



Syringe Exchange Program Presentation to the BoCC

**Review Committee
DOH Alachua County
UF Medical School**

**Alachua County Community Support Services
Advocates**

May 5, 2020

SB366 – IDEA Exchange Expansion Bill

- **Allows county commission to authorize SEPs via ordinance.**
- **State, county, or municipal funds may not be used to operate an exchange program.**
- **Exchange programs shall be funded through grants and donations from private resources and funds.**

Alachua County Data

In 2018, Alachua had:

- 157 persons living with HIV identified IV drug use as a risk.**
- 247 persons with Hepatitis C.**

Cost per year:

HIV treatment: \$14,000 – \$20,000

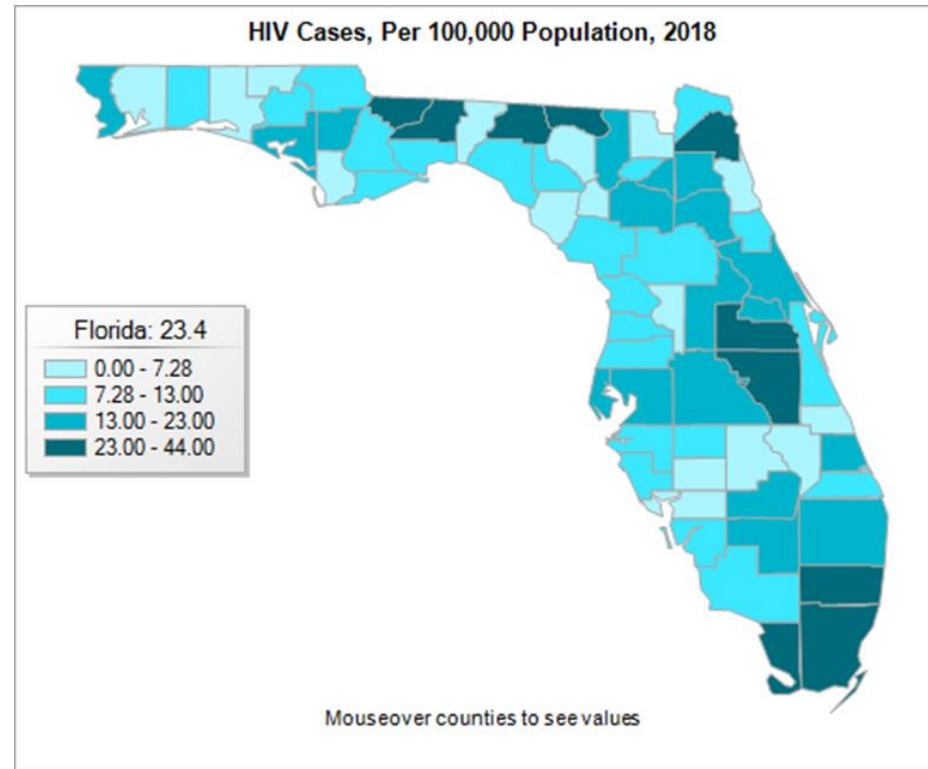
Hep C treatment: \$44,000 - \$55,000



**Pictures
taken in SW
Gainesville
on
12/6/2019**

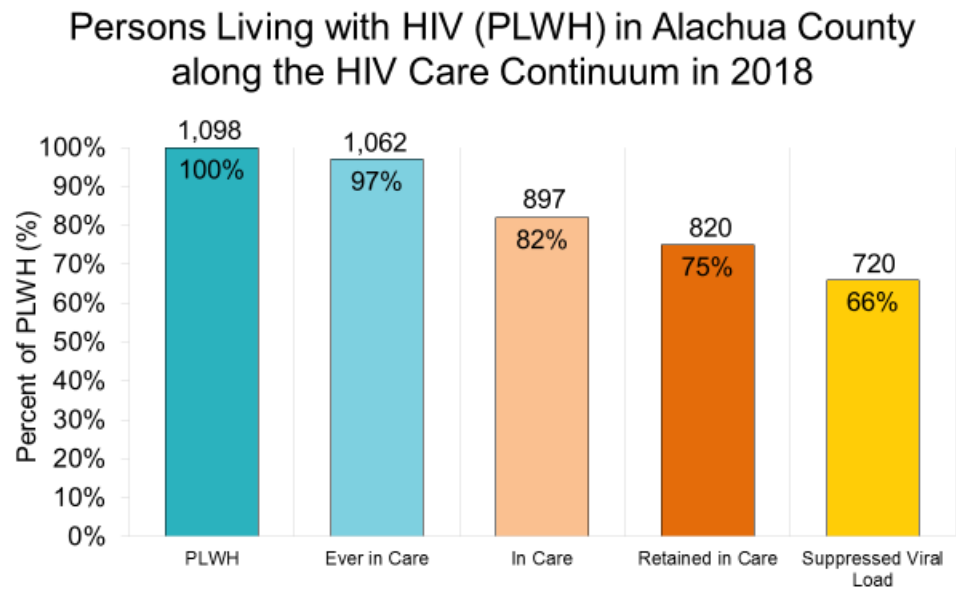


HIV Cases, Per 100,000 Population, 2018 Florida Charts



**Alachua County
ranks in the third
highest quartile**

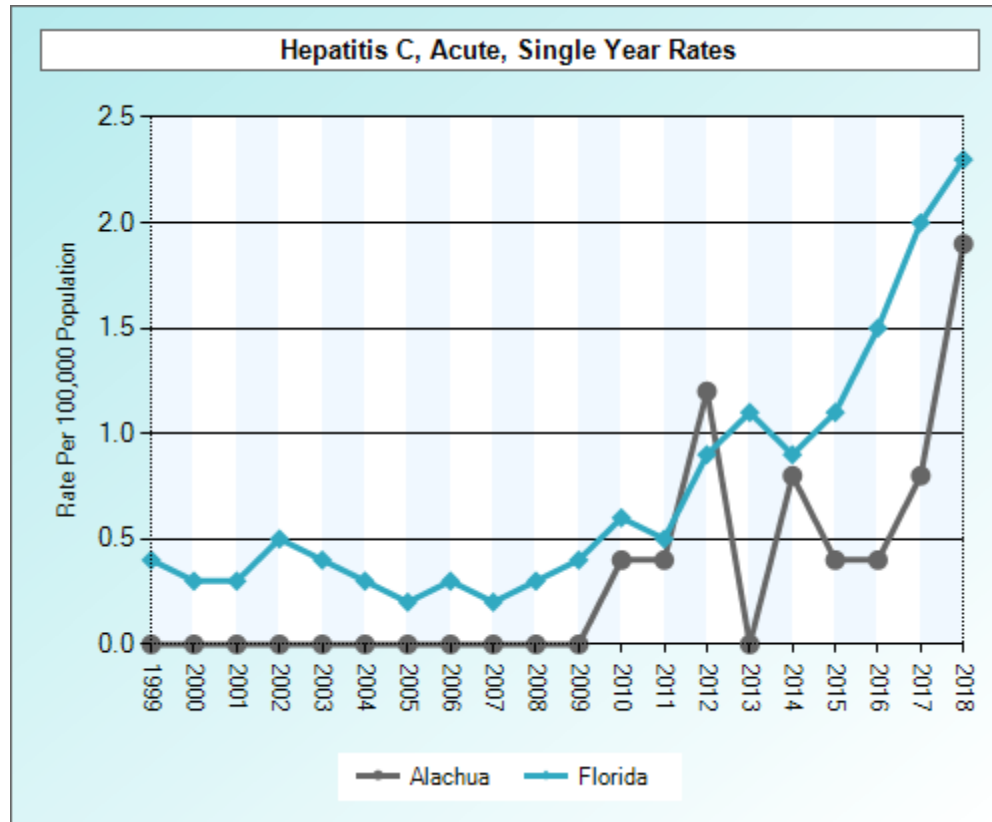
Persons Living with HIV, 2018. Florida Charts



66% of persons living with HIV in Alachua county had a suppressed viral load.

DRAFT

Hepatitis C, 2018. Florida Charts



Rates per 100,000 of acute cases of Hepatitis C have increased by more than four times in recent years in Alachua County.

Needle Reuse Image



SB366: County Commission Responsibilities

Before an exchange program may be established, the County Commission must:

- Authorize the program via county ordinance.**
- Enter into a letter of agreement with the Department of Health.**
- Enlist the county health department (CHD) to provide ongoing operational advice, consultation, and recommendations.**

SB366: County Commission Responsibilities

County commission must contract with one of the following:

- **Hospital**
- **Health care clinic**
- **Medical school in Florida**
- **Licensed addictions receiving facility**
- **501(c)3 HIV/AIDS service organization**

SB366: Syringe Exchange Program Responsibilities

- **Oversight and accountability system
(approved by county commission)**
- **Security**
- **One-to-one needle-syringe exchange**
- **Educational materials on blood-borne diseases**

SB366: Syringe Exchange Program Responsibilities

- **Drug abuse prevention, education, and treatment**
- **HIV and viral hepatitis screening**
- **Emergency opioid antagonist kits**

SB366: Syringe Exchange Program Responsibilities, Data Collection

- **Participants served**
- **Needles/syringes received/distributed**
