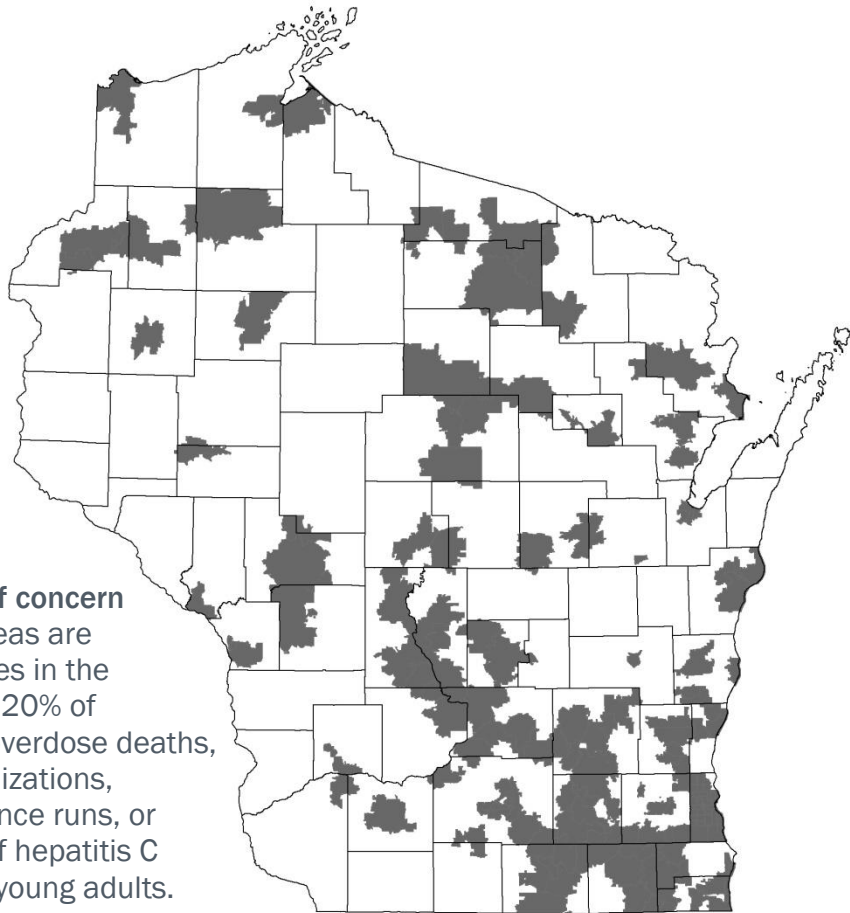


Preventing and Treating Harms of the Opioid Crisis

Areas throughout Wisconsin, urban and rural, are at high risk of opioid overdose and infections related to injection drug use.



Areas of concern
Gray areas are ZIP codes in the highest 20% of opioid overdose deaths, hospitalizations, ambulance runs, or cases of hepatitis C among young adults.

Opioid overdoses and infectious harms from drug use can be prevented and treated through access to important resources such as:

- Naloxone to reverse overdoses
- Medication-assisted treatment
- Substance use treatment services
- Syringe services programs
- Hepatitis C testing and treatment
- HIV prevention services
- Vaccination services

All of these resources are available in Wisconsin, but some areas have fewer resources. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is working together with community partners to improve access to these life-saving resources in the areas of Wisconsin that need them the most, shown in the map on the left in gray.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of **HEALTH SERVICES**

Naloxone through pharmacies with a standing order

Naloxone is the overdose reversal drug. It is safe, effective, and saves lives.

Where to access it

Naloxone can be purchased from pharmacies that utilize a standing order. Naloxone is also available through syringe services programs and other community organizations.

Gaps in access

Some areas of concern, shown in gray, are not within 30 minutes driving time of one of these pharmacies.

How access is being improved

DHS is working to improve access to naloxone statewide by establishing a NARCAN® Direct Program and by improving access to naloxone through local health departments.

