

# YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT

Syringe Exchange Programs: Lessons from the Yakima Health District

Presented By:  
Emily Contreras, Edith Maldonado, James Rivard and Melissa Sixberry

# Today's Discussion

---

## OUTLINE OF TOPICS


- Harm Reduction
- History
- Why
- Yakima Syringe Service Program
- Funding
- Expansion of services



# HARM REDUCTION

---

A SET OF PRACTICAL, PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES  
DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF  
DRUG USE AND PROMOTE HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL LIFESTYLE  
AND COMMUNITIES



# WHAT ARE SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMS (SSP)?

- Community Based
- Critical Services
- Sterile Injection Supplies
- Linkage to Care
- Safe Disposal
- Referral Resource







# History of SSP

---

## TACOMA, WA 1988

- Founder Dave Purchase
- Response to HIV epidemic
- First Legal SSP in 1988
- Point Defiance AIDS Project and NASEN

# WHY?

---



## PREVENT DISEASE

- 8,000 HIV Infections Per Year
- 15,000 new Hep C Infections Per Year
- Reduce Needle-Stick Injuries
- 1 in 10 HIV Diagnoses Are Among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID).

# WHY?

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Reducing Syringes Disposed in the Community
- Proper and Safe Disposal
- Safer Neighborhoods
- Reduction of Used Syringes  
Entering the Solid Waste System
- Reduction of Biomedical Waste in the  
Solid Waste System
- Prevention of Illegal Dumping of  
Dangerous Material in the Environment
- Reduction in Community  
Complaints

