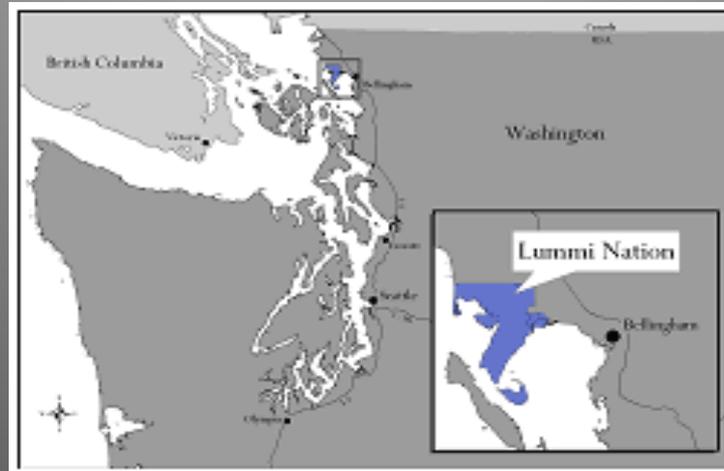


SYRINGE SERVICES AND HCV TREATMENT PROGRAMS AT A TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

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The Lummi Tribal Health Center is located in Bellingham, Washington on the Lummi Nation.

