



**Department
of Health**

Hepatitis C Elimination Progress Report

New York State Program and Policy Updates

Colleen Flanigan, RN, MS

Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology

Achievements



- Estimated baselines status for key outcomes to inform the development of targets for the New York State Hepatitis C elimination plan.
- Fully legalized the possession of syringes and all non-injection drug use equipment and ensure that any drug residue found on any injection equipment be excluded from qualifying as criminal possession of a controlled substance.

More Achievements



- Created tools to improve surveillance and outbreak detection.
- Expanded the New York State Hepatitis C Testing Law.
- Implemented universal hepatitis C screening of all pregnant women.

Even More Achievements



- Revised the Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP) to eliminate the 10-syringe cap and lift advertising and other unnecessary restrictions of the program.
- Support the evolution of the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports' policy to move away from an abstinence-only service model.

Priority Population: People who use drugs

Advisory Group on Hepatitis C Treatment Among People Who Inject Drugs

- Group of hepatitis C subject matter experts.
 - Various priority settings.
- Engaged in a 6-month process to answer the following question:
 - *What are five strategies that New York State needs to implement to markedly increase access to hepatitis C treatment for people who inject drugs?*
- Prioritize, refine and group the answers.
- Develop a report outlining the strategies.

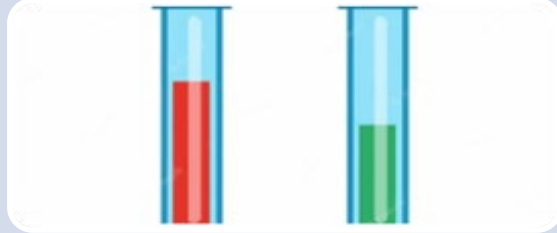
Testing and Linkage to Care 6:
Expand and extend the New York
State Hepatitis C Testing Law.

New York State Universal Hepatitis C Screening



Offer of a hepatitis C screening test to:

- all persons 18 years and older
- all persons under 18 with identified risk



Inpatient and out-patient hospital clinics
Primary care settings
Emergency departments

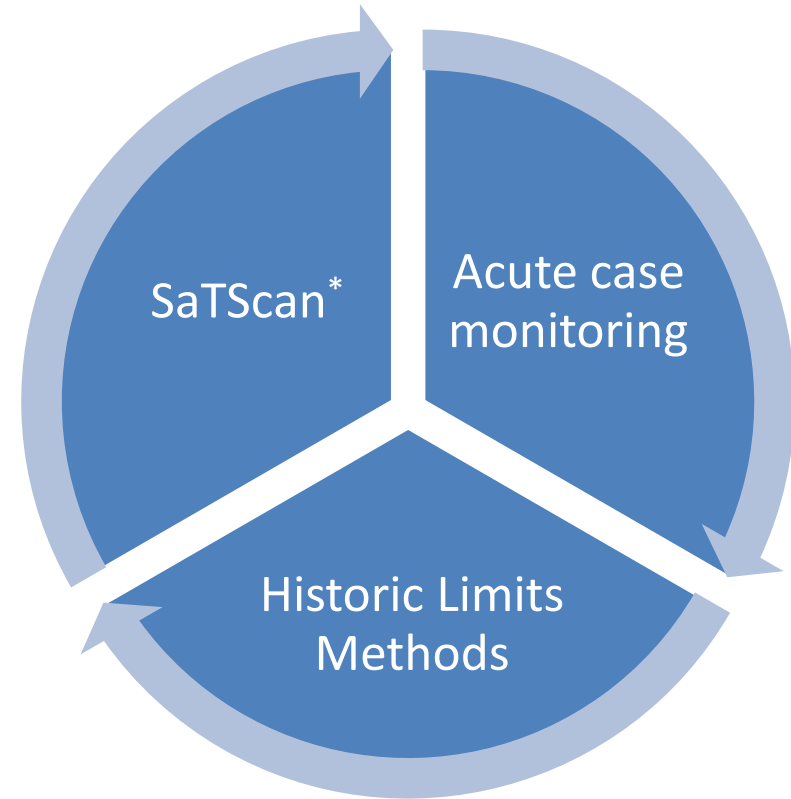


If screening test is positive, reflex to hepatitis C ribonucleic acid testing (RNA).

