

Needle Distribution in Winnipeg: Recent Trends

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Drug and Overdose Matters
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Data Sources

- Monthly statistics (monthly totals)



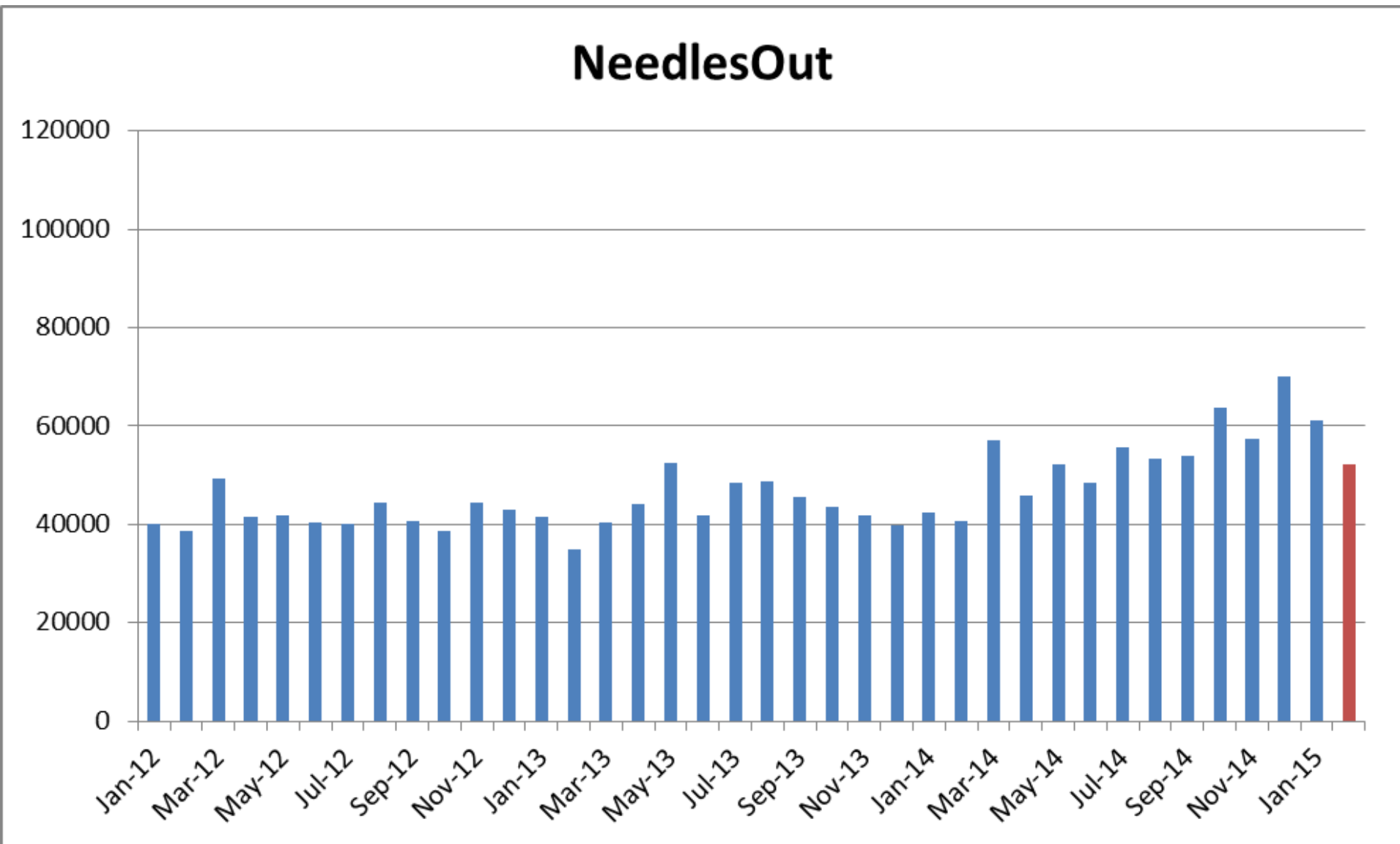
496
Hargrave



- ‘Enhanced’ statistics (individual encounters): **Sept 2014 + Sept 2016**
- Client surveys

