



# PROJECT ABLE

AIDS Budget Legislative Effort

**FY2020: Advocates Ask for \$32.3 M  
in Funding for the HIV/AIDS/HCV Line Item  
in the Massachusetts State Budget:  
An Increase of \$1.5 M**

## Key Facts for HIV

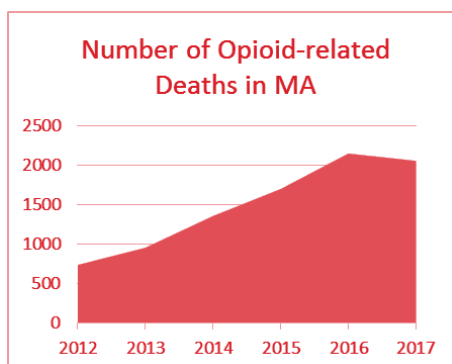
- DPH reported **129 new cases** of HIV among injection-drug users in the Merrimack Valley outbreak cluster since the beginning of 2015
- **Racial disparities persist in access to healthcare:** while only 16% of the population in MA are Black, Hispanic or Latino, those populations are represented in 55% of people living with HIV/AIDS in 2017

## Key Facts for Hepatitis C (HCV)

- MA Department of Public Health receives 7,000-10,000 newly diagnosed case reports of HCV infection annually
- Since 2007, an **increasing number are among young people who inject drugs:** approximately 2,400 cases annually are 15-29 years old
- There are 250,000 estimated people living with HCV in MA

## Key Facts for Opioids

- According to the CDC, drug overdoses are the leading cause of death among Americans under 50.
- Opioid-related deaths in MA are steadily increasing



The slight drop in 2017 is likely attributed to the increase in access to Naloxone, the drug that reverses the effects of an overdose.

\*All data from Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
[www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health)

## What An Increase of \$1.5 M Can Do

### \$1 M for Syringe Service Programs

- There are 7 programs in MA that have achieved local approval but have not yet received funding (starred on map below)

### \$500 K for PrEP health navigation

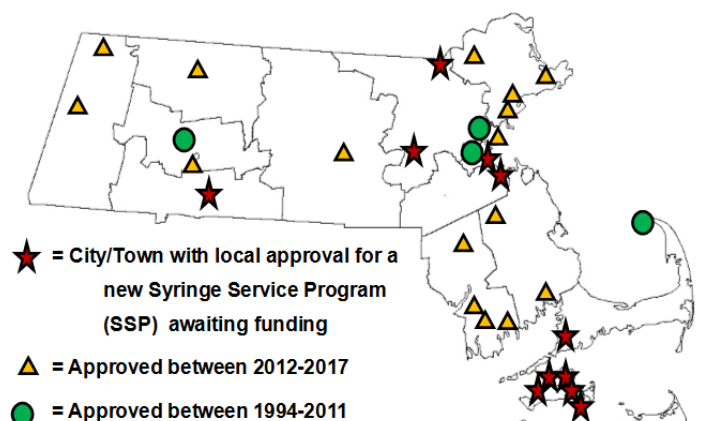
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a drug that helps prevent HIV transmission
- 7,000 people are on PrEP in MA
- **MA DPH estimates that there are up to 35,000 people who are at risk of HIV infection, who should be on PrEP and are not**

## What does the HIV/AIDS/HCV Line Item pay for?

- Services for people living with HIV/AIDS & HCV like Health Navigation and Housing
- Syringe Service Programs and holistic harm reduction drug user health programs
- Testing for HIV, HCV and STIs

**Demand for these services has only grown and expanded in the last 3 years while funding has not, leaving service organizations to provide more services to more people who need them with less funding.**

## Expansion of Syringe Service Sites With No Additional Funding



**Please support \$32.3 M for HIV/AIDS/HCV Line Item (4512-0103) || Getting to Zero in MA is possible**

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