Opioid misuse fuels the increase of infectious diseases connected to injection drug use. Currently, injection drug use is the cause of most new hepatitis C infections. Injection drug use is also a risk factor for hepatitis A and B infections. From 2010 to 2016, the U.S. experienced a 3.5-fold increase of hepatitis C virus cases. Starting in 2010, with each year there has been an average of 2,500 new HIV infections among people who inject drugs in the U.S.

Syringe Exchange Programs: A Good IDEA for Florida’s Communities

By providing new and sterile syringes to people who inject drugs, syringe exchange programs help reduce HIV and viral hepatitis infections. Programs also provide additional prevention and intervention services like vaccination, testing, links to infectious disease care and substance use treatment.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention