



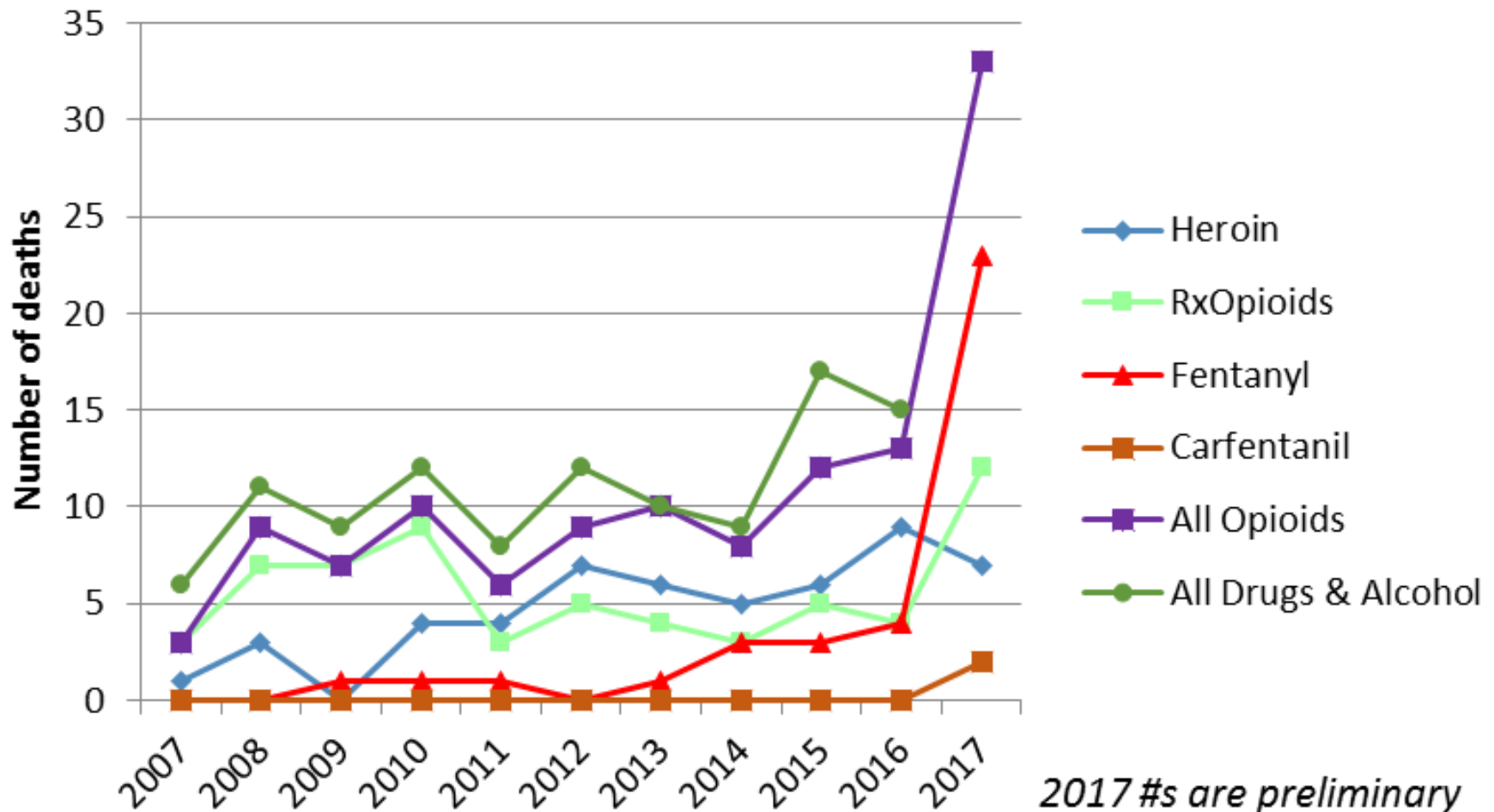
ST. MARY'S COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