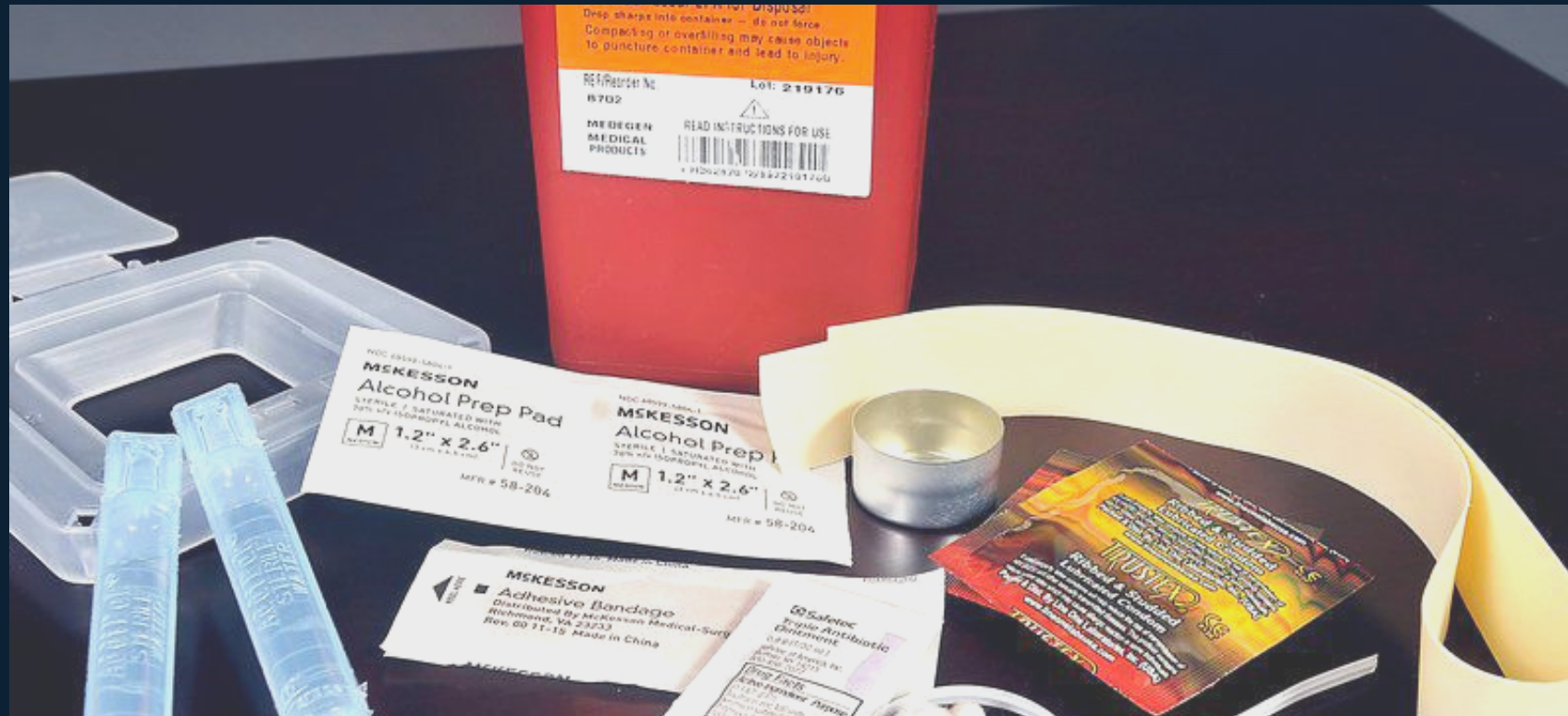


# YAKIMA SYRINGE EXCHANGE

- Established in 1993
- Response to HIV Epidemic
- 3rd exchange in WA State
- Guidance and Leadership
- Service Model







# PROGRAM GOALS

- Reduce the Spread of HIV and Hepatitis C
- Remove Used Syringes From the Community





