



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County  
General Health District**



**Butler County  
Mental Health & Addiction  
Recovery Services Board**

# Butler County Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **Q What is a Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program (BIDPP)?**

- A** The program is a comprehensive, community-based public health initiative that provides disease prevention, education and referral services, including:
- Referral to treatment programs to combat addiction, as well as to medical, mental health and social services
  - Education about overdose prevention, infectious diseases and injection safety
  - Safe disposal of used injection equipment
  - Access to sterile injection equipment to fight the spread of infectious diseases
  - Testing and referral to treatment for infectious diseases such as hepatitis, HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and pregnancy testing
  - Hepatitis vaccination
  - Access to naloxone, an overdose reversing drug
  - Distribution of personal care items such as socks and underwear, as needed

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people who inject drugs and participate in a Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program are FIVE times more likely to enter treatment for substance use disorder and are more likely to reduce or stop injecting.

### **Q Describe the opioid abuse problem and what it means to our community.**

- A** Substance use disorder, especially the use of opiates, has become an epidemic in Butler County. The epidemic has impacted the county in many ways:
- Hepatitis, HIV and sexually-transmitted diseases are on the rise.
  - HIV cases have increased by 800% and Hepatitis C cases have increased by 300% in Butler County since 2002, according to a report from Butler County General Health District.
  - Improperly discarded injection equipment is a danger to children, first responders and the general public.

### **Q Are these programs legal?**

- A** Yes. In 2015, Ohio passed regulations legalizing bloodborne infectious disease prevention programs that include the exchange of injection equipment. (*Ohio Revised Code 3707.57*)

## Will this program encourage IV drug abuse?

 No. Additionally, a CDC summary on Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Programs stated, "Studies also show that BIDPPs do not encourage drug use among participants nor the recruitment of first-time drug users." Such programs do not increase drug use among existing IV drug users; conversely, they help get users into treatment. The National Institutes of Health reports that participation in a BIDPP has shown a positive effect on helping addicts get into treatment.

## Will this increase crime in our area?

 Participating communities work closely with law enforcement partners to ensure that projects such as the BIDPP operate in a safe manner. Law enforcement leaders have looked closely at this program and have not identified a cause for concern as it relates to the overall safety and security of the community. Studies have been conducted that indicate that BIDPPs do not increase crime in the neighborhoods in which they are located. Rather, they can benefit the health and safety of a community by offering comprehensive social services to needy community members.

## For More Information

**Butler County General Health District**  
513/863-1770  
[BOH@butlercountyohio.org](mailto:BOH@butlercountyohio.org)  
[www.health.bcohoio.us](http://www.health.bcohoio.us)

## Additional Resource Information:

**2017 Butler County Overdose Report**  
<http://health.bcohoio.us/Butler%20County%20Overdose%20Report%202017.FINAL.pdf>

**American Journal of Public Health**  
<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.90.12.1933>

**CDC Fact Sheet**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/cdchiv-fs-syringe-services.pdf>

**Johns Hopkins University**  
[http://www.natap.org/2017/IAS/IAS\\_100.htm](http://www.natap.org/2017/IAS/IAS_100.htm)

**National Institutes of Health**  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3056913/pdf/nihms257246.pdf>

**New England Journal of Medicine study**  
<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1515195>

**New York Times**  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/04/27/upshot/charleston-opioid-crisis-needle-exchange.html>

**Ohio Revised Code 3707.57**  
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3707.57>

**United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**  
[http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/donoharm\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/donoharm_en.pdf)

**Yale School of Medicine**  
[https://communications.yale.edu/sites/default/files/01.07.2017\\_yale\\_planning\\_to\\_take\\_over\\_new\\_haven\\_needle\\_exchange\\_program\\_chicago\\_tribune.pdf](https://communications.yale.edu/sites/default/files/01.07.2017_yale_planning_to_take_over_new_haven_needle_exchange_program_chicago_tribune.pdf)