

# Syringe Exchange & Safe Disposal of Sharps

Buncombe County's Ongoing Response to  
the Opioid Epidemic

June 5, 2018



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

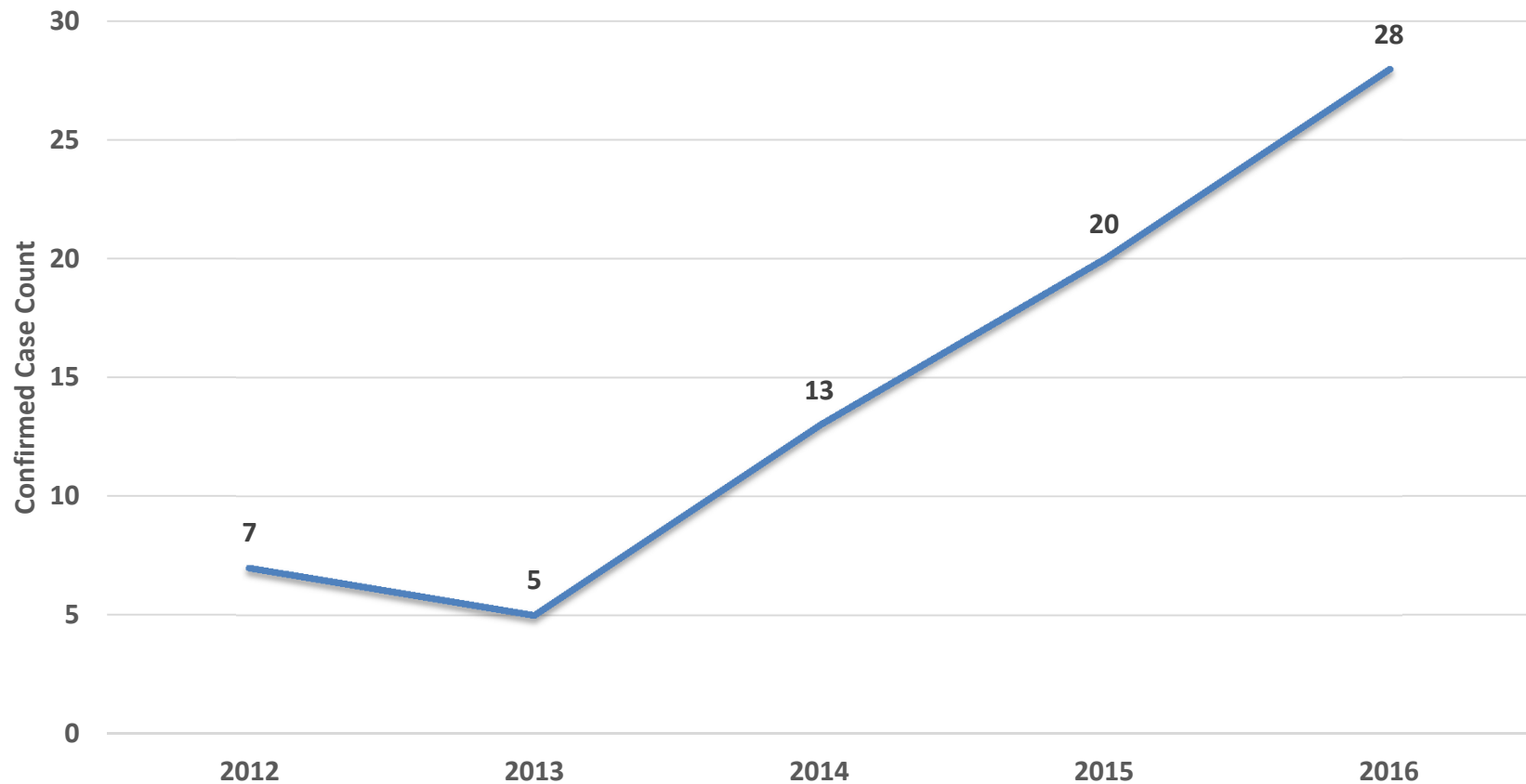
# Unsafe Sharp Disposal



# Safe Sharp Disposal



# Acute