Resources

Wisconsin pharmacies that dispense naloxone

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/naloxone-pharmacies.htm>

Wisconsin addiction recovery resources

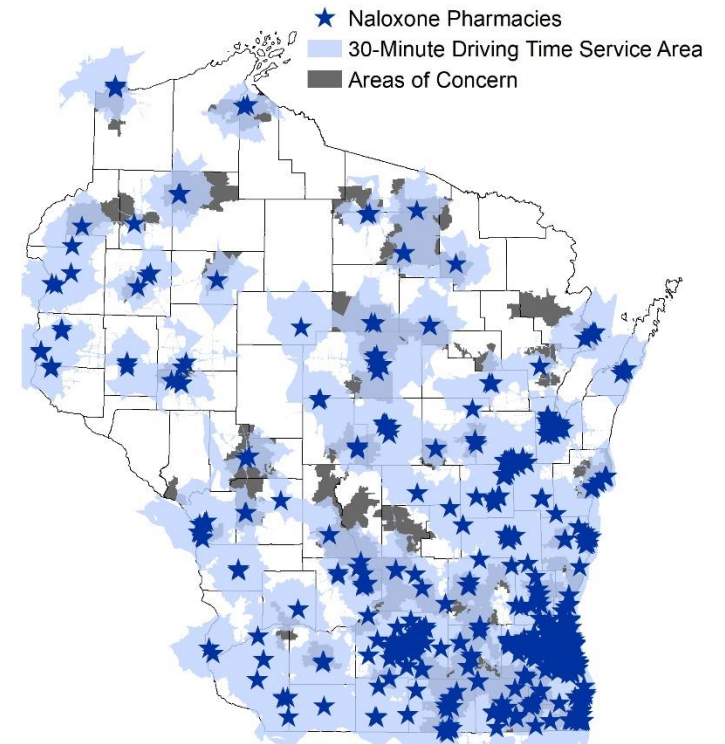
<https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/addiction-helpline>

Narcan® Direct program

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/narcan-direct-map.htm>

Vivent Health

<https://viventhealth.org/prevention-testing/needle-exchange-narcan/>



Medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of FDA-approved medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a "whole-patient" approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. There are three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder: methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. These medications reduce cravings and urges for opioids. DHS supports the use of all three forms of medication in conjunction with psychotherapy to meet the individual needs of the person.

Where to access it

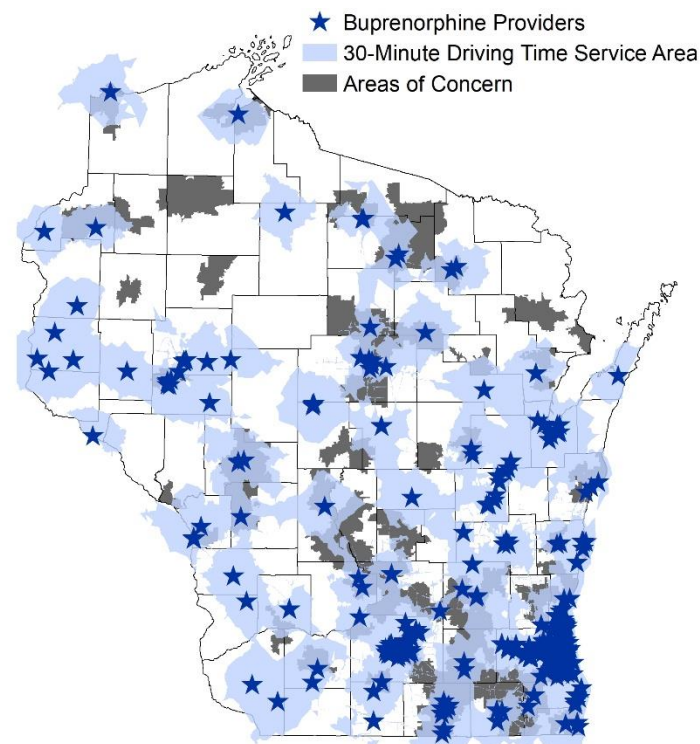
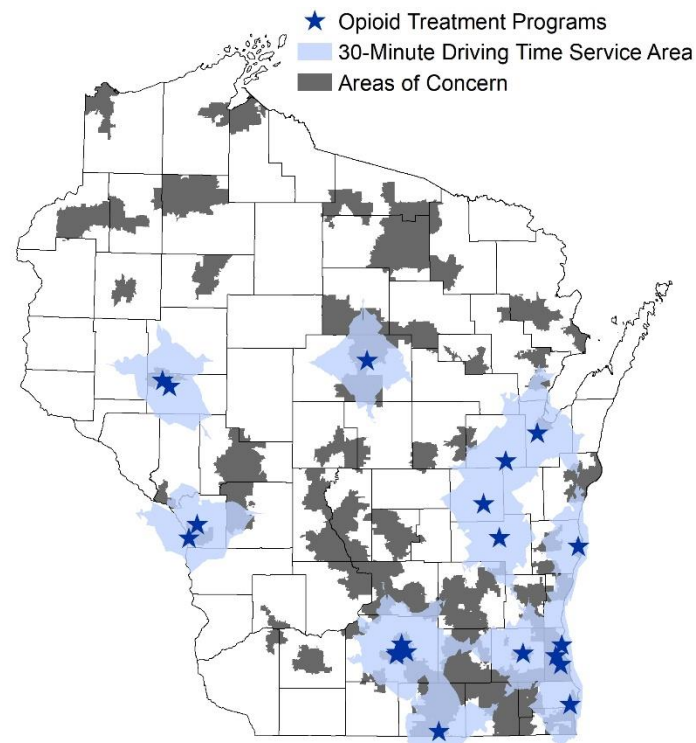
- Methadone is available at opioid treatment programs.
- Buprenorphine is available through health care providers who have received training to offer the medication.
- Naltrexone (including Vivitrol®) is available through health care providers who offer the medication.