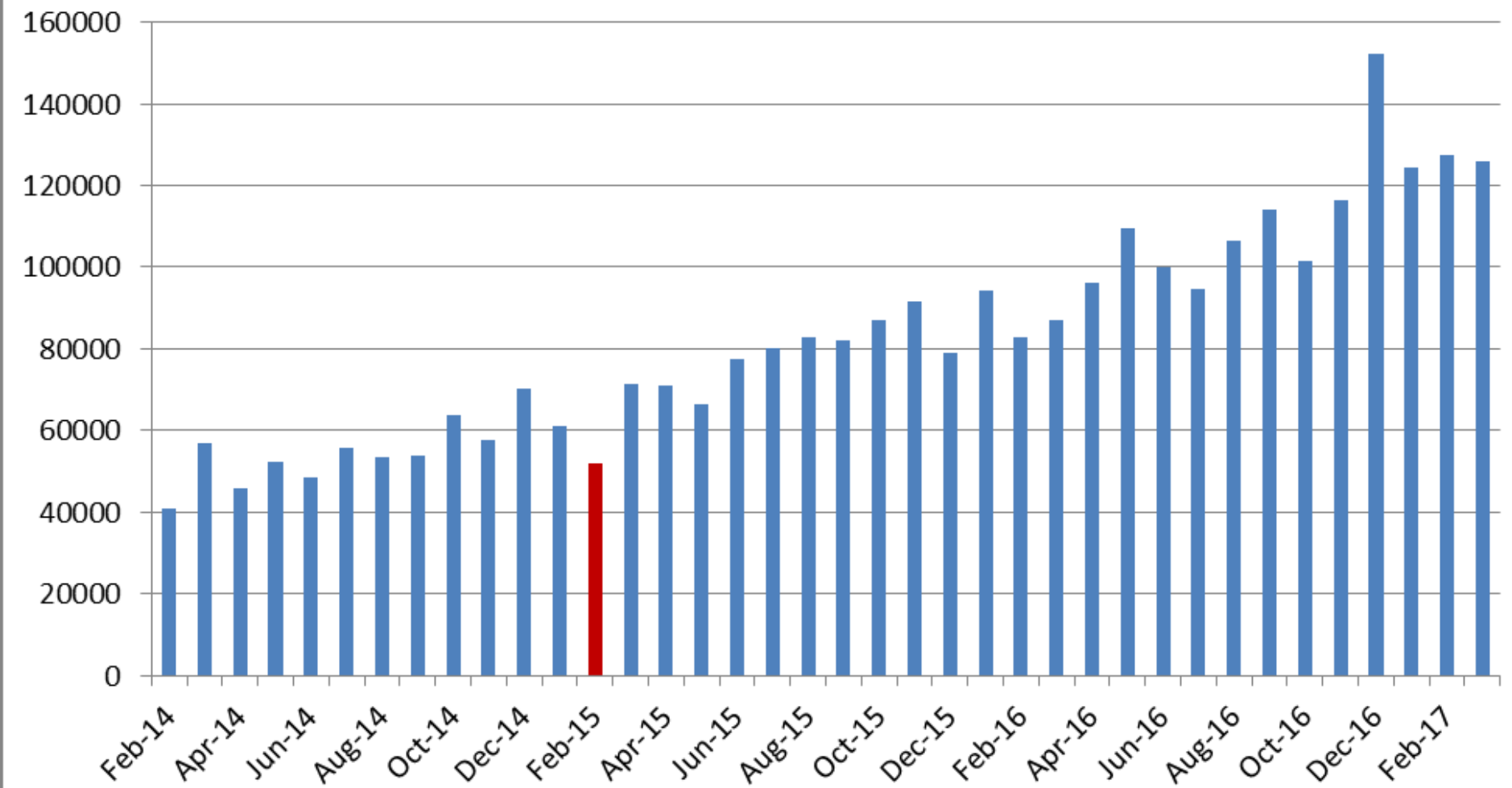


The old normal...



