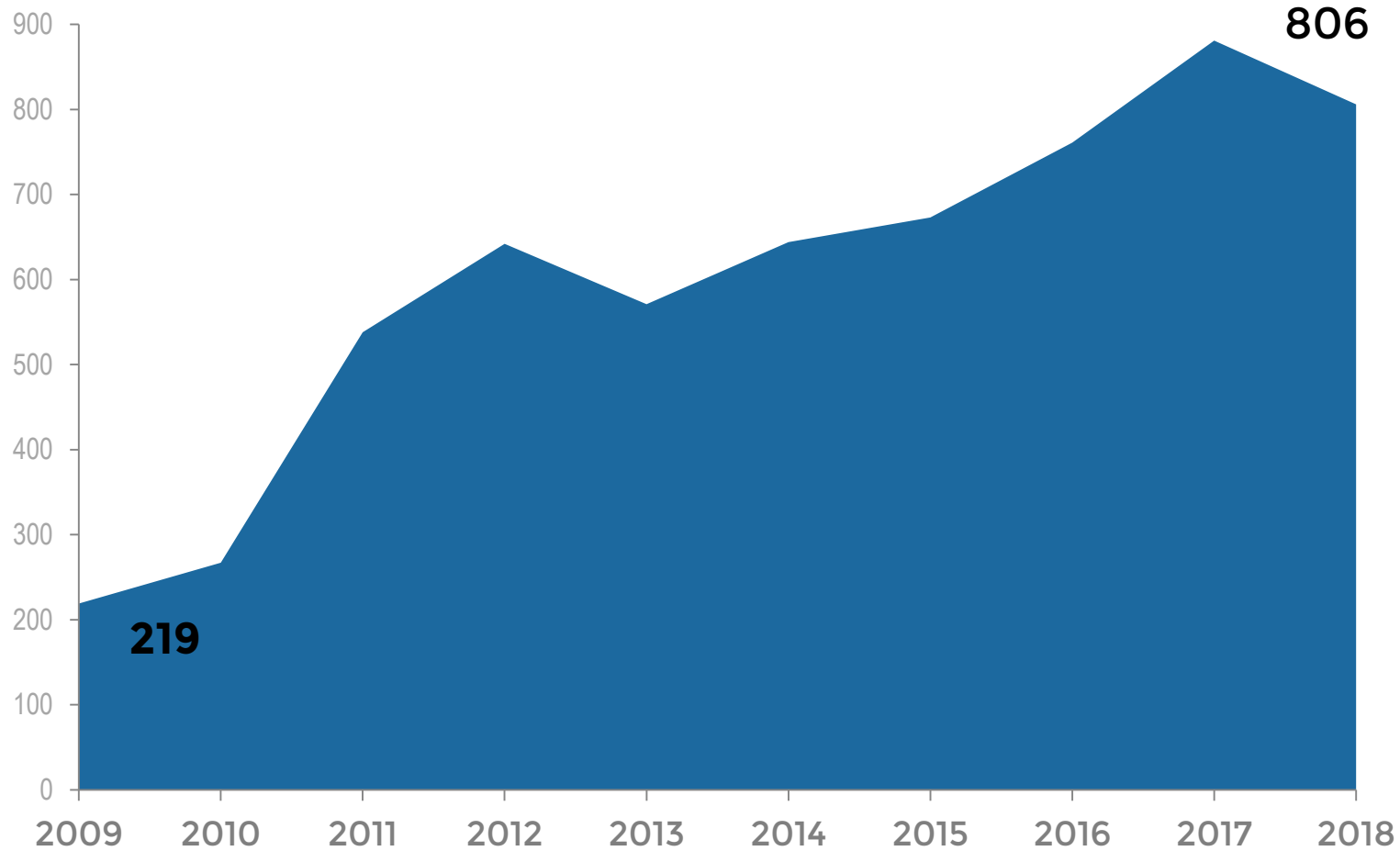
Source: *Whatcom County Health Department*