Gaps in access

Buprenorphine providers are more widely available in Wisconsin than opioid treatment programs and Vivitrol® providers. However, there are several areas of concern in northern and central Wisconsin that are not within 30 minutes driving time of any type of MAT provider.

How access is being improved

DHS regularly awards funding to local health departments, health and human services departments, tribal partners, and other agencies for prevention, treatment, and recovery. This funding is used to train providers on MAT best practices and to support MAT services. Funding will be prioritized to areas with gaps in services.



Resources

Wisconsin addiction recovery resources

<https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/addiction-helpline>

Wisconsin opioid treatment directory

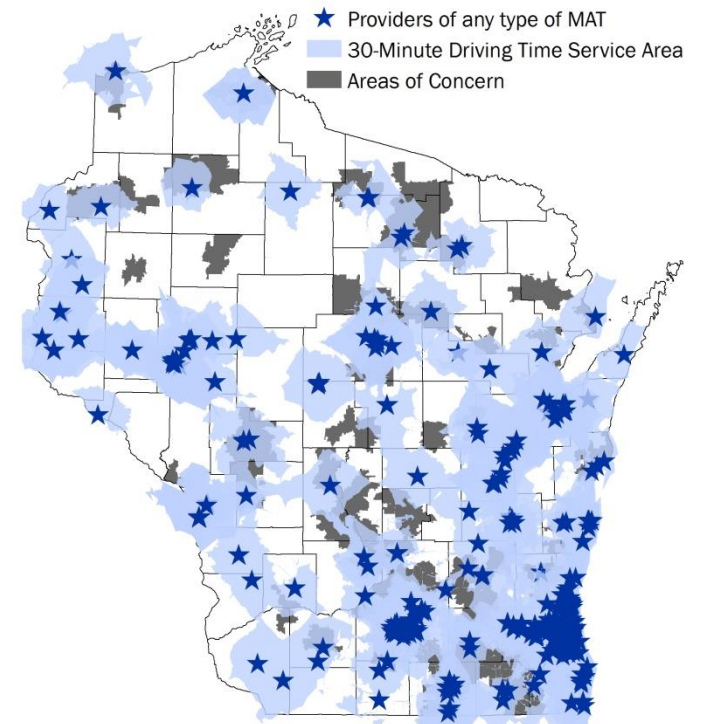
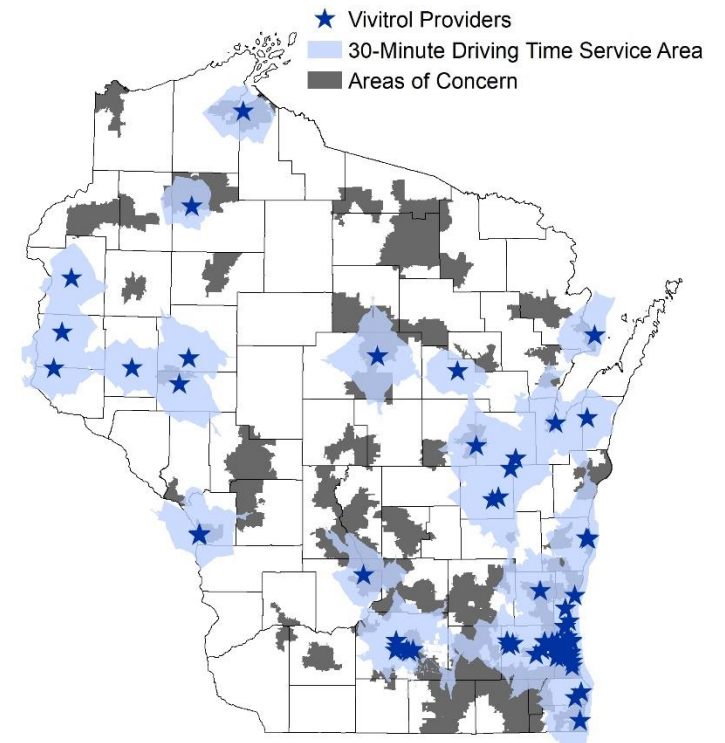
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/find-treatment.htm>