- **Demographic profiles**
- **Participants entering drug counseling or treatment**
- **Participants receiving testing for HIV, viral hepatitis**

Personal identifying information may not be collected for any purpose.

SB366: Florida Department of Health Responsibilities

- **Compile SEP data for annual reporting.**
- **Submit annual report to the Governor, President of Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.**

The Department may adopt rules, which can include additional data elements, to implement reporting requirements

Syringe Exchange Program Entity Responsibilities

County Commission	Syringe Exchange Program	Department of Health
County Ordinance	1-to-1 exchange	Letter of Agreement with the County Commission
Letter of Agreement with the Department of Health	HIV, viral hepatitis testing	Advice, consultation, recommendations (through CHDs)
Contract with exchange program	Counseling/referrals for drug abuse treatment	Annual exchange program data report
	Naloxone kits	Adopt Rules
	Educational materials	
	Data	

SEP Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do SEPs reduce drug use?

A: Yes, IVDUs who use an SEP are more likely to stop injecting compared to those who do not (3x more likely to reduce/stop use & 5x more likely to enter treatment)

Q: Do SEPs increase needles in public places?

A: No, SEPs protect the public by providing safe disposal and reducing the presence of needles in the community

Q: Do SEPs lead to more crime and/or drug use?

A: No, crime does not go up and actually IVDU goes down

Q: Do SEPs reduce infections?

A: Yes, multiple studies show a reduction in HIV risk.

SEP Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do SEPs save money?

A: Yes, through prevention of chronic infections and early intervention on acute infections (through wound care services)

Q: How are SEPs funded?

A: In Florida, they must be privately funded. Fortunately, there are many private foundations that specifically fund SEPs in addition to individual donors. Partnerships with health care organizations or industry are possible as well.

Q: Can't unused syringes be purchased from retail pharmacies without the need for SEPs?

A: Yes, however many pharmacies require evidence of a diabetes diagnosis and can also simply refuse to sell them to individuals based on their own discretion. Thus, SEPs are still needed for the IVDU population.

Drugucation

- **Client 1**
- **Client 2**
- **Client 3**