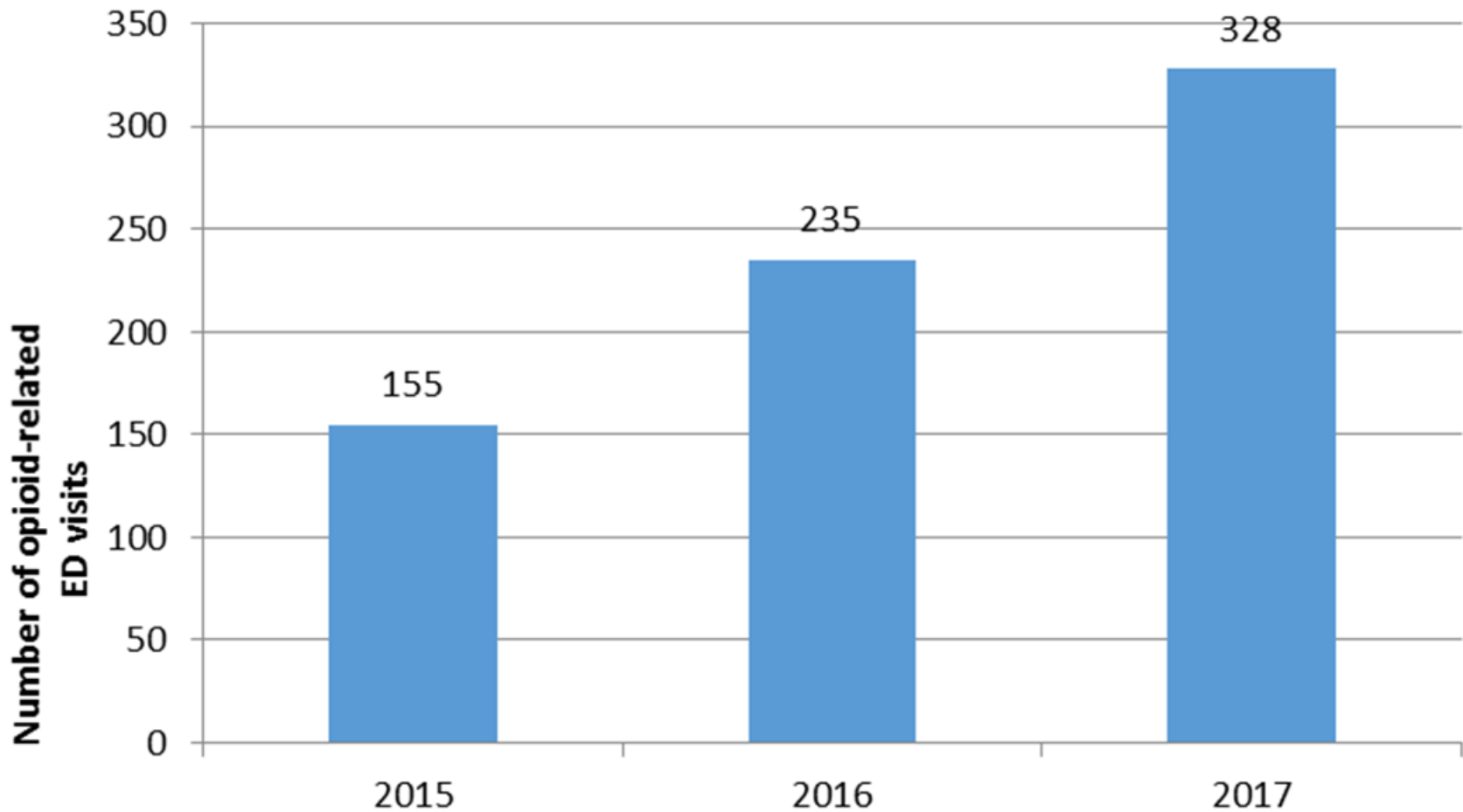
www.smchd.org/opioid

08/10/2018

OPIOID-RELATED DRUG INTOXICATION DEATHS IN ST MARY'S COUNTY



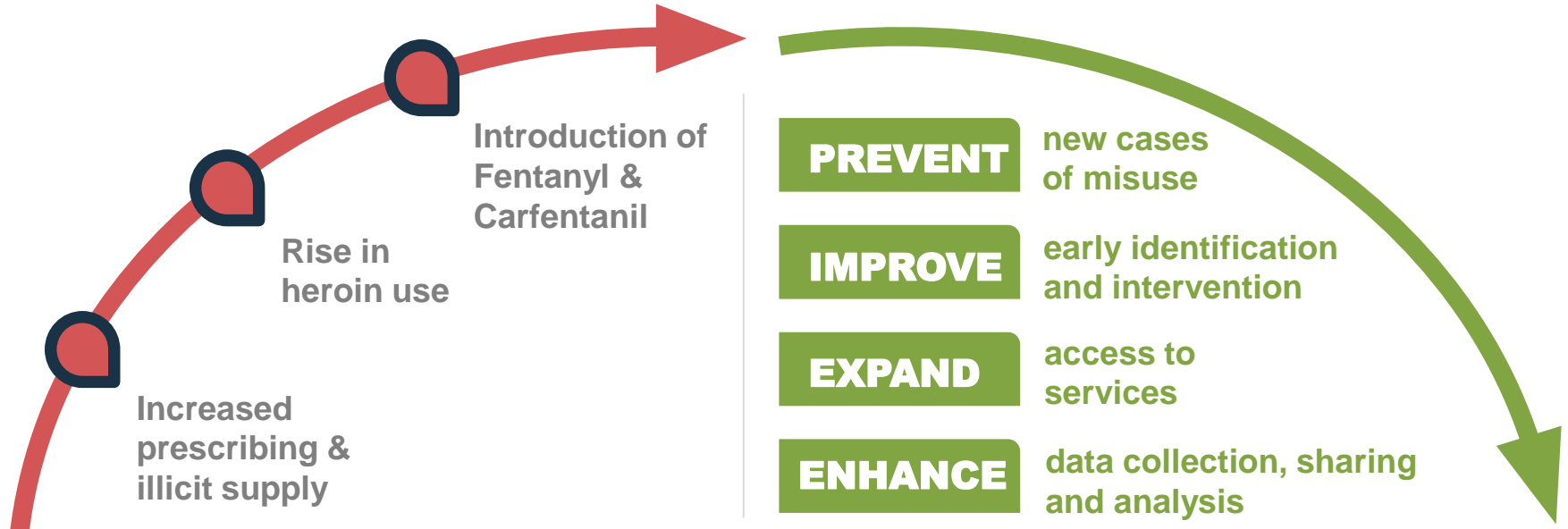
OPIOID-RELATED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS BY ST MARY'S COUNTY RESIDENTS



Source: *ESSENCE Maryland Surveillance system*

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS & REMEDIES

OPIOID-RELATED DEATHS



BASELINE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- RISK FACTORS FOR DRUG USE
- STIGMA
- BARRIERS TO EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND ADEQUATE TREATMENT
- BARRIERS TO ONGOING RECOVERY

HARM REDUCTION:

Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

What is Harm Reduction?

- Practical strategies to reduce community harms associated with high risk behaviors
- “Meet people where they are” but don’t leave them there



HARM REDUCTION:

Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

Harm Reduction for the Opioid Epidemic

- Reduce spread & community outbreaks of infectious disease
 - HIV
 - Hepatitis C & B
 - Wound infection bacteria (e.g., staph, “flesh-eating” bacteria, botulism, tetanus)
 - Pneumonia
 - STIs
- Build trust and motivate people to accept substance use disorder treatment
 - Decrease drug use rates
 - Decrease drug-related overdose fatalities
 - Decrease drug-related crime
 - Many other community-wide benefits

HARM REDUCTION:

Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

Harm Reduction for the Opioid Epidemic

- Decrease likelihood of contaminated needles in private or public spaces
 - First responder needle-sticks
 - Risks to residents (e.g., discarded needles on the roadside, parking lots, playgrounds/parks)
- Reduce costs
 - Lifetime cost of treating HIV: approx. \$600,000
 - Curing Hepatitis C (once): approx. \$54,600 - \$94,500
 - Liver transplant: approx. \$100,000 - \$575,000
 - Early loss of life: immeasurable

HARM REDUCTION:

Harm Reduction Services are Legal in Maryland

Opioid-Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Act *“Syringe Services Program Bill”*



- Passed Maryland General Assembly with bipartisan support in 2016
- SB97 signed into law by Governor Hogan in May 2016

HARM REDUCTION:

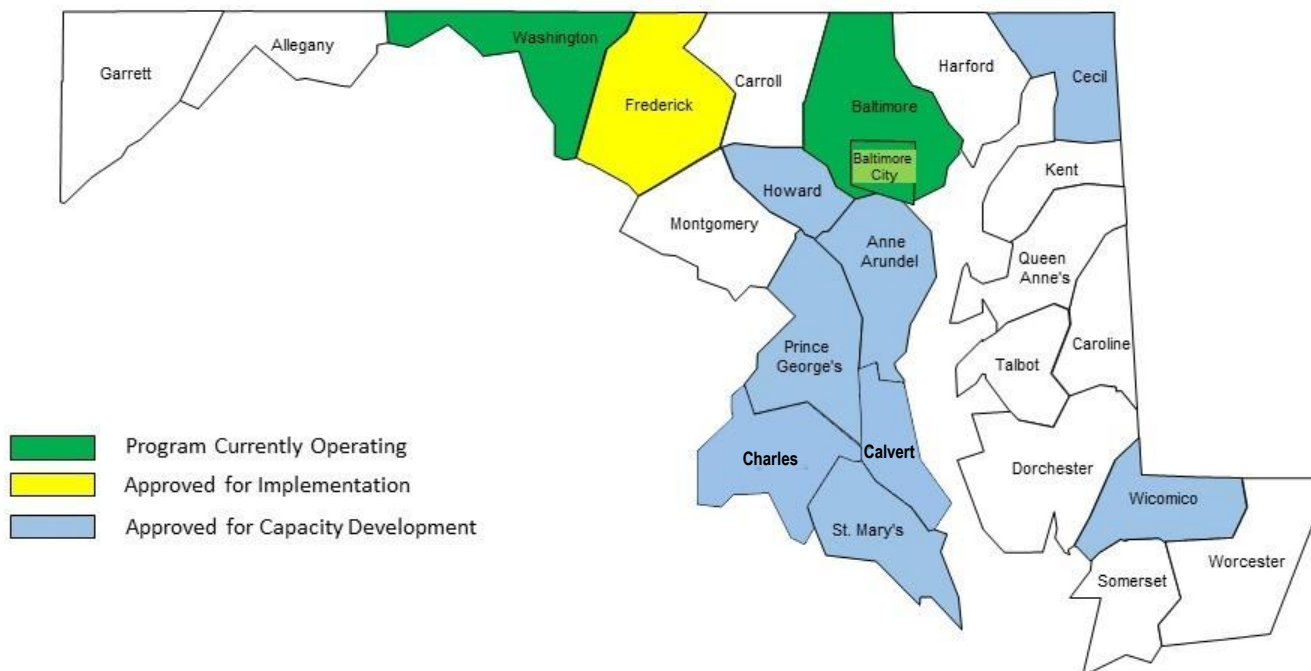
Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

Components of Maryland Harm Reduction

- Collection and safe disposal of used syringes
- Distribution of sterile injection equipment
- Linkage to needed health care services (including substance use disorder treatment)
 - *Address barriers to accepting treatment (e.g., basic needs)
- Education on HIV and Hepatitis C
- HIV, Hepatitis, STI: prevention, testing, and treatment
- HIV prophylaxis
- Wound care
- Overdose prevention - naloxone training & distribution
- Linkages to other community supports