Medication-assisted treatment

<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment>

Behavioral health treatment services locator

<https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>



Substance use treatment providers

Substance use treatment programs provide treatment and services for persons affected by substance use. These providers may offer a wide range of services including detoxification services, day treatment, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, residential programs, intervention programs, prevention efforts, and employment services.

Where to access it

Substance use treatment can be accessed at clinics, hospitals, and other facilities around the state.

Gaps in access

Some areas of concern, primarily in northern Wisconsin, are not within 30 minutes driving time of a substance use treatment provider.

How access is being improved

Funding from the Department of Health Services is provided to counties through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant as well as other state and federal dollars for activities relating to prevention and treatment of substance use disorder.

Resources

Find a provider

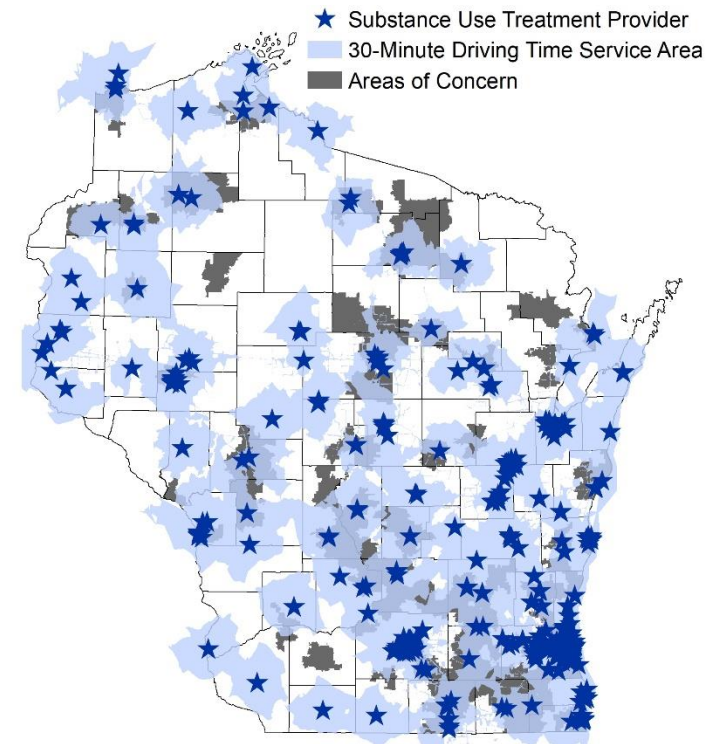
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/guide/provider-search.htm

Treatment locator

www.samhsa.gov/find-treatment

Wisconsin addiction recovery resources

<https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/addiction-helpline>



Syringe services programs

Syringe services programs are community-based prevention programs that provide a range of services, including access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment, HIV and hepatitis C testing, and linkage to care for HIV. Syringe services programs also provide access to naloxone free of charge. Nearly thirty years of research shows that comprehensive syringe services programs are safe, effective, and cost-saving, do not increase illegal drug use or crime, and play an important role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV and other infections.