If hepatitis C ribonucleic acid testing (RNA) test is detectable offer or refer to hepatitis C care and treatment

Testing and Linkage to Care 9:
Create tools to improve surveillance and outbreak detection so that testing can be offered to those at risk.

Hepatitis C Cluster and Outbreak Detection



Comprehensive approach to cluster/outbreak detection:

- **Acute case monitoring:** Epidemiologists daily monitor newly reported cases for case completeness and information of health care exposures.
- **SaTScan*:** Weekly run
- **Historic Limits Methods:** Weekly run

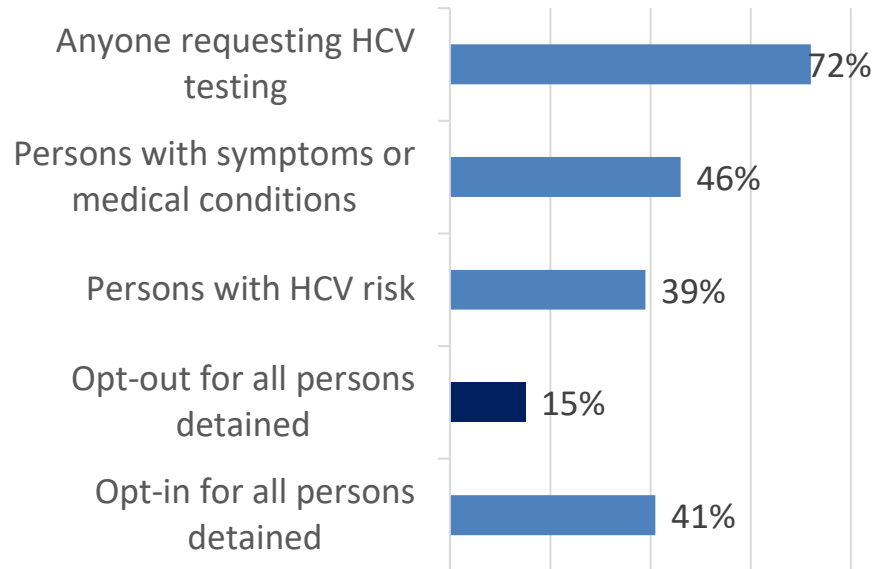
*Software for the spatial, temporal, and space-time scan statistics

Priority Population:
Currently or formerly involved in
the justice system.

Priority Setting: Correctional
facilities, including jails,
courthouses, prisons.

Hepatitis C Testing in Jails

People Routinely Offered Hepatitis C Testing in Surveyed Jails (n=46)