Hepatitis B Confirmed Cases, NC Region 2, 2012-2016

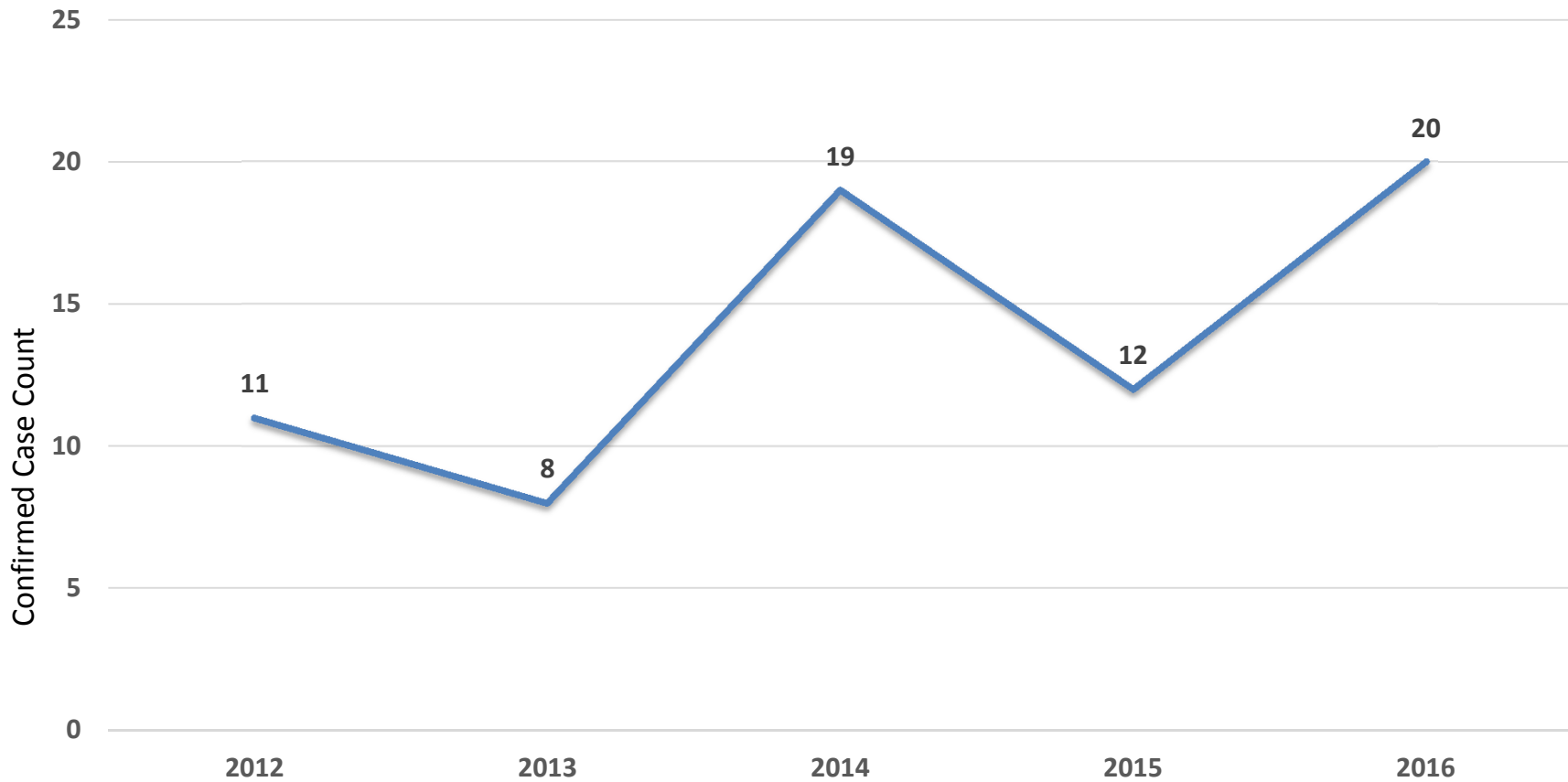


Counties include: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Yancey  
Data source: North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS) Preliminary data June 1, 2017