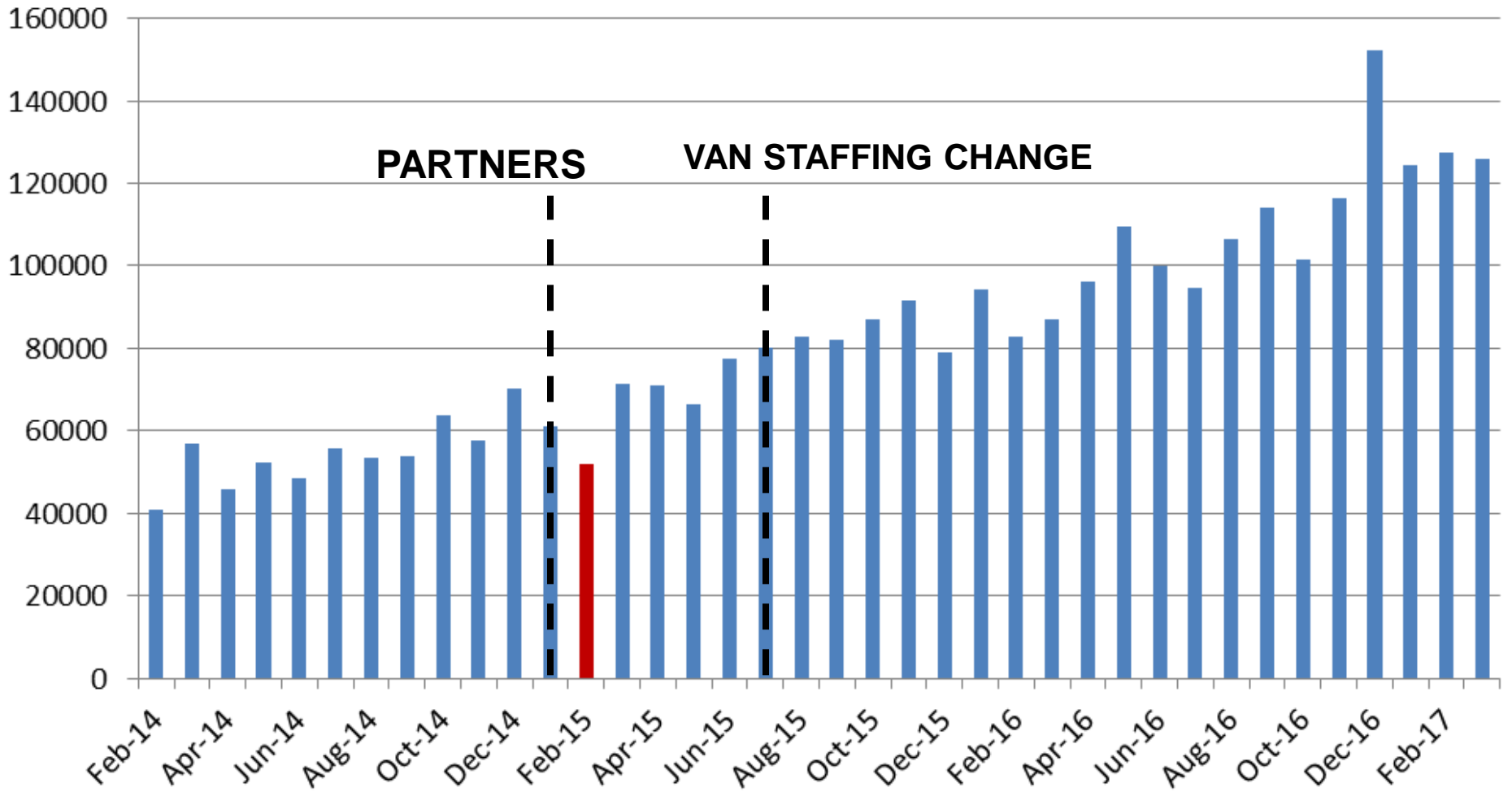
And now

NeedlesOut



Some changes

NeedlesOut



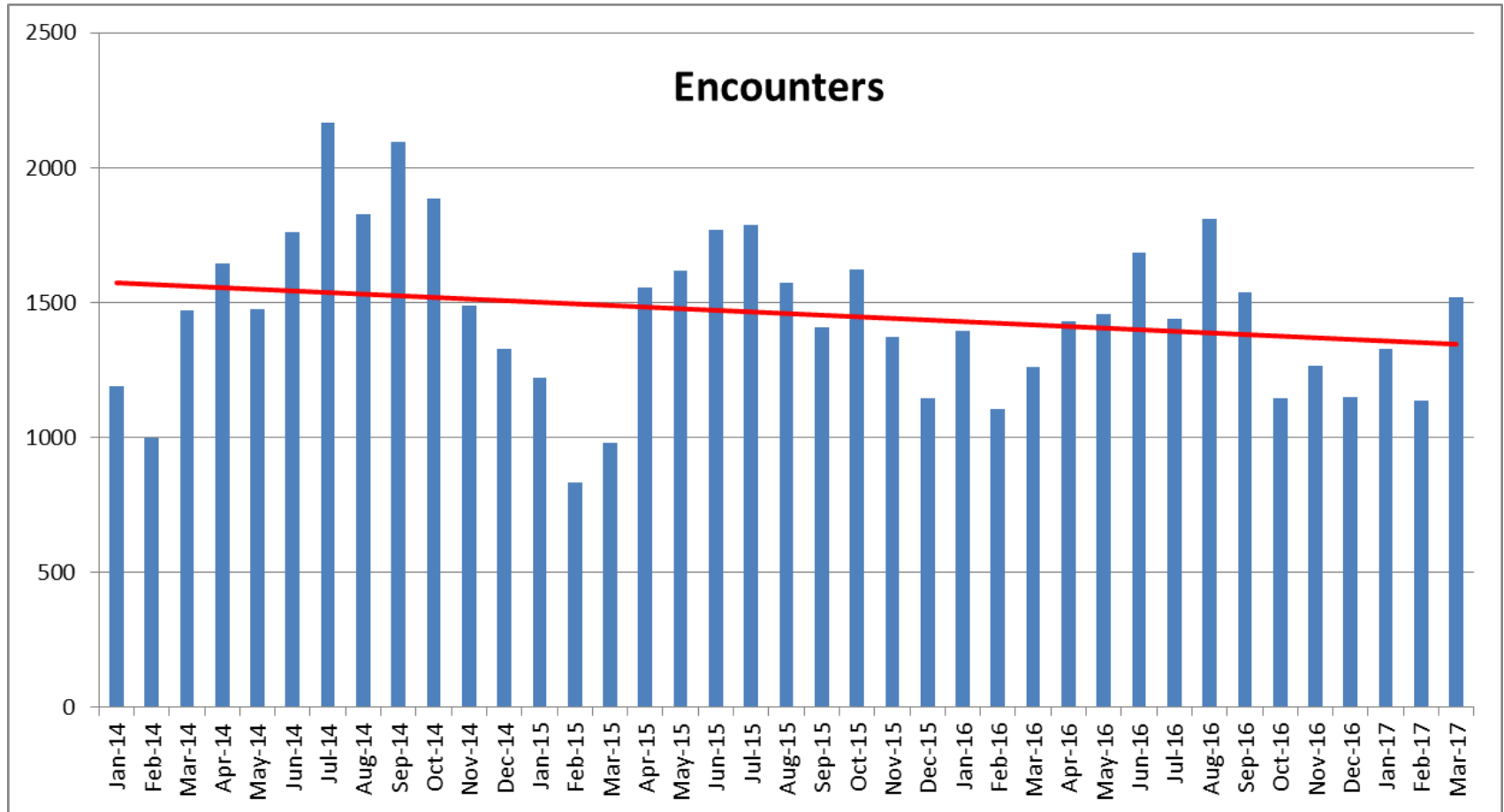
Hypotheses

1. More people are using drugs (all routes)
2. More people are injecting drugs
3. People who inject are injecting more frequently
4. The change to van staffing is a factor
5. More needles are leaving town



Hypotheses

1. More people are using drugs (all routes)



Hypotheses

2. More people are injecting drugs



Sept 2014	Sept 2016
71%	64%

Sept 2014	Sept 2016
21%	47%



Hypotheses

3. People who inject are injecting more frequently



Sept 2014	Sept 2016
20/clt.	20/clt.

