

# Injection Drug Use Harm Reduction Practices in Powell, WY

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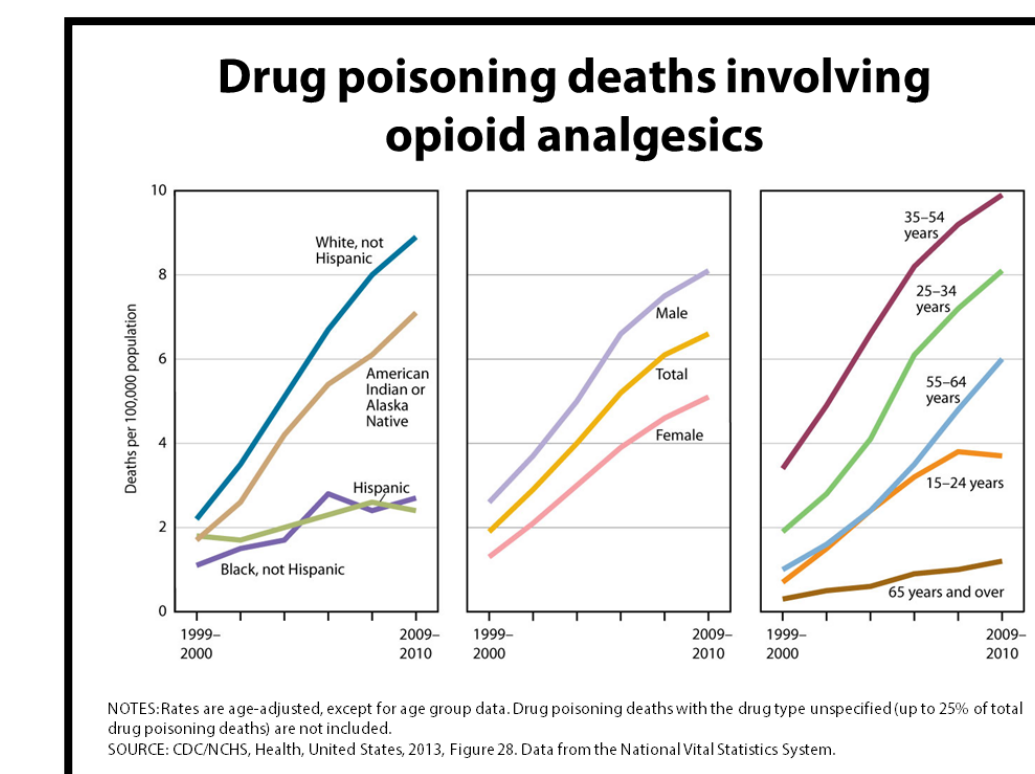