360	Kits distributed from Jan - June 2019
1265	Kits distributed 2016 to date
331	Kits used for overdose 2016 to date

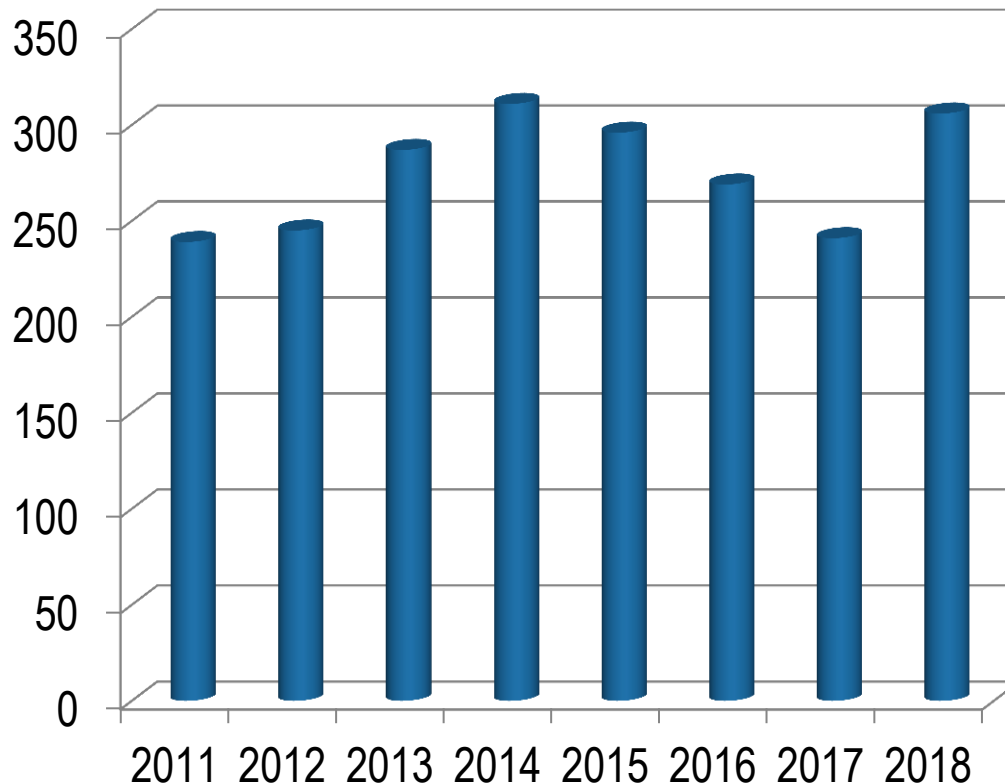


Whatcom County: Number of unique syringe services clients at WCHD



Source: Whatcom County Health Department

Whatcom County: Chronic Hepatitis New Cases Annually



Governor Inslee's Proclamation to eliminate Hepatitis C

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/hep-c-elimination-gov-directive-18-13-final.pdf>

Mobile Syringe Services Update



Obtained Rental Vehicle

Weekly Mobile Clinic locations established in East and West Whatcom County

Staffed by Public Health Nurses

Services include Naloxone distribution, disease screening and immunizations

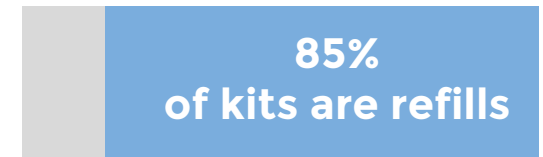
Mobile Syringe Services

June - September 2019

79 clients served



54 naloxone kits provided



2 people tested for communicable diseases

13,260 syringes collected

Program Hours and Locations

State St Clinic

- Monday 9:30-12pm
- Thursday 2:30-5:15

Mobile Clinic

- Tuesday, 9:00am-12:00pm, Maple Falls
- Wednesday, 1:00pm-3:00pm, Birch Bay
- New site pending for Ferndale

Next Steps

- **Additional Service Request to Purchase Vehicle in 2020**
- **Obtain grant funding to do customization work to fully equip for mobile medical response**
 - Immunizations, testing, mobile clinics