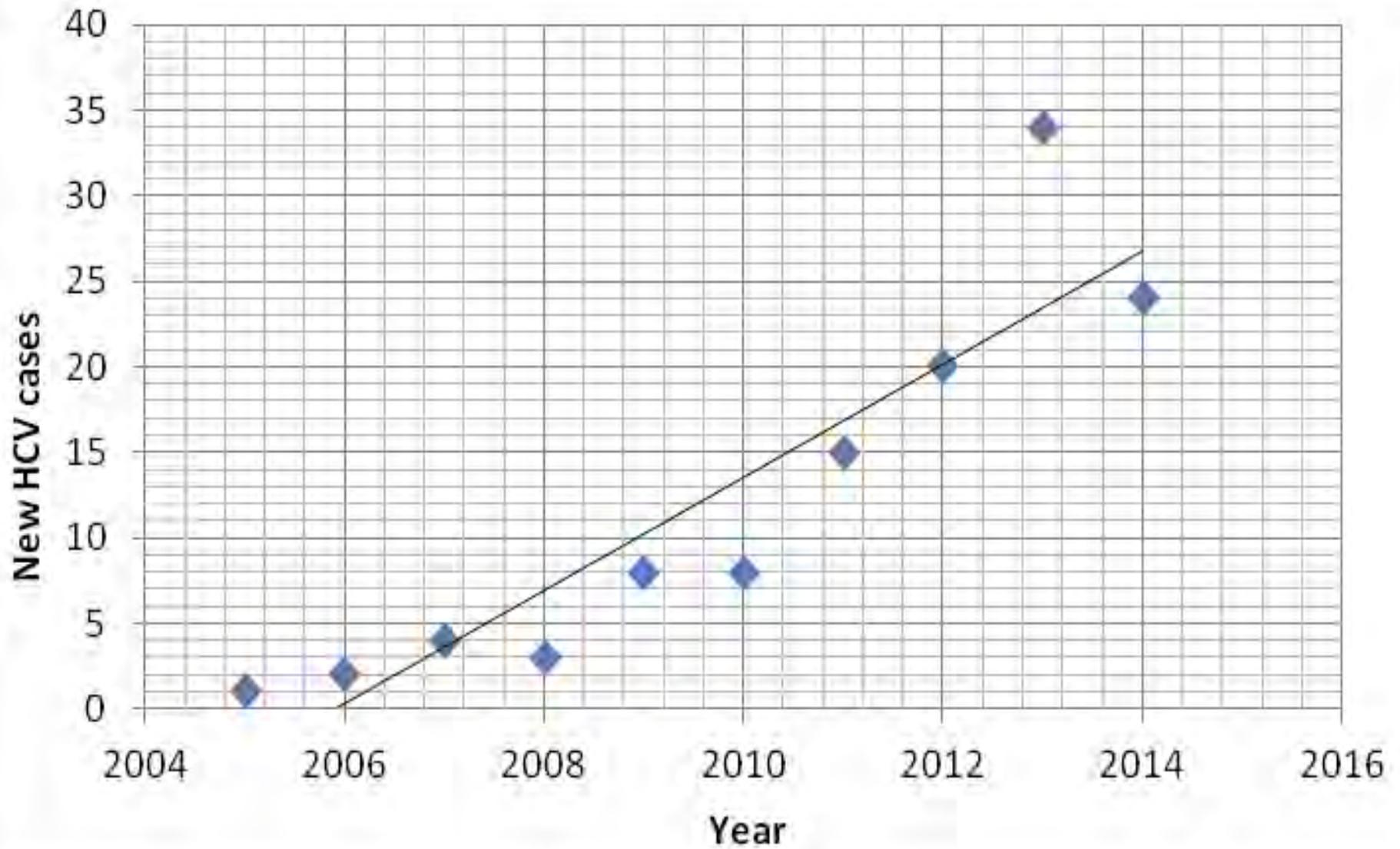


Established in 1978, LTHC serves close to 6,500 patients. The Lummi Nation operates an ambulatory direct care facility under a Self-Governance Compact with the IHS. The center offers general comprehensive medical and dental, mental health and substance abuse counseling, WIC, family planning, community health outreach (CHR) and health education. 60% of LTHC employees are community members.

Overview

In 2012 40% of new HCV cases in Whatcom county were Native American while accounting for only 3.2% of The county's total population.

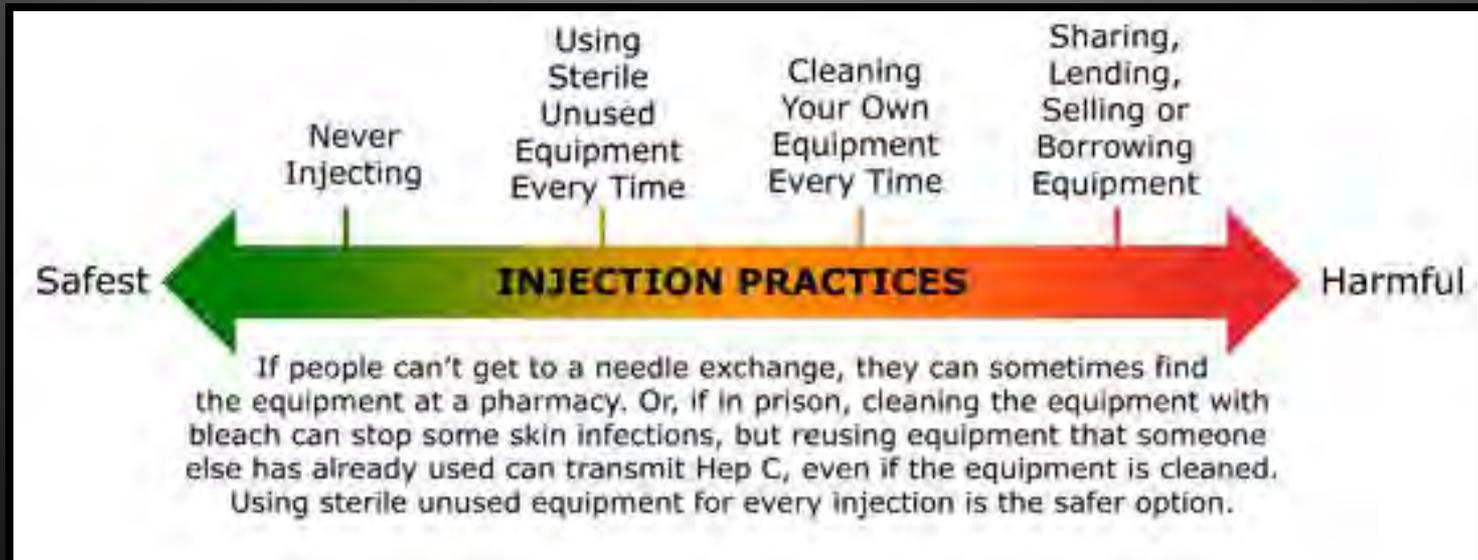
HCV at LTTC



Offering HCV treatment to all patients, including those actively or intermittently injecting, requires an optimization of a syringe program to minimize any future exposures.

Lummi Tribal Health Center (LTHC) offers a Primary Integrated Care Syringe Service Program that allows patients to access harm reduction materials while maintaining anonymity.