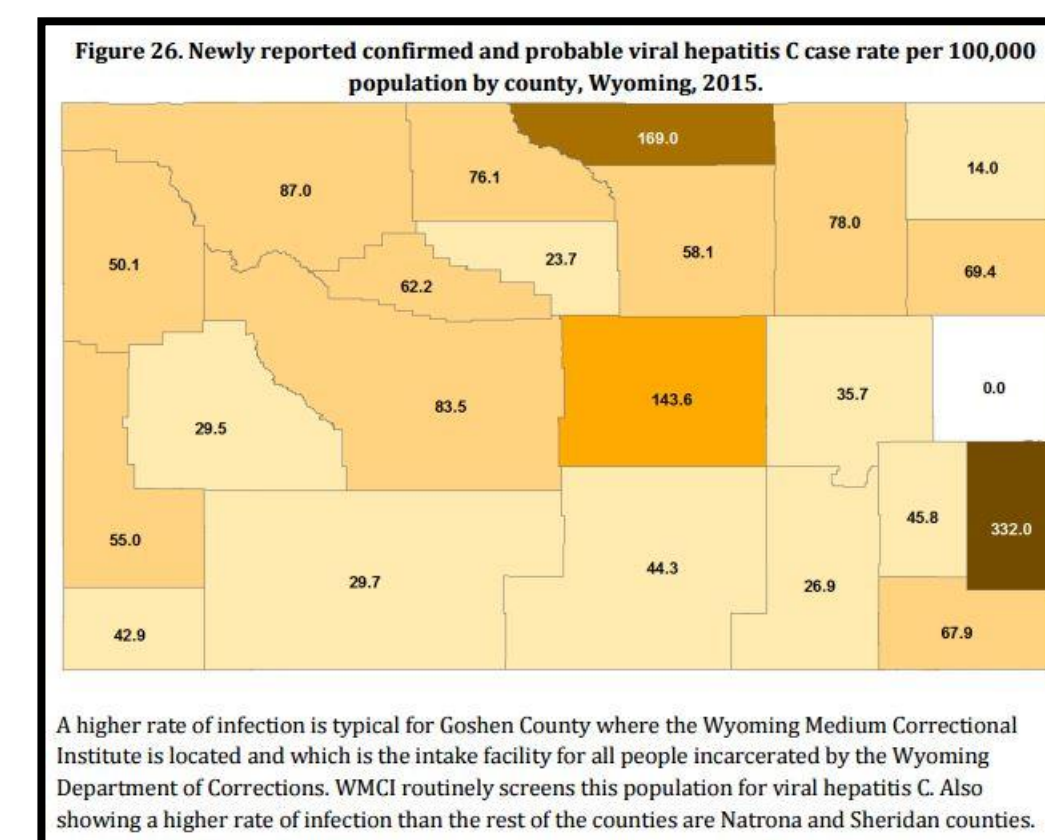
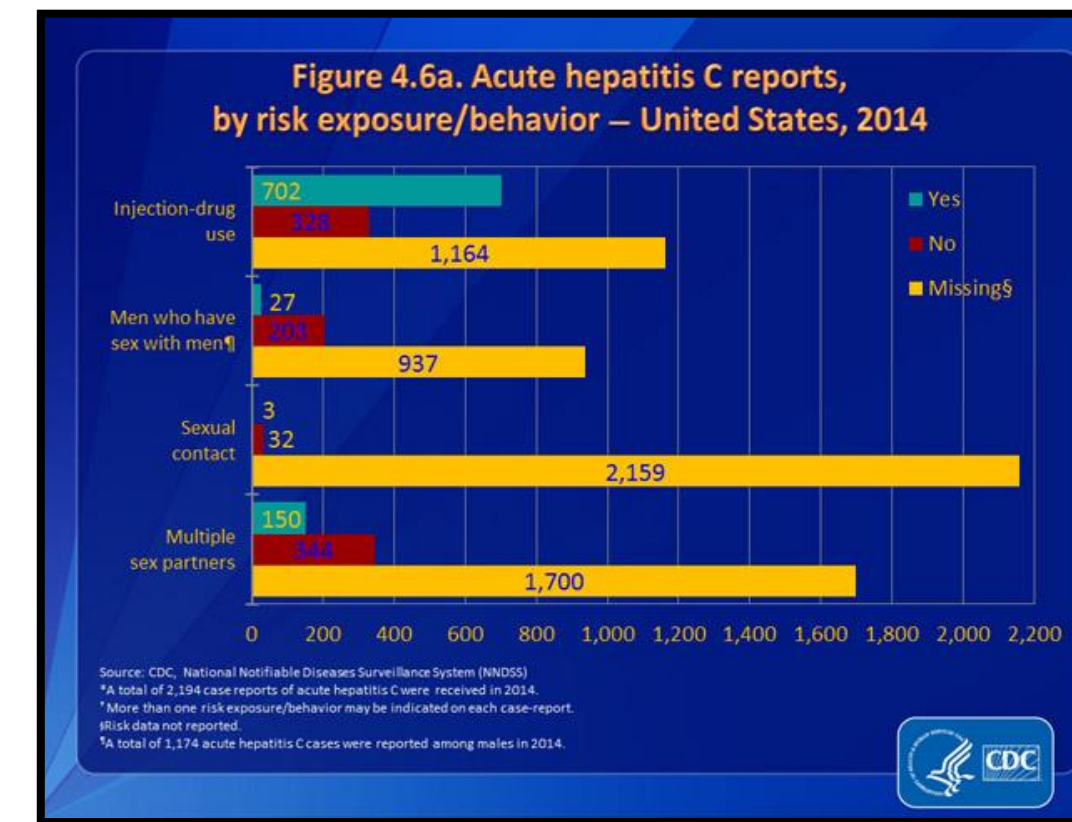
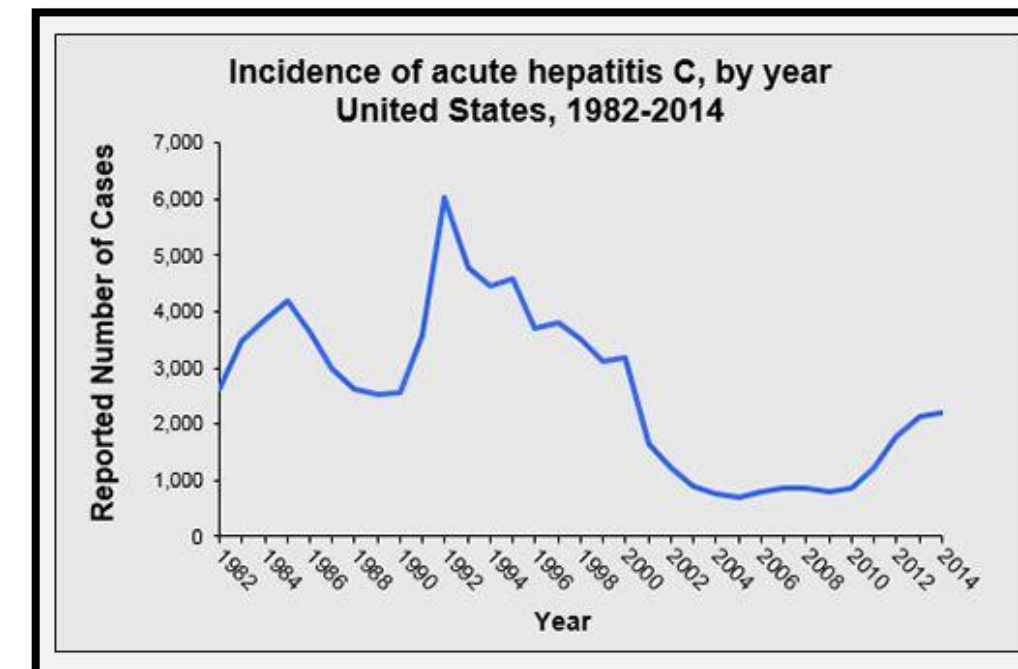
## PURPOSE