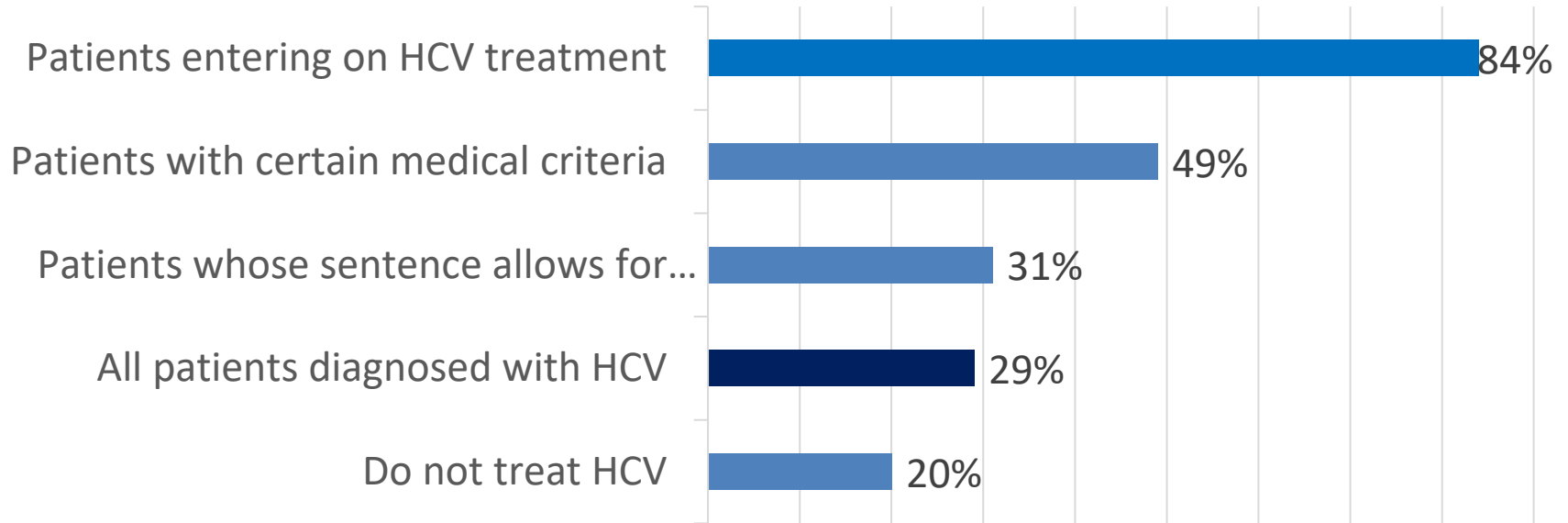


Type of Hepatitis C Testing Conducted

- **80% serum Hepatitis C antibody test**
- 27% offer Hepatitis C rapid testing
- Of those offering any antibody testing:
 - **59% offer HCV ribonucleic acid testing (RNA)**
 - **48% reflex to Hepatitis C ribonucleic acid testing (RNA)**
- 11% were unsure of the type of testing done

Hepatitis C Treatment in Jails

Circumstances for Hepatitis C Treatment in Surveyed Jails (n=45)



Leveraging existing jail medical infrastructure

- 22/57 local jails contract with one medical provider – Prime Care Medical, Inc.
- Launched Hepatitis C Screening Pilot
 - Two jails (large and small)
- Collaborated to develop new hepatitis C universal screening policy of all inmates at intake
- Populated Learning Management System with hepatitis C training for staff

Leveraging existing jail medical infrastructure

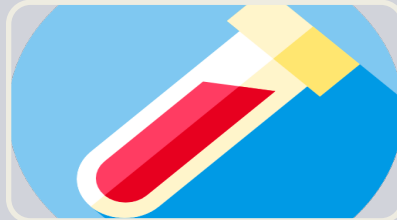
- Collaborated to develop policy for oversight and quality control of point of care testing.
- Created workflow job aid to incorporate fingerstick testing and completion of release of hepatitis C information at intake.
 - Incorporated how to offer hepatitis C test as “Opt-Out” vs. “Opt-in” job aid
- Scheduled calls with respective hepatitis C care providers and navigation programs to develop concrete referral processes and memorandums of understanding.

Testing and Linkage to Care 3:
Implement universal hepatitis
C screening of all pregnant
persons.

New York State Hepatitis C Screening Among Pregnant People



Providers attending to pregnant people order a hepatitis C screening test.



If screening test is positive, reflex to hepatitis C ribonucleic acid (RNA) test.



If hepatitis C RNA is detectable, link to hepatitis C care and treatment.



Document hepatitis C test results in medical record.

New York State Test4HepC Campaign



https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/testing/

Print Patient Education Materials

HEPATITIS C



New York State Hepatitis C Testing Requirements

What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease. It can cause severe liver damage, liver cancer, and even death if left untreated. However, people with hepatitis C can be successfully treated and cured with medications.

Hepatitis C is spread mainly by contact with the blood of people who have hepatitis C. This can happen by sharing equipment for injecting drugs, or for tattoos or body piercing. Hepatitis C can also be passed from a pregnant person to their baby during pregnancy.

What are New York State requirements for hepatitis C testing?

New York State requires a hepatitis C screening test be provided to:

- Everyone 18 years or older.
- People with a risk who are younger than 18 years.