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

# Acute Hepatitis C Confirmed Cases, NC Region 2, 2012-2016

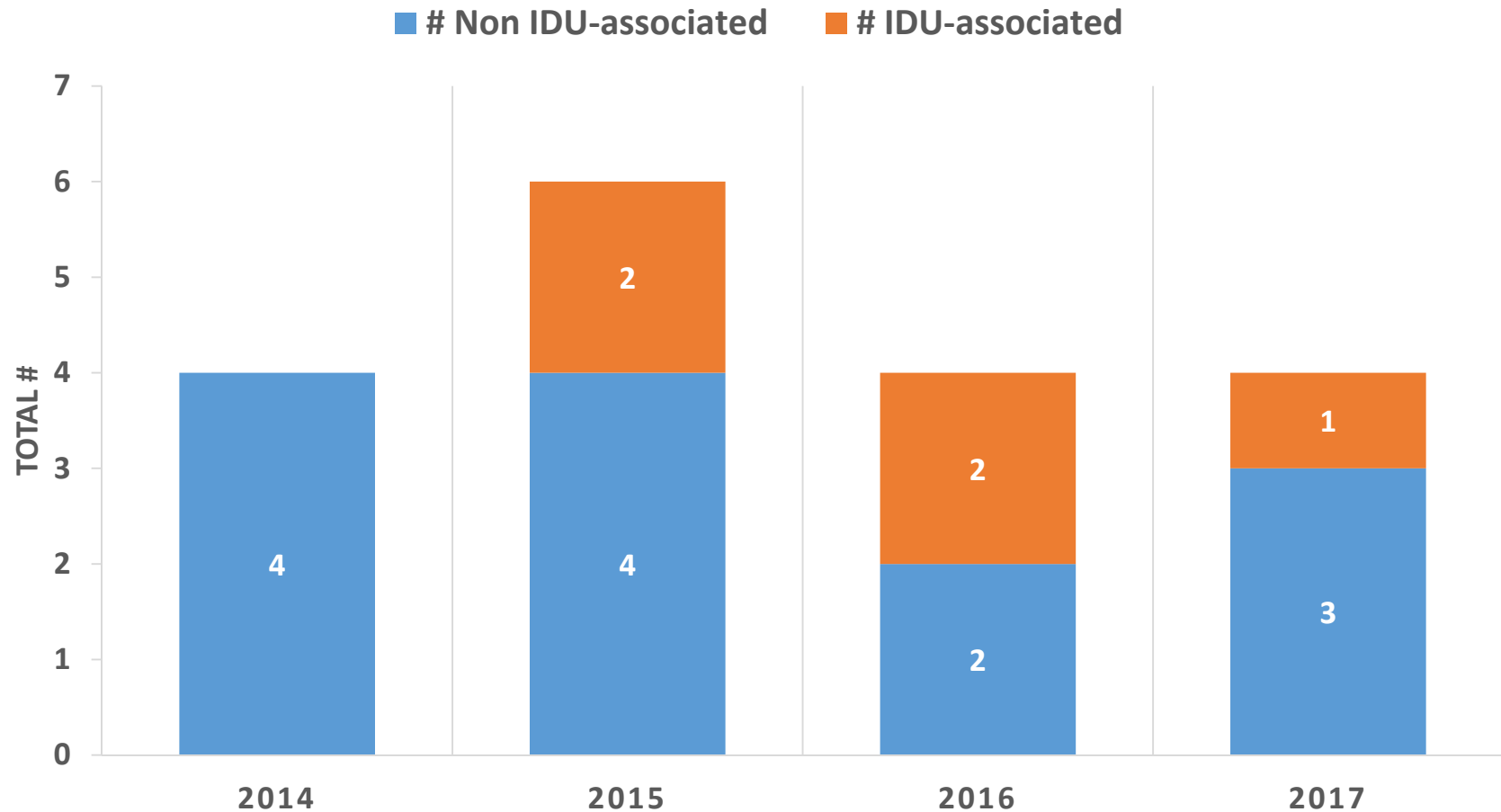


Counties include: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Yancey  
Data source: North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS) Preliminary data June 1, 2017