HARM REDUCTION: Expanding Access to Treatment

Maryland Syringe Services Program Development



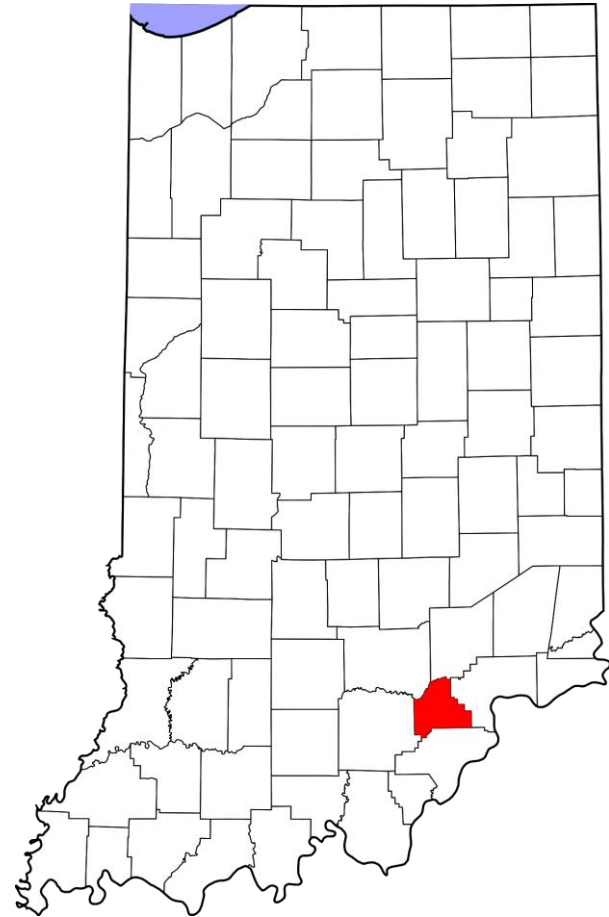
*additional jurisdictions working towards capacity development

HARM REDUCTION:

Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

The Indiana Story – Scott County

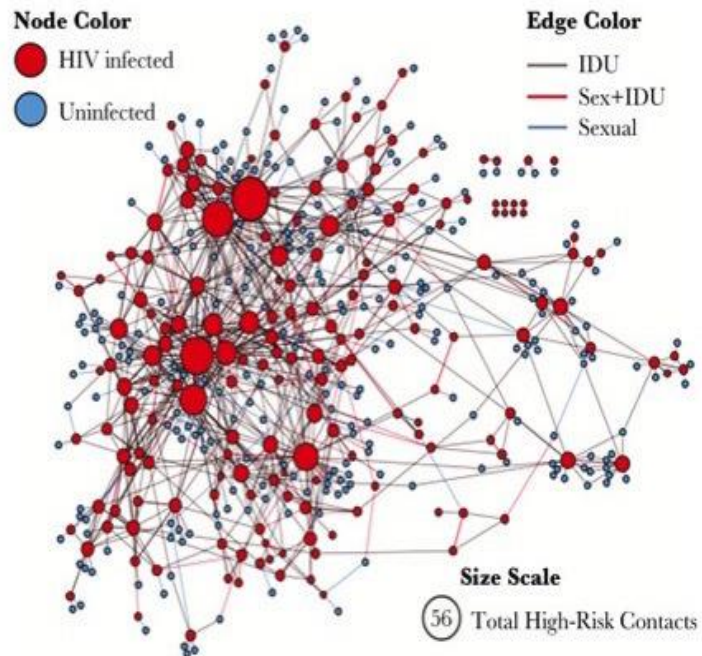
- County's population about 24,000 residents
- Mostly rural
- From 2004-2013: only 5 cases of HIV
- In one year timespan (Nov 2014 – Nov 2015), Scott County reported about 200 new cases of HIV



HARM REDUCTION:

Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

The Indiana Story



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- In 2015, Indiana passed legislation authorizing syringe exchange services and Scott County began implementation
- Within 7 months: Scott County program enrolled 277 persons and collected 97,000 contaminated syringes
- The county went from 10-20 new HIV cases WEEKLY **before** implementation to 1-2 new cases MONTHLY **after** implementation
- For 2017, Indiana kept their statewide new HIV case rate to 1-2 every month (additional counties in the state set up syringe exchange services)

HARM REDUCTION:

Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

Data from research conducted over 30 years

Harm Reduction Programs including syringe services:

- DO reduce transmission of Hepatitis C & HIV
- DO increase enrollment in substance use treatment services (x5 more likely)
- DO result in fewer discarded used needles in public and private spaces
- DO NOT increase drug use over time
- DO NOT increase crime (may actually reduce crime)

HARM REDUCTION:

Expanding Access to Treatment & Preventing Disease Outbreaks

Developing Local Capacity

- Identify and monitor community data and indicators
- Involve community partners and leaders in providing input, collaborative agreements, and developing approach
- Gather input and suggestions from community residents and other stakeholders
- Build model that responds to local needs/input
- Staged roll out of program components and evaluate impact

Questions?

smchd.healthdept@maryland.gov