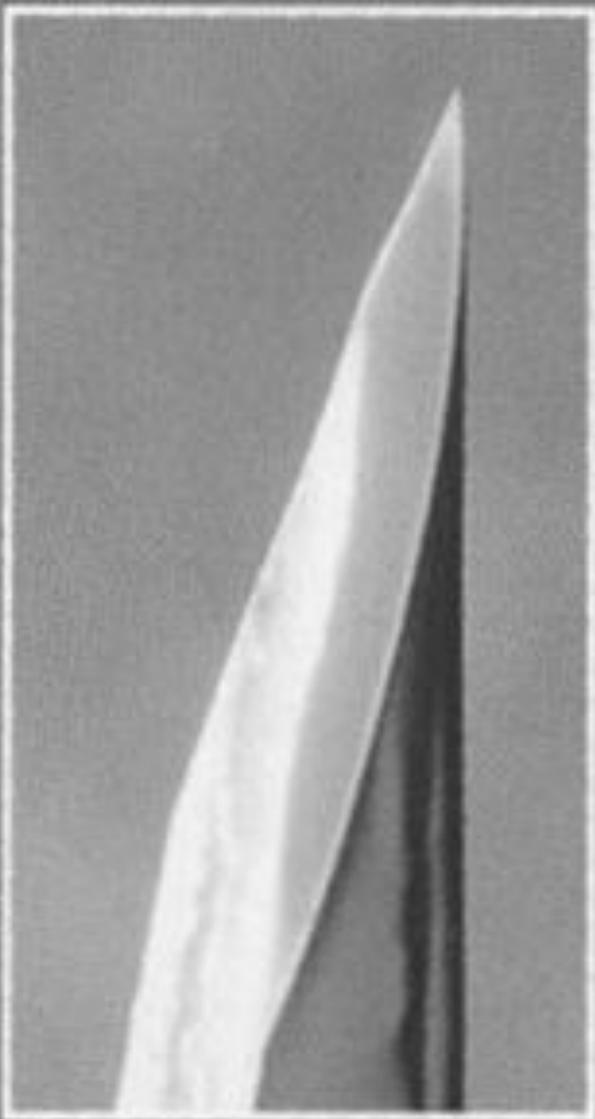
LTHC offers screening and treatment for Hepatitis C through Primary Care Providers participating in ECHO sessions.



Supplies:

- Sterile syringes
- Alcohol prep pads
- Cookers
- Cotton filters
- Sterile water
- Bandages
- Condoms
- Tourniquet
- Narcan

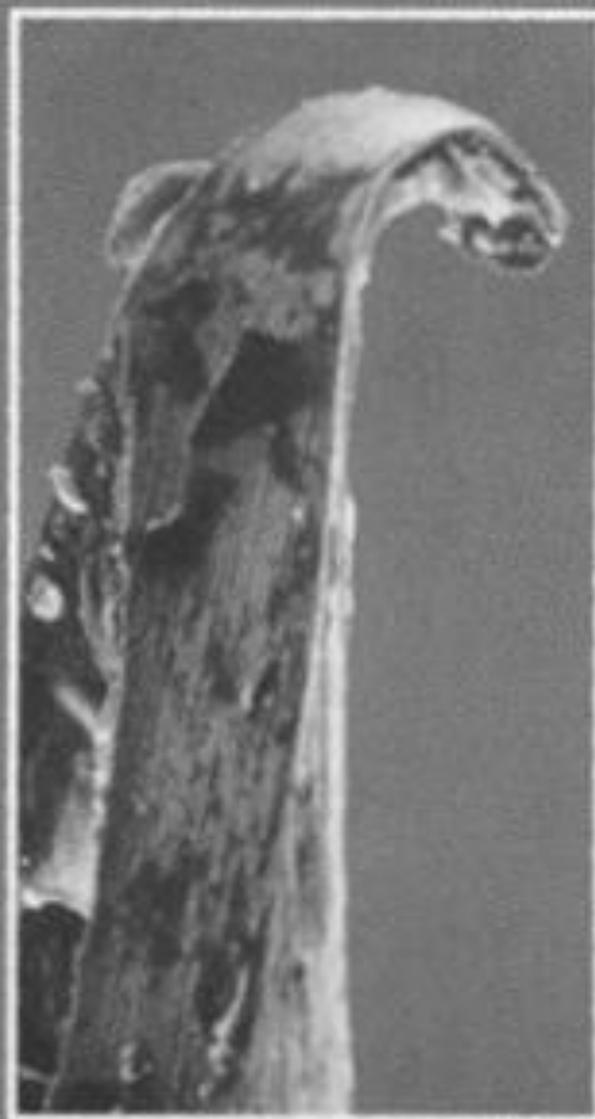




BEFORE USE

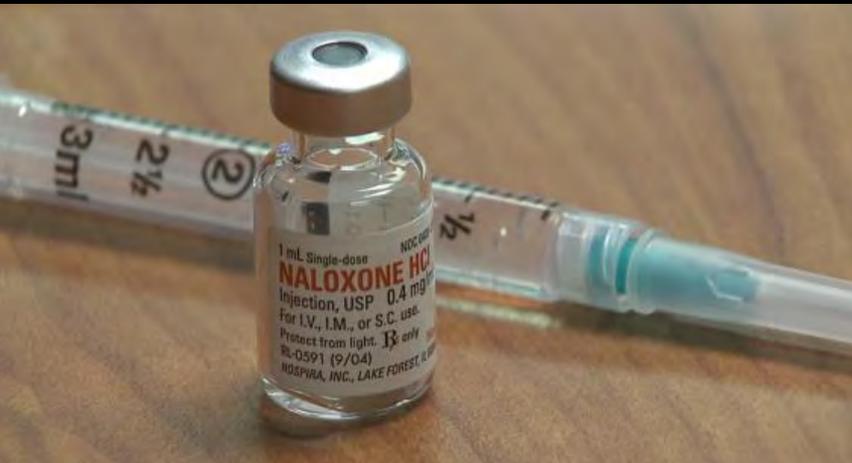


AFTER 1 USE



AFTER 6 USES

Easy and safe access to Narcan



Principles of Harm Reduction

Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies from safer use, to managed use to abstinence to meet people who inject “where they’re at,” addressing conditions of use along with the use itself. Because harm reduction demands that interventions and policies designed to serve users reflect specific individual and community needs, there is no universal definition of or formula for implementing harm reduction.

<http://harmreduction.org/about-us/principles-of-harm-reduction/>

Basic Harm Reduction Principles

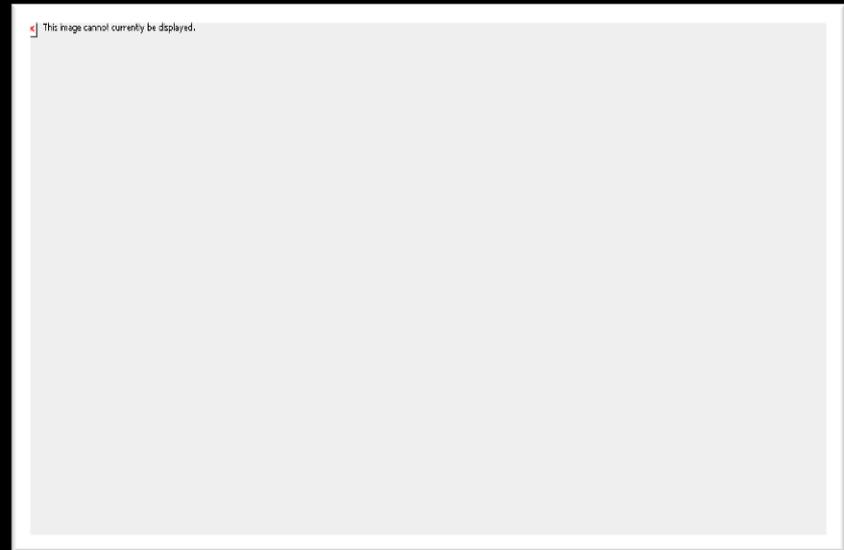
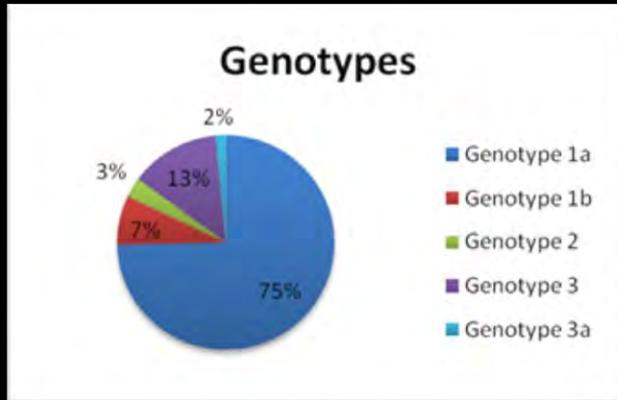
- Accepts, for better and or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them.
- Understands drug use as a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe abuse to total abstinence, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others.
- Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being—not necessarily cessation of all drug use—as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.
- Recognizes that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination and other social inequalities affect both people’s vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm.
- Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger associated with licit and illicit drug use.