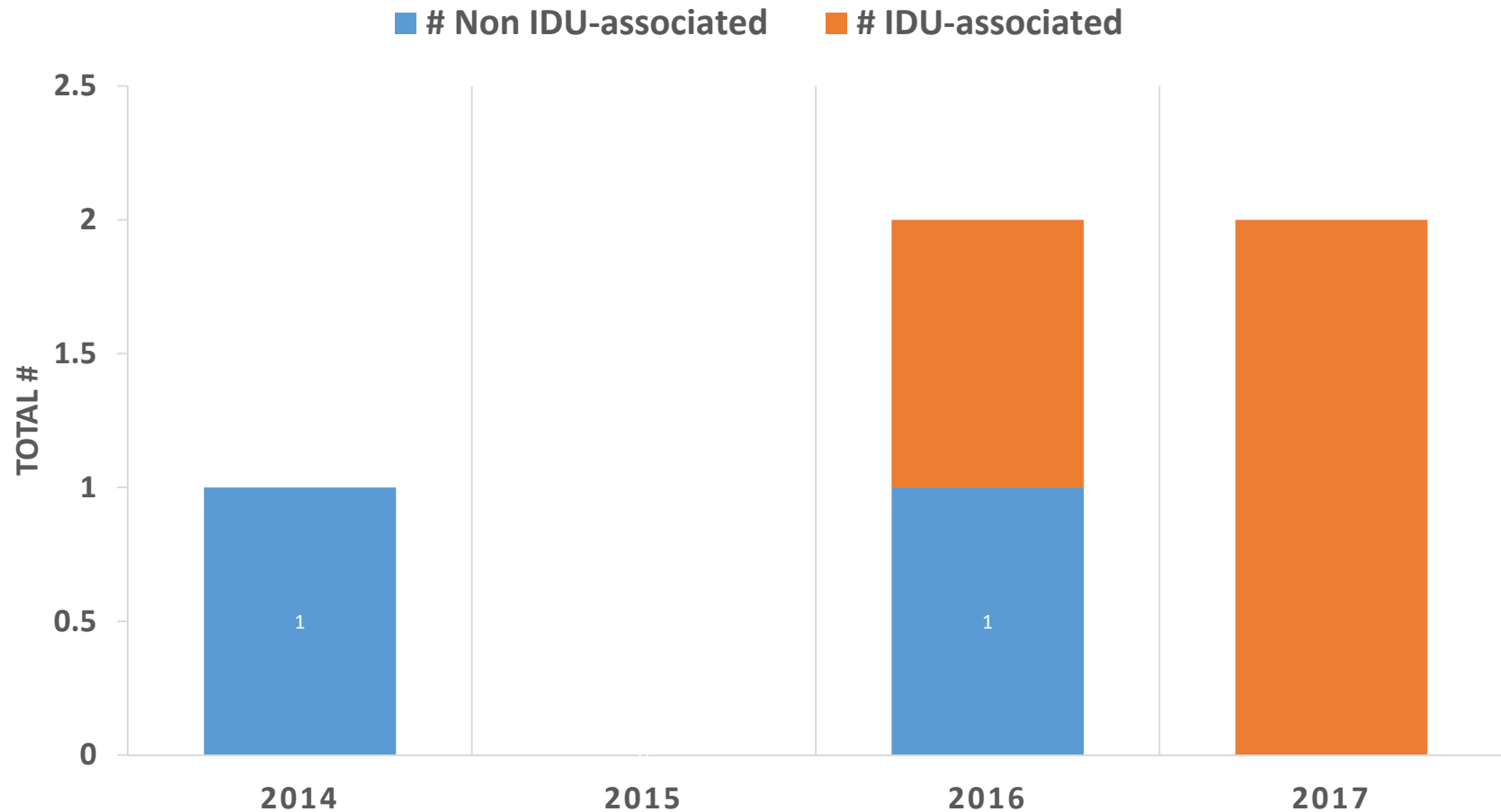


**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

