



Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences

# **Syringe Service Program (SSP) Expansion The Role of Local Boards of Health**

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**MAHB Certificate Program**

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# Fiscal Year 2017 Outside Budget Language

- FY17 budget signed by Governor Baker contained an outside section (Section 65 of Chapter 133 of the Acts of 2016) with language amending [M.G.L. c.111 s.215](#):
  - **Previous statute:** DPH authorized to establish up to 10 pilot needle exchange programs with local approval (local approval being undefined in the statutory language).
  - **Revised statute:** DPH is authorized, without a cap on the number of programs, to establish pilot needle exchange programs with the approval of local boards of health.
- DPH may now, with local board of health approval, contract with eligible organizations to deliver needle exchange services in the context of comprehensive health promotion for persons who inject drugs (PWIDs).

# Local Board of Health Authorization

- DPH will engage a city or town and their local board of health, only after the establishment of an SSP has been officially approved by the local board of health.
- Documentation of the approval must be submitted in the form of a letter from the local board of health, on official Board or City/Town letterhead, to the Bureau Director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS).
- The letter should include the date and location of the meeting where approval was decided.
- DPH will begin standard procurement procedures to identify an appropriate, eligible service provider and allocate funding.



# Why consider an SSP

- Infectious diseases such as HIV or hepatitis C are preventable
- Drug users frequently not engaged in care
- Recovery is not a linear process
- Overdose and deaths from opioids are at an all time high
- Hepatitis C is on the rise in many communities
- An HIV outbreak like the one in Indiana is possible
- People engaged in care are more likely to seek treatment

# SSP Components

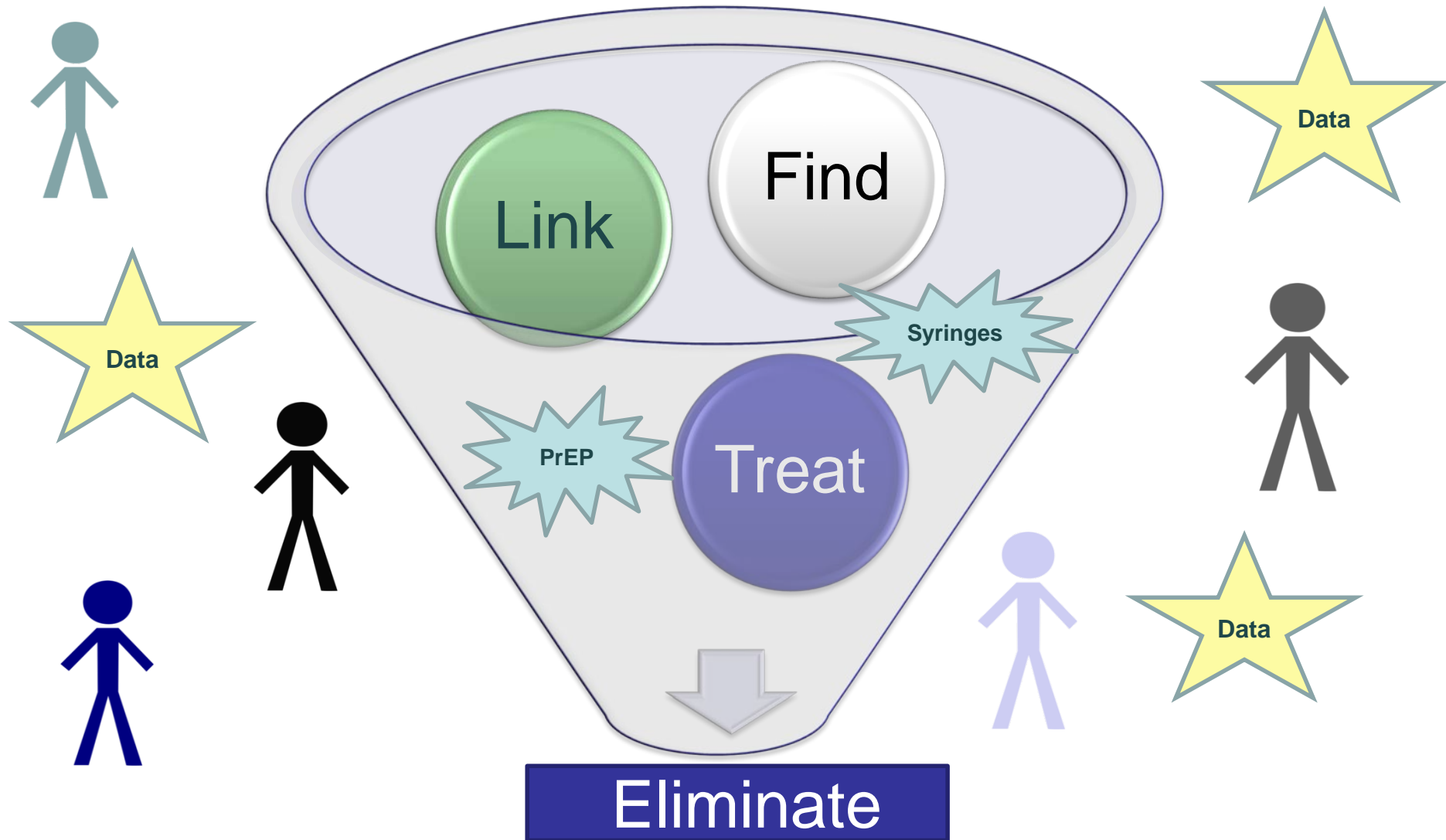
- Access to sterile syringes and safe disposal
- Infectious disease prevention materials
- Screening and testing for HIV, hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infection (STIs)
- Overdose education and access to Narcan® (naloxone)
- Referral to social support/medical services: substance use disorder treatment, primary care, case management, and nutrition services



# Syringe Service Programs (SSP)

- 9 SSPs with DPH support as of 12/31/16
  - Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Gloucester, Holyoke, Northampton, North Adams, Provincetown, Worcester
- 10 new SSPs established in 2017
  - Chelsea, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Lynn, Pittsfield, Taunton, Wareham
- 1 SSP in active development: Salem
- More cities/towns considering approval
- Syringe collection and disposal is an essential program service to clients and communities.

# Toward Elimination of HIV & HCV



Questions?

Thank you!