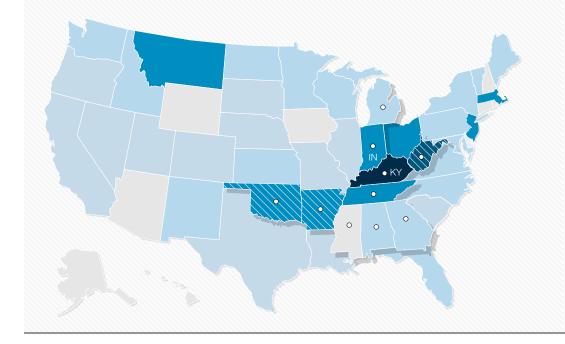
## Lack of Syringe Services Programs Adds Up to Big Costs

An epidemic of injection drug use—largely prescription painkillers—in parts of rural America is leading to an alarming surge in cases of HIV infection and hepatitis C virus (HCV). In the first four months of 2015, Scott County, Indiana, registered 135 new HIV cases, compared to an average of five cases in a typical year. A hallmark of this epidemic is the large number of people infected with both HIV and HCV through the sharing of contaminated needles. States with the highest rates of opioid abuse tend to be those with high rates of hepatitis C, and Scott County borders Kentucky, which has the highest HCV rate in the nation. These infections—and the price tag that comes with them—could have been prevented. Syringe services programs (SSPs) are proven to be a highly effective—and cost-effective—method of infectious disease prevention. As this infographic shows, the long-term cost of treating those who contract HIV or HCV far outstrips the cost of syringe services programs. In addition, states with high rates of HCV and no syringe services programs may be vulnerable to the next HIV outbreak.

## THE SCOTT COUNTY OUTBREAK The cost of the current outbreak (in 5 months) already eclipses the TREATMENT COSTS VS. COST OF SSPs annual average cost of treating HIV/HCV infections in Scott County average annual cost of an SSP<sup>†</sup> average annual cost of an SSP1 average annual \$71M\* \$48M cost of an SSP1 average annual cost of an SSP<sup>†</sup> \$64M\* total HIV/HCV costs \$57M\* total HIV/HCV costs \$48M total HIV/HCV costs total HIV/HCV costs **HIV+** Diagnoses in 160 180 200 135 **Scott County People with HIV** 114 136 153 170 and HCV \$1.8 M Estimated lifetime Estimated lifetime HIV/HCV costs HIV/HCV costs \* \$135.000 (historical average (135 cases;

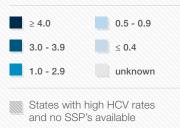
\* Costs estimated based on potential rise in new HIV/HCV diagnoses in Scott County



Proportion of HCV diagnoses per 100,000 population (2013)

5 cases per year)

Dec 2014-Apr 2015)



States with the highest rate of opioid prescriptions per population (109 -143 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons)

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