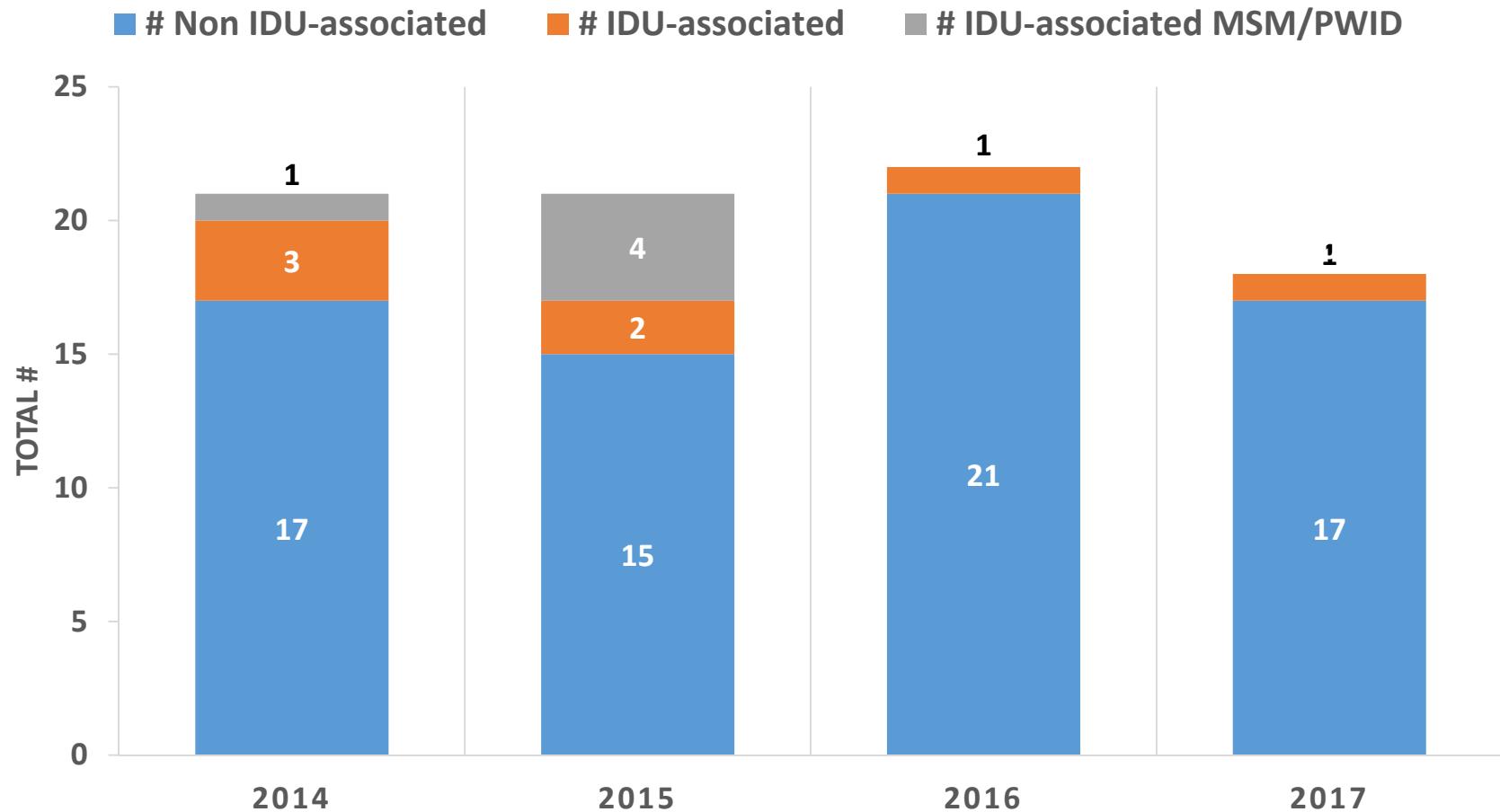
# Acute Hepatitis B Cases, Buncombe County