• Everyone 18 years or older.
 If a person has a hepatitis C screening test, make sure they get the results and take care with care and treatment.
 Why
 • New York State
 • Make sure
 • All
 • Test

Available in essential 12 languages

When should I get tested for hepatitis C?
 People who should get tested for hepatitis C:
 • Have ever shared needles, syringes, or any other equipment for preparing and injecting drugs.
 • Got a tattoo or body piercing from an unlicensed artist, such as on the street or while in jail.
 • Shared drug



Protect yourself. Get tested for hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C is a liver disease that can affect you and your baby while you are pregnant. All pregnant people are required to be tested for hepatitis C. Results are confidential. There is treatment. You can be cured.

For more information go to www.health.ny.gov



Caring for your baby with hepatitis C



Protect your baby. Get tested for hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C can be passed to your baby during pregnancy. Your baby will need to be tested for hepatitis C at 2 months or older. Treatment is available that can cure hepatitis C in children 3 years and older.

Available in English and Spanish

Provider Education Materials



Department of Health

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Acting Executive Deputy Com

October 2023

Dear Obstetricians and Gynecologists:

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) and the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) now recommend universal hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening of all pregnant persons during each pregnancy regardless of risk. The [New York State \(NYS\) HCV Elimination Plan](#) has identified universal HCV screening among pregnant people as a priority for moving NYS toward HCV elimination by 2030.

Effective May 3, 2024, all NYS providers attending a pregnant person will be required to screen for HCV at each pregnancy and document the result prominently in the medical record at or before the time of hospital admission for delivery. HCV screening may occur at any time during pregnancy.

An estimated 2.2 million people in the United States are living with hepatitis C. Forty percent of people among persons of color are living with hepatitis C. The number of people living with hepatitis C has doubled in babies born in the United States since 2010.

The development of new treatments for hepatitis C means that more people can be cured. Studies are ongoing about the potential for curing hepatitis C during pregnancy and the impact on the person and their child.

NYS obstetricians and midwives are adopting the new [Clinical Educator](#)

HEPATITIS C



New York State Requirements for Universal Hepatitis C Testing

Why does New York State require universal hepatitis C testing?

- New cases of hepatitis C are on the rise, particularly among reproductive age adults. Most new infections occur among adults 20-39 years of age. Hepatitis C among pregnant people has increased over the last decade.
- Most people with hepatitis C have no symptoms. Almost half of people with hepatitis C are unaware of their infection.
- If left untreated, hepatitis C can lead to serious liver disease.
- Hepatitis C is curable. More than 90 percent of people with hepatitis C can be treated and cured with 8–12 weeks of oral therapy.
- Testing is the first step to getting curative treatment and eliminating hepatitis C in New York State.

What are New York State requirements for universal hepatitis C testing?

Effective May 3, 2024, New York State requires a hepatitis C screening test be provided to:

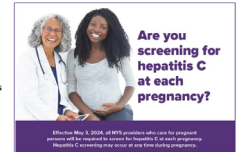
- Every person 18 years and older.
- People younger than 18 if there is indication of risk.

Hepatitis C Screening During Pregnancy Provider Toolkit - November 2023

Introduction and Purpose

This toolkit was developed to assist prenatal care and maternity settings with implementing the requirement of hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening of pregnant people, and linkage to care for those with diagnosed HCV infection. HCV screening is part of New York State's [Hepatitis C Elimination Plan](#). Information about the number of new HCV diagnoses each year and specific metrics related to HCV elimination can be found on the [NYS HCV Elimination Dashboard](#).

The toolkit provides impacted health care facilities, and the providers who work in them, with an overview of NYS requirements for HCV screening of pregnant people. It provides links to clinical guidance, resources, shares best practices, and information about how to request additional technical assistance. HCV is a bloodborne pathogen that is spread by contact with blood from an infected person. HCV can be transmitted from a pregnant person to their infant during pregnancy or delivery, with a rate of transmission of approximately 6%. HCV among the US obstetric population rose nearly 10-fold over the last 20 years. Because of the association of HCV infection risk with current or past injection drug use, this toolkit provides important information about pregnancy and substance use, with a focus on providing affirming services for all pregnant people and their infants. This toolkit will



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Requirements for Universal Hepatitis C Testing Information for Health Care Providers

Are you screening for hepatitis C at each pregnancy?