- Investigate the community perspective in Powell, WY regarding injection drug use harm reduction strategies.
- Develop a strategy to introduce injection drug use harm reduction programs.



## BACKGROUND

- Overdose death from injection heroin use rose 286% from 2002 to 2013.
- Increase of incidence of nationally reported HCV cases rose 258% from 2007 to 2014.
- Injection drug use demographics are no longer poor, urban, non-white.
- Rural communities are not experienced in handling blood borne pathogen outbreaks and provide little in harm reduction strategies.
- Conservative, rural communities present initial resistance to harm reduction strategies.



## RESULTS

- Met with key stakeholders – community members, police officers, public health nurses, and an injection drug user.
- Literature review of harm reduction strategies that may be of use was provided to the Powell Branch of Wyoming Department of Health.
- Provided a possible strategy of sequentially initiating harm reduction strategies in Powell, WY – including safe sharp drop box, community education, and needle and syringe exchange programs.
- Suggested the assessment of community feelings regarding harm reduction strategies through the use of a survey.
- Continuing to survey community perspective throughout the initiation of harm reduction strategies.

## METHODS

- Assessed injection drug use harm reduction resources available in Powell, WY.
- Spoke with community members regarding injection drug use harm reduction strategies.
- Performed literature review regarding injection drug use harm reduction strategies in rural communities.
- Safe sharp drop programs, needle and syringe exchange programs, and substance abuse counseling were shown to be effective in rural communities.

## DISCUSSION

- Brought injection drug use harm reduction strategies to the community's attention.
- Funding and personnel are limiting factors.
- Possibly organize survey and safe sharp disposal program during future WRITE experience.
- Continue to work to reduce risk of injection drug use in rural Wyoming.