# Acute Hepatitis C, Buncombe County

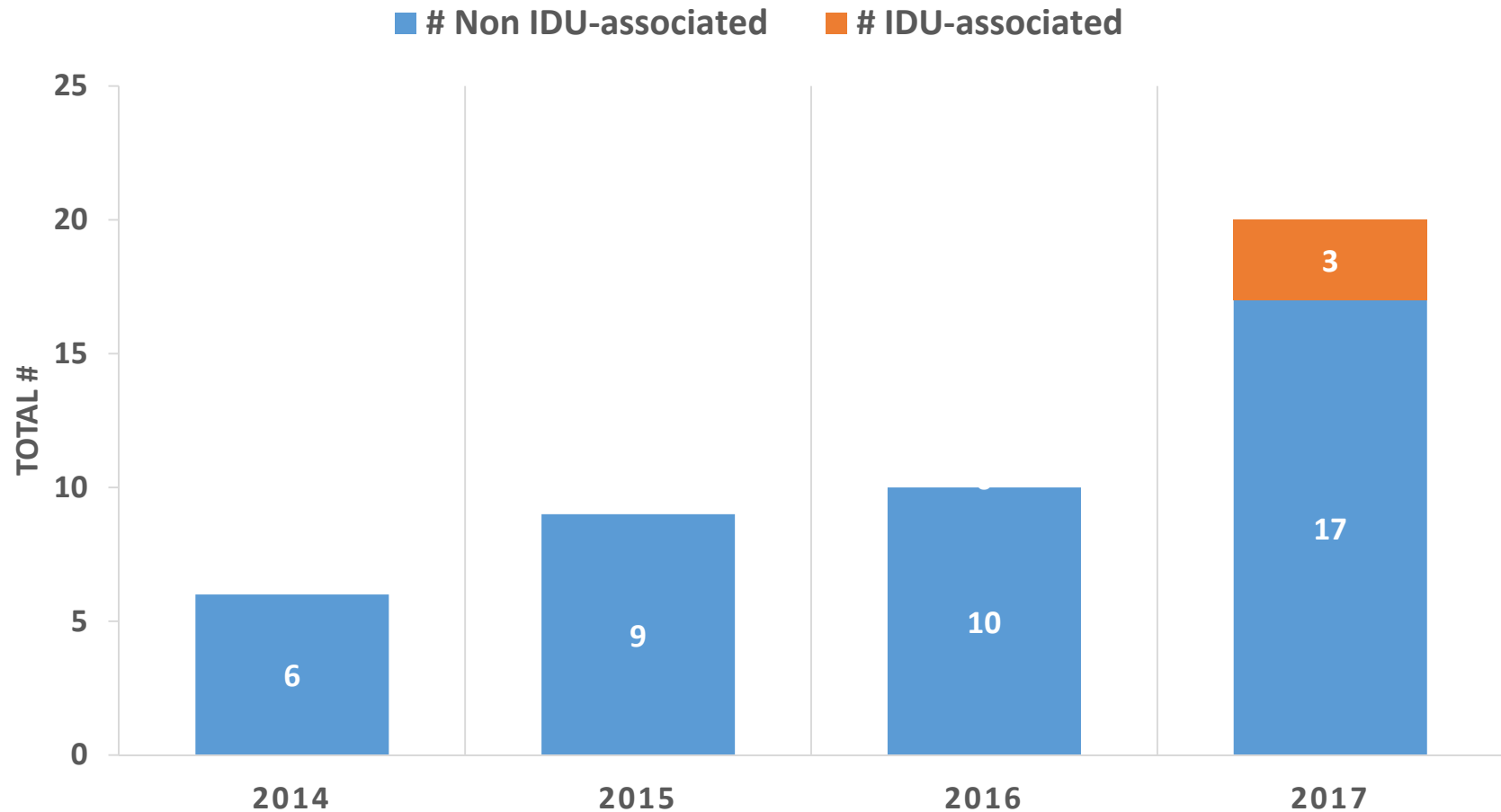


# Newly Diagnosed HIV, Buncombe County





# Invasive Group A Streptococcus, Buncombe County



# Harm Reduction

- Reduce harmful consequences associated with high risk activities
  - Meet people where they are
  - Recognizes that poverty, class, racism, gender-based discrimination & other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm
- (adapted from Harm Reduction Coalition)
- Opportunity to engage & establish trust

# Components of Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs)



Free sterile needles and syringes



Safe disposal of needles and syringes



Referral to mental health services



Referral to substance use disorder treatment, including medication-assisted treatment