Sept 2014	Sept 2016
200/clt.	200/clt.

Hypotheses

4. The change to van staffing is a factor

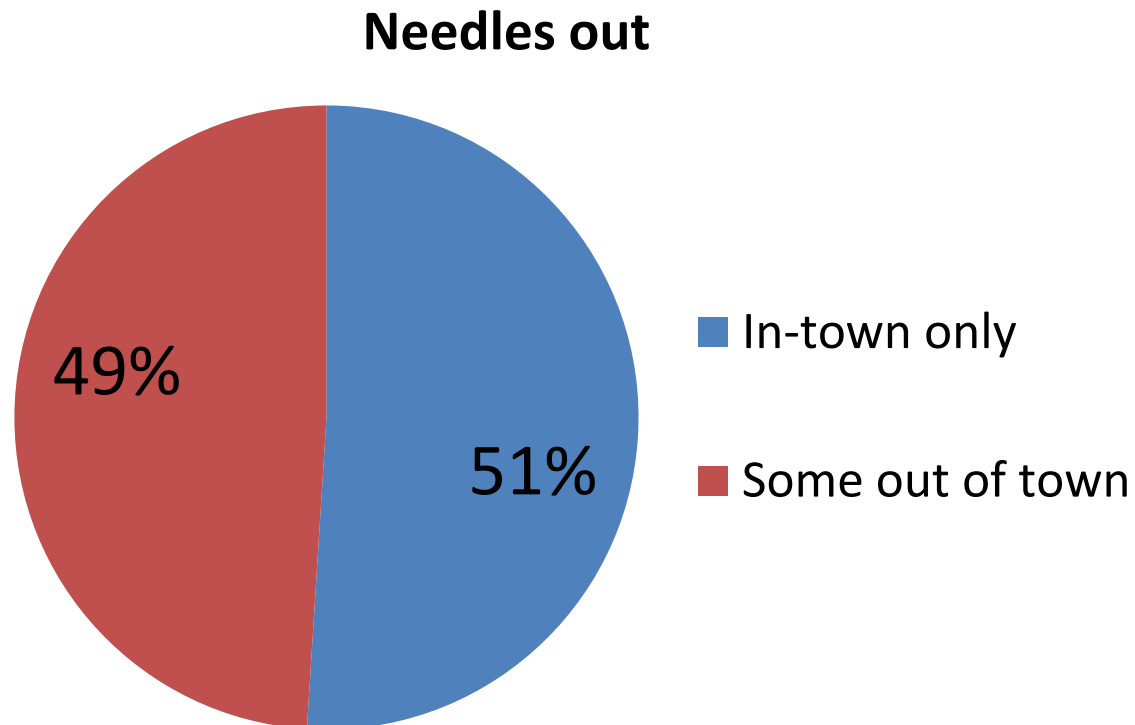


	Sept 2014	Sept 2016
Avg. HV/night	4	7
Total HV in a month	96	147
Total needle distribution	21,845	44,480

Hypotheses

5. More needles are leaving town

Of 49 survey respondents in September 2016:



Don't forget...

It could just be that people are using more SAFELY (i.e., we're meeting the demand better than before).

If no rise in HCV/HIV among people who use drugs, what we have is:

- ✓ a budget problem, plus
- ✓ something happening re: use, but not
- ✓ an STBBI problem necessarily.



Conclusions

- There doesn't appear to be an increase in the number of people using drugs.
- People who once were smoking drugs are now injecting them (e.g., getting 20 needles at a time instead of 2 safer crack use kits).



Conclusions

Drug-use is likely happening more safely, both for previous users of injection drugs and for former smokers. **(But need to watch the epi of HCV and HIV closely.)**

- We've been able to accommodate this shift because of our increased ability to serve home visits.
- Some proportion of needles is leaving town.



Thank you!!

Questions?

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