

# BRIDGING THE GAP



## SMALLTOWN, USA

Welcome to Austin, Indiana. Population 4500. A small rural town with the largest HIV outbreak in Indiana history. Over 135 cases have been diagnosed since March 2015. A public health emergency has been declared in this county by the Governor. Needle sharing is to blame for the breakout. Sharing of used needles to shoot IV drugs like Opana, a synthetic liquefied pain killer seems to be the drug of choice currently in this small community. An emergency needle exchange was set up to help prevent the spread of HIV. New syringes, information on drug rehabilitation, bandages, cotton balls and condoms are given out to help prevent the spread of HIV. Many health officials fear this is just the start of the epidemic.

Indiana has Specialists from other states assisting in identifying contacts of the newly diagnosed cases to help prevent the spread of HIV. The HIV virus is transmitted three ways: blood to blood, sexually, and mother to baby. Call your local health department to find out about testing.

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The Ohio Department of Health's Ryan White Part B program is seeking input from people living with HIV/AIDS in Ohio. The goal of the survey is to better understand the current HIV health care needs in order to improve services. Your participation will be helpful in determining how to best serve PLWHA in Ohio. The survey is voluntary and anonymous. We invite you to take the survey either online at the link below or call 614-947-8899 and take the survey over the phone: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Ohio2015RWB>. If you have any questions please contact Heather Shoemaker, RW Case MGR at 740-354-8921.

## Mark Your Calendars-Upcoming Events

**August 8 Bi-Annual Benefit Yard Sale**  
Held at 4899 Black Run Rd, Chillicothe, 8am to 4 pm  
\*\*\*\*\*Volunteers Needed\*\*\*\*\*

**September 6 Cookout**  
Held at 4899 Black Run Rd, Chillicothe, 2pm to 5pm

**October 3 Bi-Annual Cabaret Style Benefit Show**  
Check website for Updates. Doors Open at 7. Show starts at 8.

**October 31 Halloween Parade**  
**\*\*Volunteers Needed\*\***

**November 22 Thanksgiving Gathering**  
Held at Carver Community Center, 165 w 4<sup>th</sup> St, Chillicothe 2-5

**December 1<sup>st</sup> World AIDS Day Observance**  
Held at The Pump House Art Gallery, 1 Enderline Circle,  
Chillicothe

**December 27 Christmas Gathering**  
Held at Carver Community Center, 165 W 4<sup>th</sup> St. Chillicothe  
2-5

**Check FaceBook & Website Often for Updates**

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### **Healthy Foods From A Blender** **“Purple Cow”**

- Blend Together
- 1 cup grape juice
- 1 scoop ice cream
- 1 ripe banana

On days you don't feel like eating or have mouth ulcers, try making yourself a healthy blender drink. These drinks are easier to swallow and nutritious.