# Weekly Services



## SUPPLIES

- Safe and Clean Injection Supplies



## TESTING

- Rapid HIV and HEP C Screenings

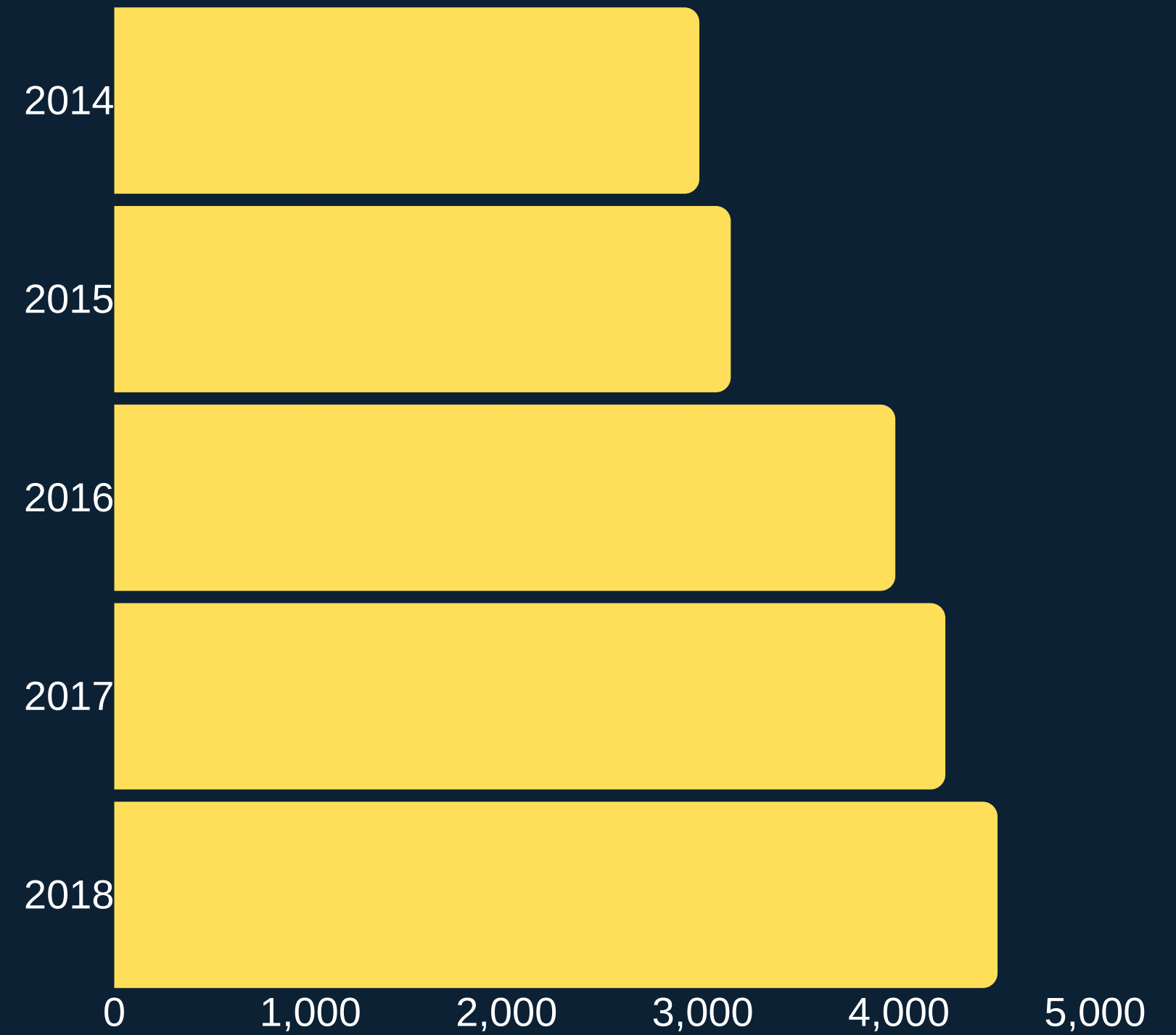


## REFERRALS & OVERDOSE PREVENTION

- Onsite Wound Care
  - Naloxone
  - Linkage to Drug Treatment
-

# Individuals Served

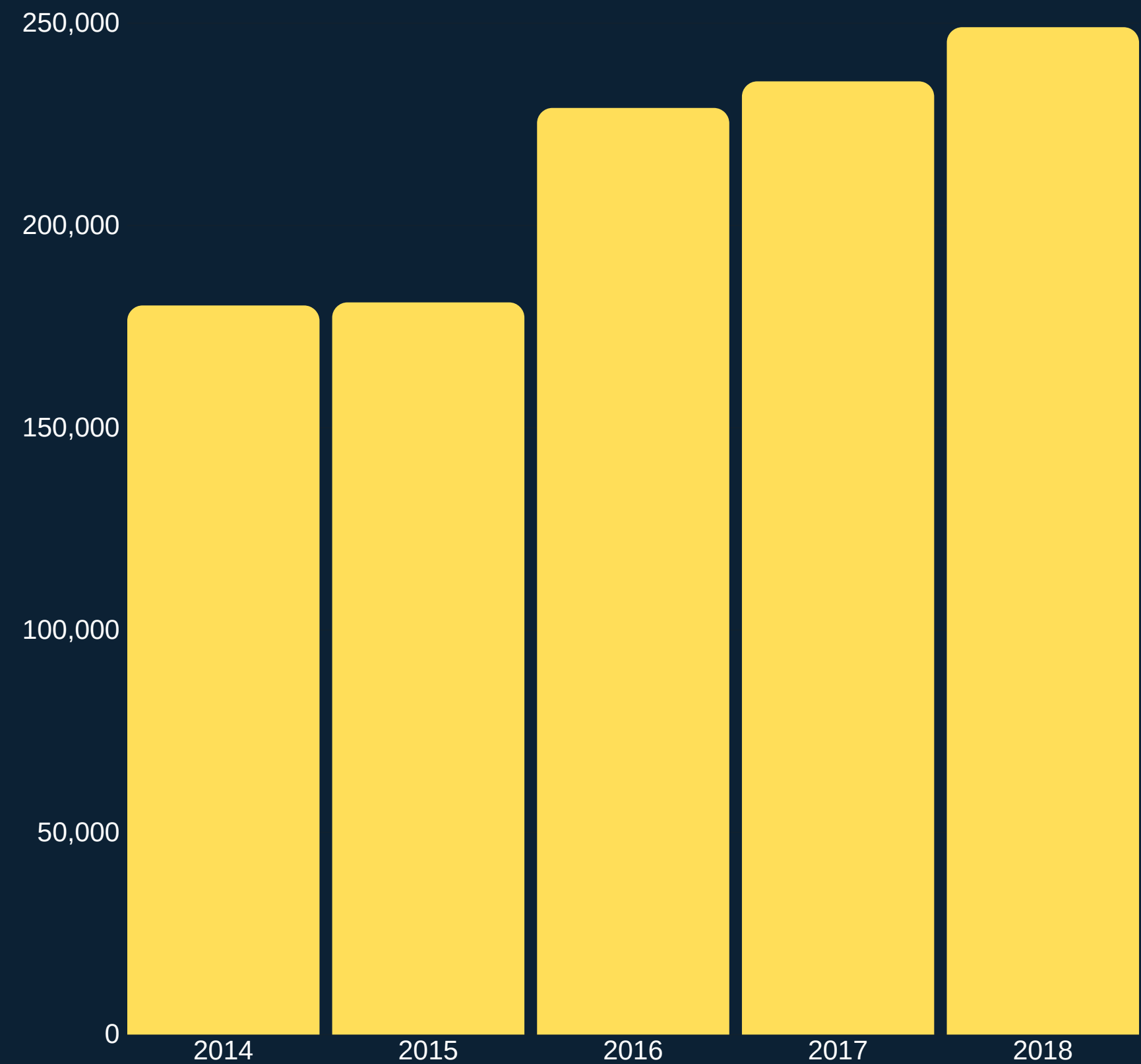
Duplicated Individuals Served From 2014-2018