Where to access it

Syringe services programs are offered through community-based organizations and local health departments in a number of locations in Wisconsin.

Gaps in access

Several areas of concern, including in central and northern Wisconsin, are not within close proximity to syringe services programs.

How access is being improved

DHS will continue to support hepatitis C and HIV testing in syringe services programs throughout Wisconsin and support capacity building among local health departments and community-based organizations to expand services. Additionally, DHS funds programs that provide prevention and treatment services to people who inject drugs.

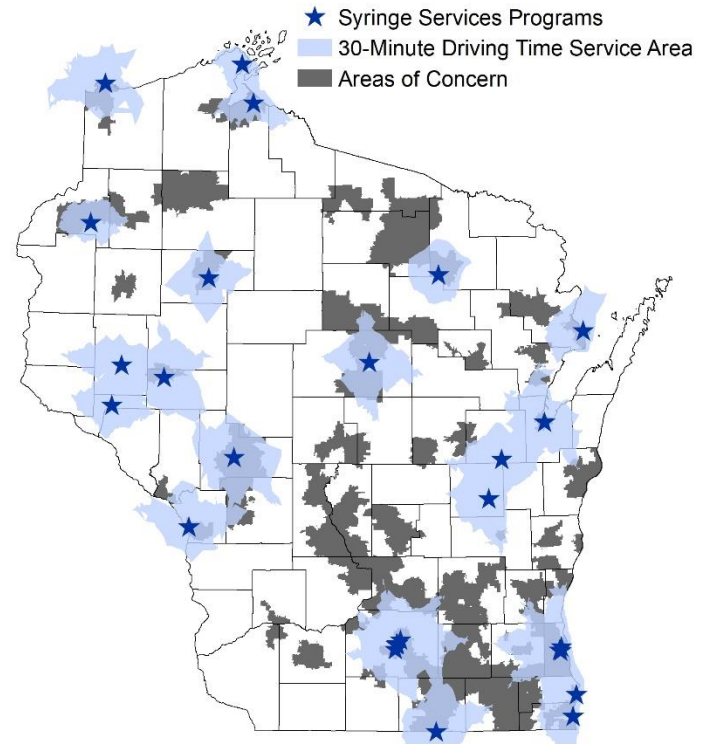
Resources

Syringe services programs

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/index.html>

Syringe services programs in Wisconsin

<https://viventhealth.org/prevention-testing/needle-exchange-narcan/>



Hepatitis C treatment

Hepatitis C can be easily transmitted through shared, unsterilized equipment used to prepare or inject drugs. Hepatitis C can be cured with 8–12 weeks of a highly effective treatment called direct-acting antiviral medication.

Where to access it

People who use drugs can receive hepatitis C treatment covered by Medicaid. Wisconsin Medicaid allows providers of any specialty to prescribe hepatitis C treatment.

Gaps in access

There are a number of areas of concern, particularly in rural areas of northern and western Wisconsin, that are not within close proximity to a hepatitis C treatment provider.

How access is being improved

Wisconsin Medicaid has taken important steps to improve access to treatment. Alcohol and substance use are no longer taken into consideration when approving prior authorizations. In addition, hepatitis C treatment requests will also be considered for patients who have previously received hepatitis C treatment. DHS continues to sponsor trainings of primary health care providers to treat hepatitis C. DHS plans to explore additional training of primary health care providers to treat hepatitis C, including through telemedicine to reach rural areas with gaps in services.