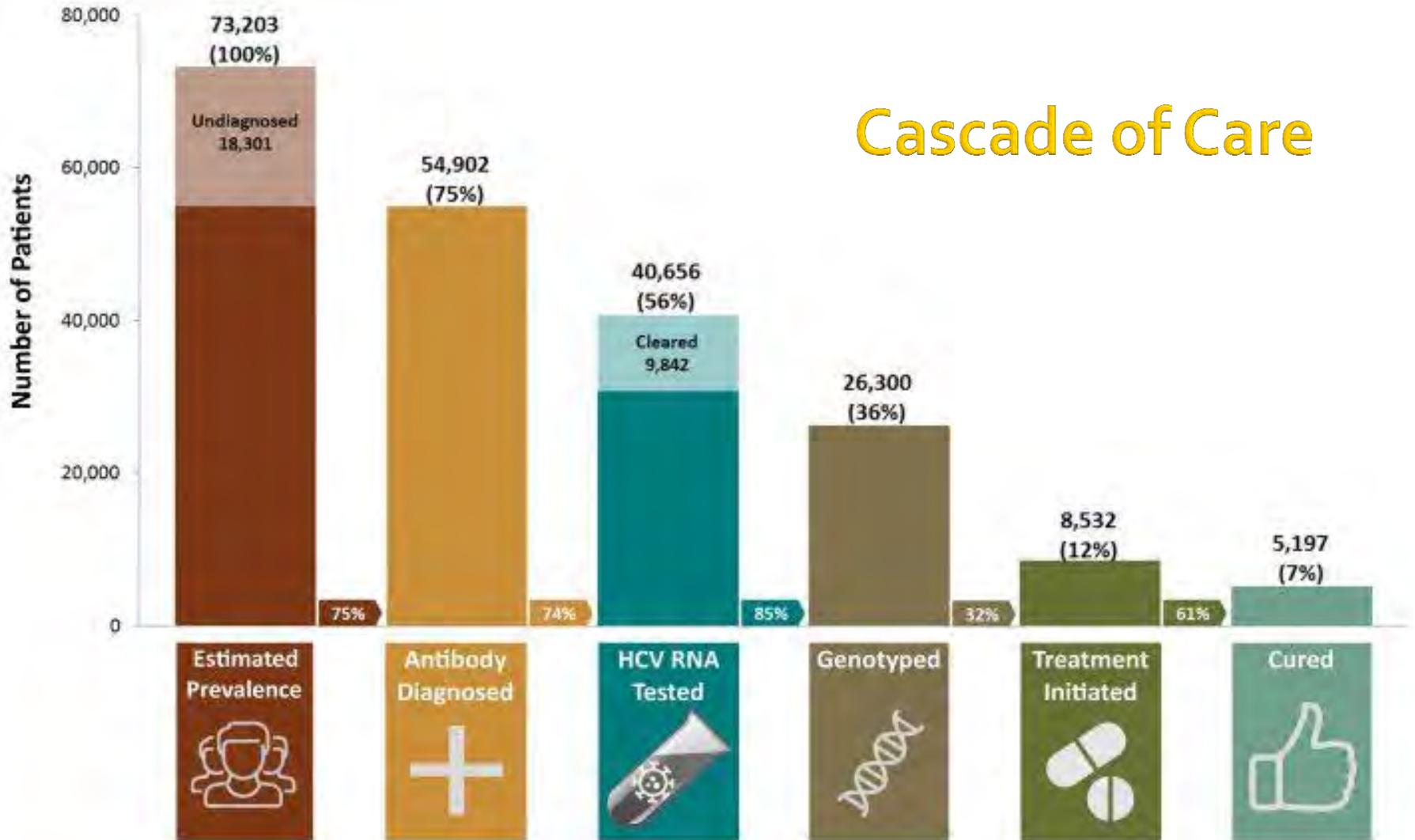
Human-centered design. Meeting people where they are and really taking their needs and feedback into account. When you let people participate in the design process, you find that they often have ingenious ideas about what would really help them. And it's not a onetime thing; it's an iterative process.

