

# Increasing HIV Screening Rates in Rural Syringe Services Programs

Jana Collins<sup>1</sup>, Jaime Soria<sup>1</sup>, James Thacker<sup>1</sup>, Greg Corby-Lee<sup>1</sup>, Tisha Johnson<sup>2</sup>, Connie White<sup>2</sup>, Ardis Hoven<sup>1</sup>, Alice Thornton<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Kentucky, Lexington, USA <sup>2</sup>Kentucky Department for Public Health, Kentucky, USA



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## Background:

The Kentucky Income Reinvestment Program (KIRP) is a statewide program utilizing funds generated by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part B Kentucky AIDS Drug Assistance Program (KADAP). KIRP provides comprehensive Early Intervention Services targeting those at the highest risk for HIV infection. The objective of this study was to compare Kentucky Syringe Services Programs' (SSP) HIV screening rates among persons who inject drugs (PWID) in SSPs supported by KIRP (KSSP) to those not supported by KIRP (NKSSP).

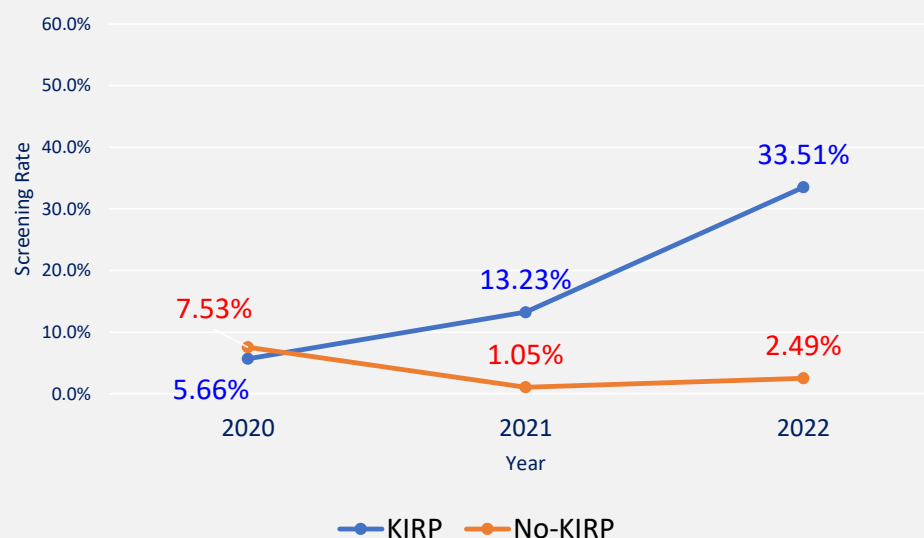
## Methods:

- A cross-sectional study was conducted on 54 SSPs.
- The HIV screening rates in the first quarter of 2020, 2021, and 2022 were compared.
- Fisher's exact test compared HIV screening rates between KSSP and NKSSP.
- Study data were collected and managed using REDCap electronic data capture tools hosted at the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

## Results:

- The analysis included data of 21,072 PWID who attended the SSPs.
- In the first quarter of 2022, a total of 1,607/4795 (33.5%) PWID were screened for HIV at KSSP vs 12/482 (2.5%) at NKSSP ( $p < 0.001$ ).
- The difference in the screening rates has increased over the years since KIRP began in 2019

HIV screening rate in PWID at the SSPs in Kentucky



## Conclusion

- The HIV screening rate in PWID has increased significantly in SSPs supported by KIRP through the RWHAP program income early intervention services.
- This increase has occurred mainly in rural counties where PWID remains a significant population at risk for new HIV infections