Resources

Hepatitis C information for the public

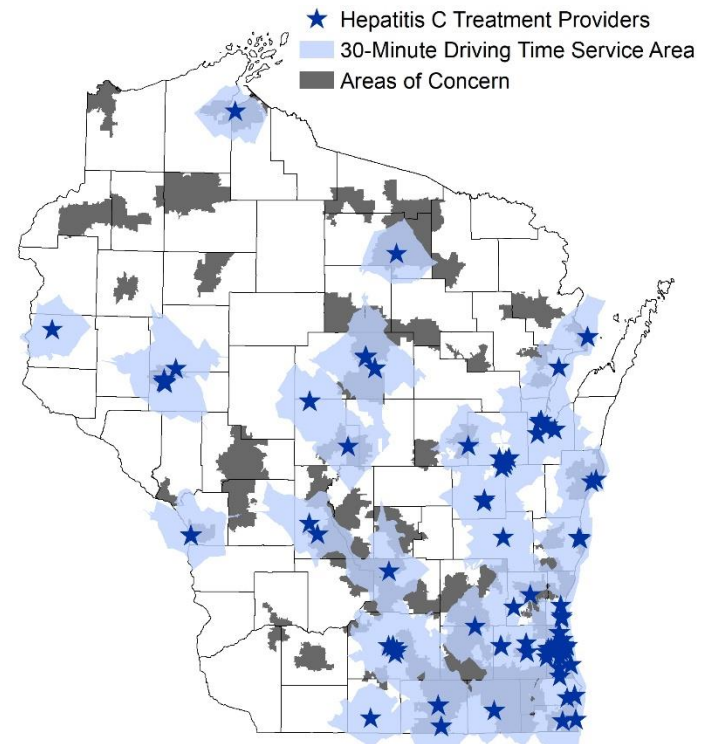
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/cfaq.htm>

Hepatitis C testing and treatment guidelines

<https://www.hcvguidelines.org/>

Hepatitis C comprehensive resource for health care providers

<https://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/>



HIV prevention through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

People who do not have HIV can prevent HIV by taking a pill once a day called PrEP. PrEP is highly effective in preventing HIV infection through sexual exposure and is also effective in preventing HIV among people who inject drugs.

PrEP for HIV prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep/index.html>

Where to access PrEP in Wisconsin

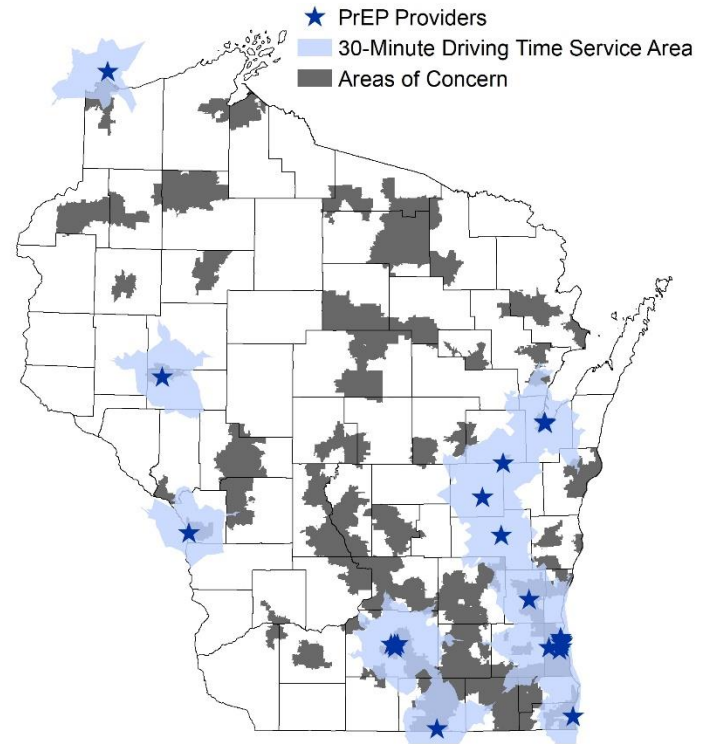
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/prep-where.htm>

Find a PrEP provider

<https://prelocator.org/>

For people without insurance, the "Ready, Set, PrEP" program can help pay for the medication

<https://getyourprep.com>



Vaccination for hepatitis A and hepatitis B

People who use drugs are at risk for hepatitis A and hepatitis B and should be vaccinated for hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Many U.S. states have reported outbreaks of hepatitis A among people who use drugs, and a number of states have reported increases in hepatitis B among people who inject drugs. Patients and providers can review their vaccination histories in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry to determine whether they have already been vaccinated. People who have not been vaccinated should be vaccinated.

Ongoing hepatitis A outbreaks among people who use drugs

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm>

Wisconsin Immunization Registry record search

<https://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/PR/clientSearch.do?language=en>

For more information on the information included in this report, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02605.pdf>