HIV and hepatitis testing and linkage to treatment



Overdose treatment and education



Hepatitis A and B vaccination



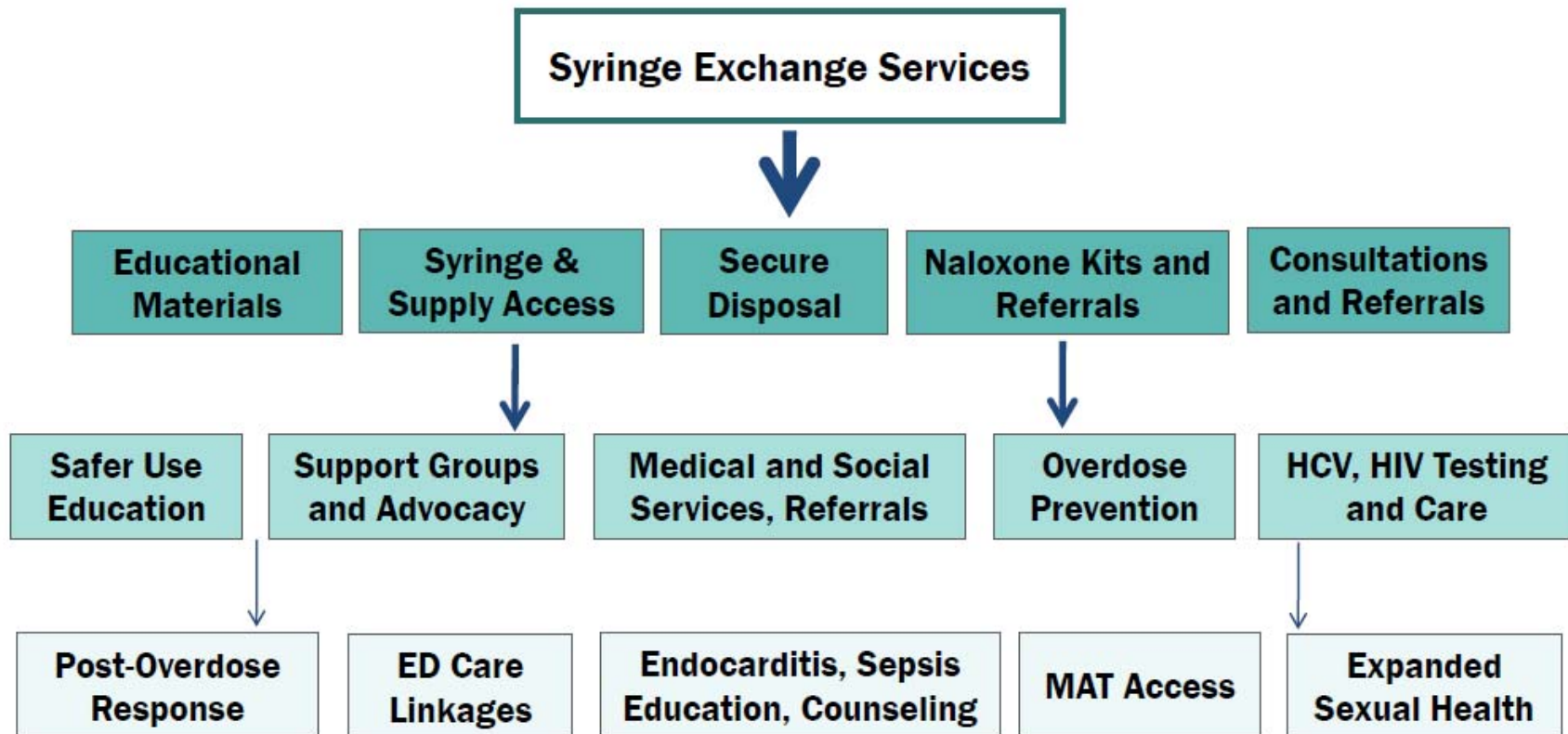
Other tools to prevent HIV and hepatitis, including counseling, condoms, and PrEP (a medicine to prevent HIV)