# Syringes Exchanged

---

Syringes Exchanged From 2014-2018



**SYRINGE SERVICE**

**Program Success**

---

# 28 out of 51

POSITIVE HEPATITIS C SCREENINGS



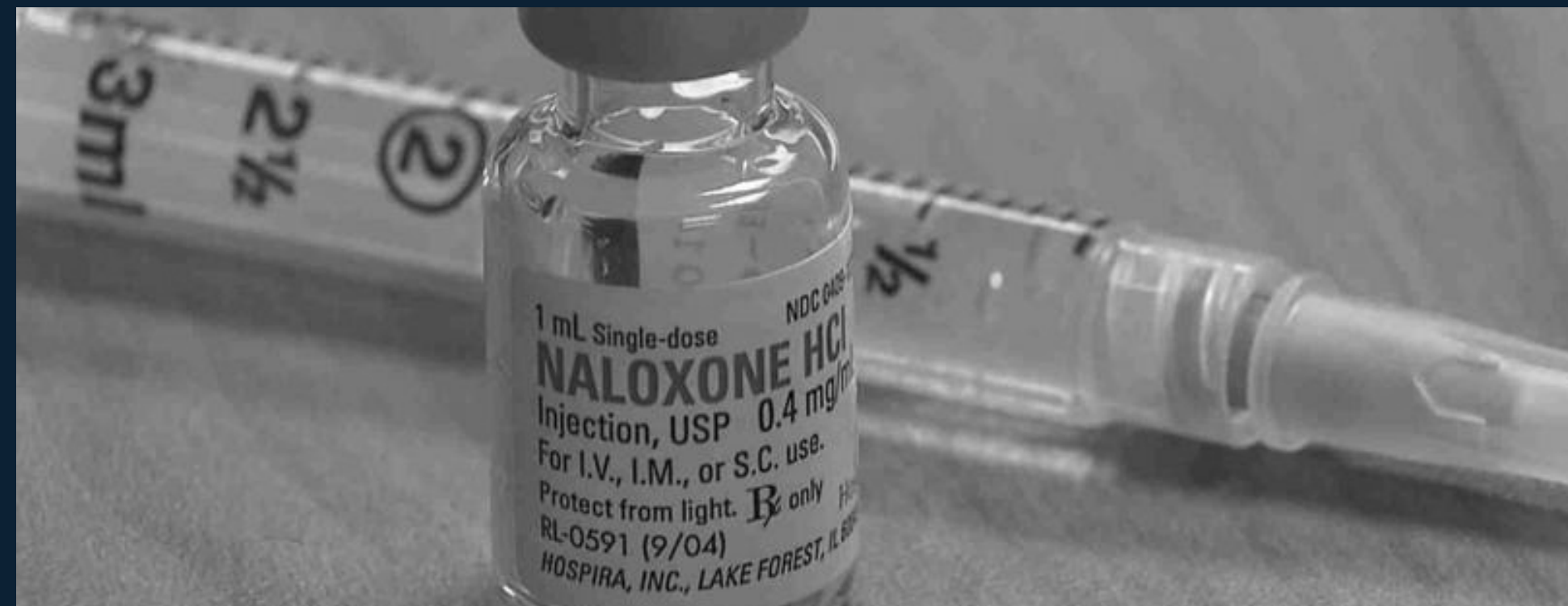


# 2018 NALOXONE OVERDOSE REVERSALS

---

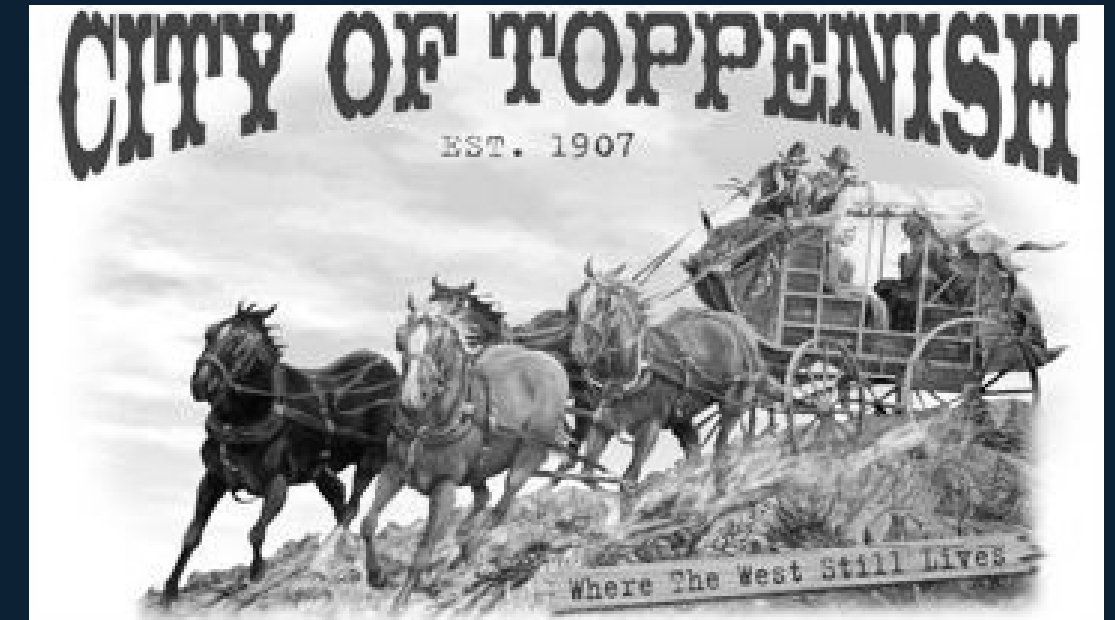
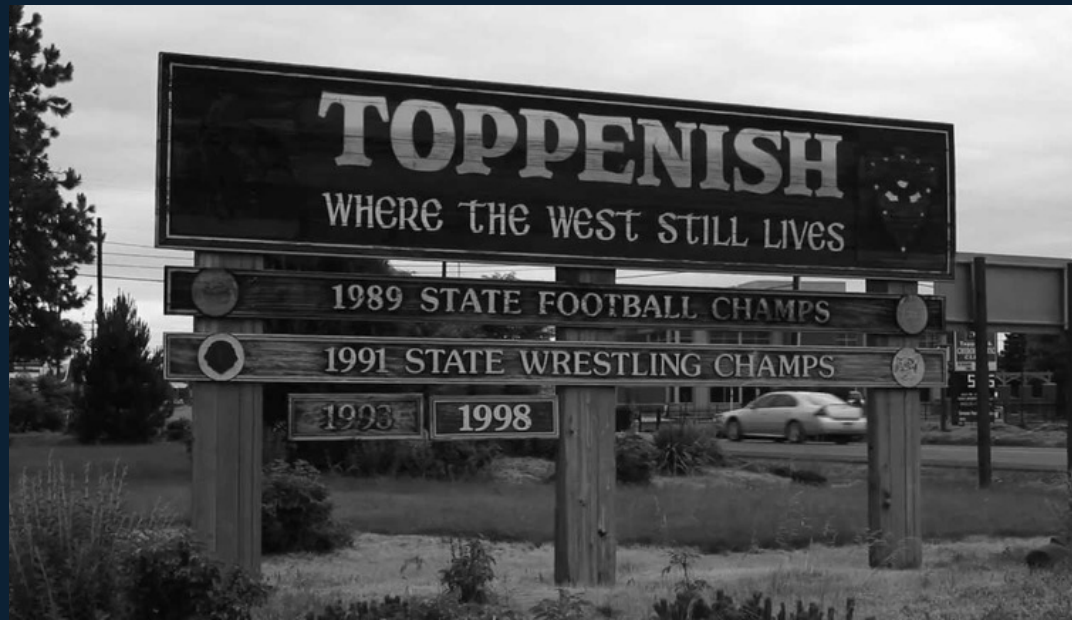
# 63

In Partnership With University of Washington  
225 Kits Were Dispensed in 2018



# Expansion of Services

---



EXPANSION OF SERVICES TO  
TOPPENISH

**SYRINGE SERVICE**

# **Program Funding**

---

# Program Budget

---

## DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY (DOE)

Solid Waste Grant - \$ 4,800 per year

## STATE PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

Covers Costs Greater Than Grant  
Provided Funds

## WA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

DOH State HIV Prevention:

- Salaries/Benefits - \$56,000
- Supplies - \$24,000
- Microgrant - \$ 14,600

# Partnership with Department of Ecology

---

## LOCAL SOLID WASTE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Enforcement of Solid Waste Rules and Regulations
- Increase Compliance with Proper Handling and Disposal Practices
- Increasing Awareness on Proper Disposal Through Education and Outreach



# COST EFFECTIVENESS

---



## **PAY FOR HIV PREVENTION NOW OR AIDS LATER**

Estimated Average Cost of  
Lifetime HIV Treatment is  
\$379,000.



## **HEPATITIS C AND INJECTION DRUG USE**

Injection Drug Use Accounts for  
68% of Current Hepatitis C  
Infections in the U.S.



## **HEPATITIS C COST**

Annually, Hepatitis C Treatment  
Costs \$35,000 to \$56,000 Per  
Person.



---

# Questions?