— *Melinda Gates* —

So, Where Are They At?...



Cascade of Care



Example from the University of BC

INCREASE SCREENING!

- Community Events POCT
- Flyers
- Patient Education



COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL RESOURCES!

- Health Department
- Local Hospitals
- Dental Office
- County Jail
- CDC

STRENGTHEN YOUR HARM REDUCTION EFFORTS!

DON'T GIVE UP!



“They’ll Never Succeed” SUCCESS STORIES

- ✓ Untreated schizophrenia
- ✓ Struggling with homelessness
- ✓ Incarcerated
- ✓ Poor Health Insurance Coverage

Everyone Deserves Treatment

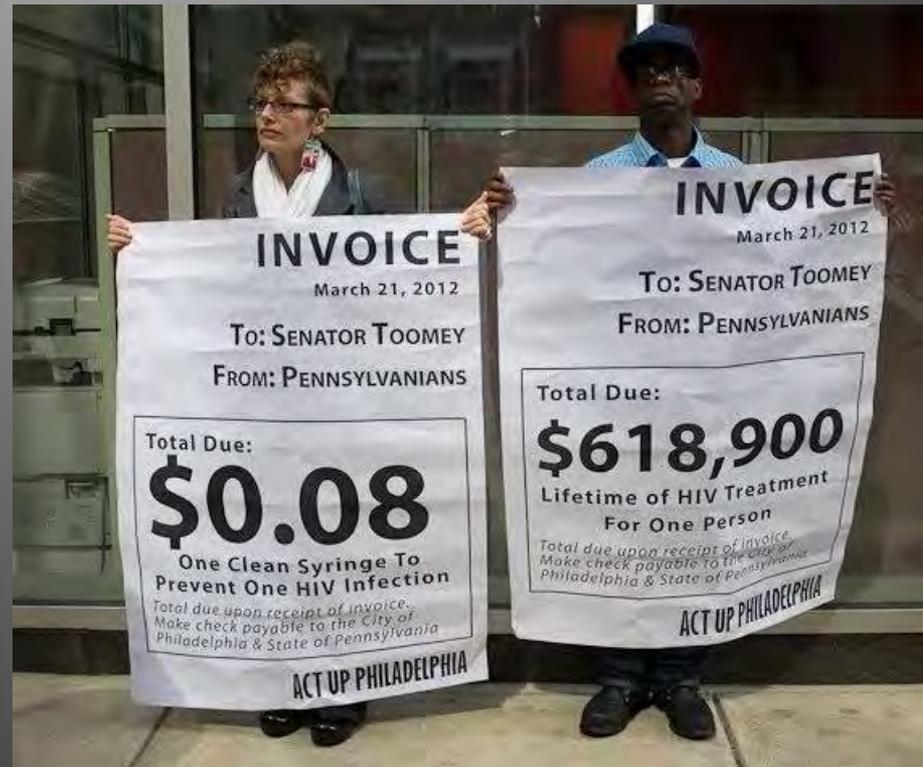
HARM REDUCTION

- Is a practical strategy that attempts to reduce negative consequences of drug use and other activities.
- Accepts that some will engage in dangerous activities, but does not attempt to minimize the harm or dangers involved.
- Focuses on the individual and their health and wellness needs.
- Places individuals in the greater social context.
- Places a value on drug users having a voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.

- Prevention of injection-related wounds
- Prevention of secondary infections (endocarditis, cotton fever)
- Safer injection technique
- Alternatives to injecting
- Overdose prevention and response
- Immunization
- STI testing
- Safer sex supplies
- Case management
- Addiction treatment
- Allows patients access to Primary Care that they previously did not seek out
- Connects patients to Recovery and Treatment options

Harm Reduction is Cost Effective

Every dollar invested in SSPs results in \$7 in savings just by preventing new HIV infections.¹



What is Addiction?

Addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences. It is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain—they change its structure and how it works. These brain changes can be long-lasting, and lead to the harmful behaviors seen in people who abuse drugs.

Resources

www.Harmreduction.org

<http://stopoverdose.org/>

<https://nasen.org/>

Local County Health Departments

Good Days Foundation : <https://www.mygooddays.org/for-patients/patient-assistance/>

Mary Beth Levin “Why Should Anyone Care” Harm Reduction