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

From CDC, Vital Signs, December 2016

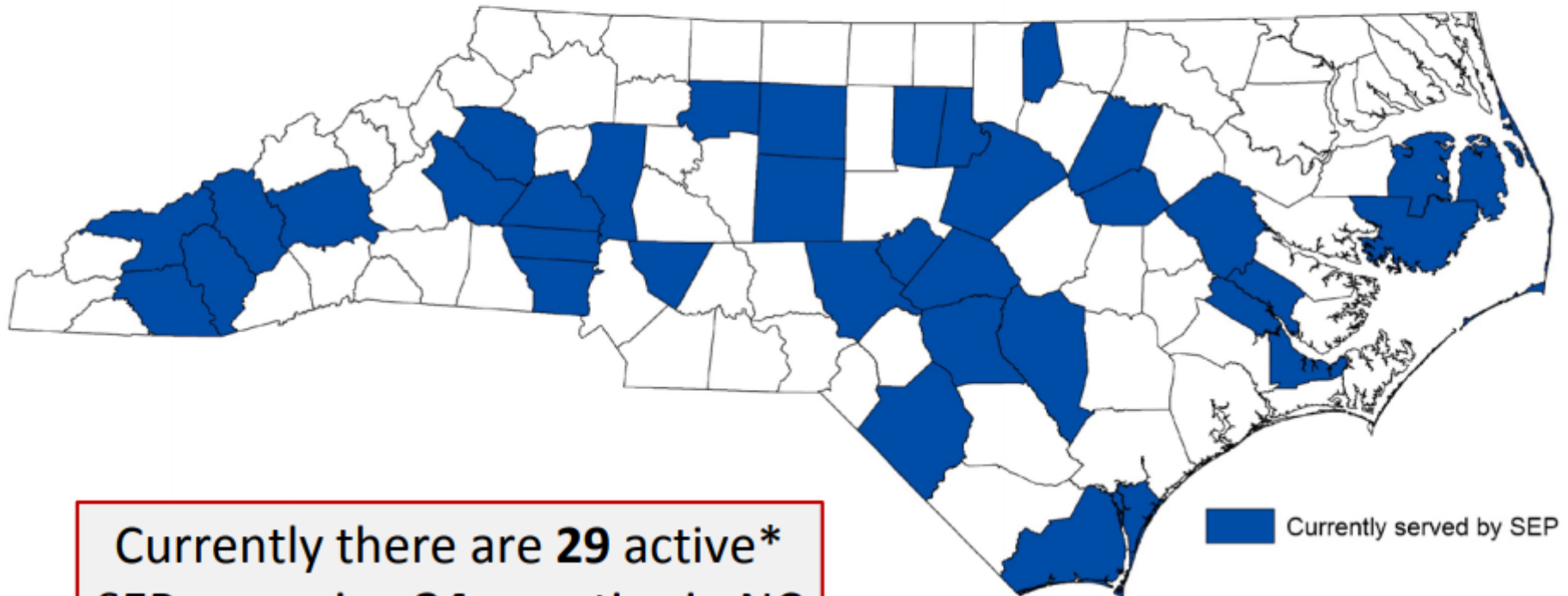
## Syringe Exchange Starts a Conversation



*People who use exchanges care about their health*

From: "The State of the State: An Update on the Opioid Epidemic" presentation by Dr. Susan Kansagra, Section Chief, Chronic Disease and Injury, NC Division of Public Health, 4/9/2018

## Counties currently served by Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) as of April 30, 2018



Currently there are **29** active\*  
SEPs covering **34** counties in NC

\*There may be SEPs operating that are not represented on this map; in order to be counted as an active SEP, paperwork must be submitted to the NC Division of Public Health.

Source: North Carolina Division of Public Health, May 2018  
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

North Carolina  
Injury & Violence  
PREVENTION Branch

# Current SEPs in Buncombe County



**Needle Exchange  
Program of Asheville  
(NEPA)**



# Next Steps

- Collaborate with NEPA & Steady to identify areas of unmet need
- Learn from NC health departments with SEPs
- Design a BCHHS clinic-based SEP
- Educate public about safe sharps disposal
- Increase access to safe sharps disposal throughout county