Testing Information Testing During Pregnancy Health Care Providers



Best technical assistance.

How to navigate the resources)

Resource	Page
1-2	1-2
3-4	3-4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9-11	9-11
12-15	12-15



Priority Population:
People who use drugs.

Priority Setting:
Substance use disorder
treatment programs.

Learning Collaborative – Outpatient substance use disorder and opioid treatment programs

- Conduct Organizational Assessment
- Complete Staff Knowledge Assessment
- Monthly Collaborative Calls
- Individual Technical Assistance Calls
- Collect and submit data

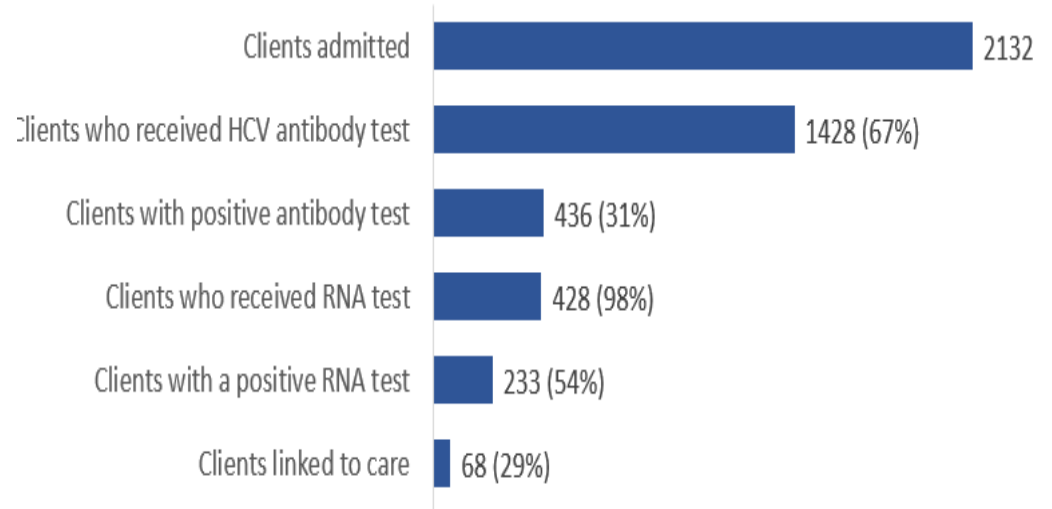


Program Successes



- All programs are offering hepatitis C testing onsite.
 - Including reflex testing
- Established relationships with hepatitis C providers.
- Staff received training to build knowledge.
- Implemented billing for hepatitis C testing.
- Providing hepatitis C treatment onsite
- Established plans to sustain hepatitis C services post collaborative.

Learning Collaborative HCV Care Cascade: Testing and Linkage 9/1/22-3/27/24



Nurse Care Coordination in Opioid Treatment Programs

- Provide funding to support:
 - Registered nurse care coordinator and peer
- Required activities:
 - Hepatitis C education and counseling
 - Hepatitis client identification
 - Hepatitis A and B vaccination
 - Care Coordination
 - Peer delivered services

Testing and Linkage to Care 8:

Design screening and linkage to care, and treatment delivery models and processes that better engage complex patient populations (e.g., active drug users, homeless, persons with mental illness, etc.).

Sun River Health Care Mobile Van

- Hepatitis C testing and treatment provided on mobile.
- Van staffed with linkage specialist, clinician, nurse and peer.
 - Van driver registers clients
- Parked outside methadone programs in Suffolk county.



Social Determinants of Health:

Improve access to health care, including both medication for opioid use disorder and hepatitis C treatment at syringe exchange programs.

OnPoint Innovative Model of Care

- Hepatitis C testing and treatment and buprenorphine.
- Clinicians onsite 4 days a week, nurses, care coordinator, peer.
- Other services: meals, shower, laundry, acupuncture.



Mount Sinai + VOCAL-NY

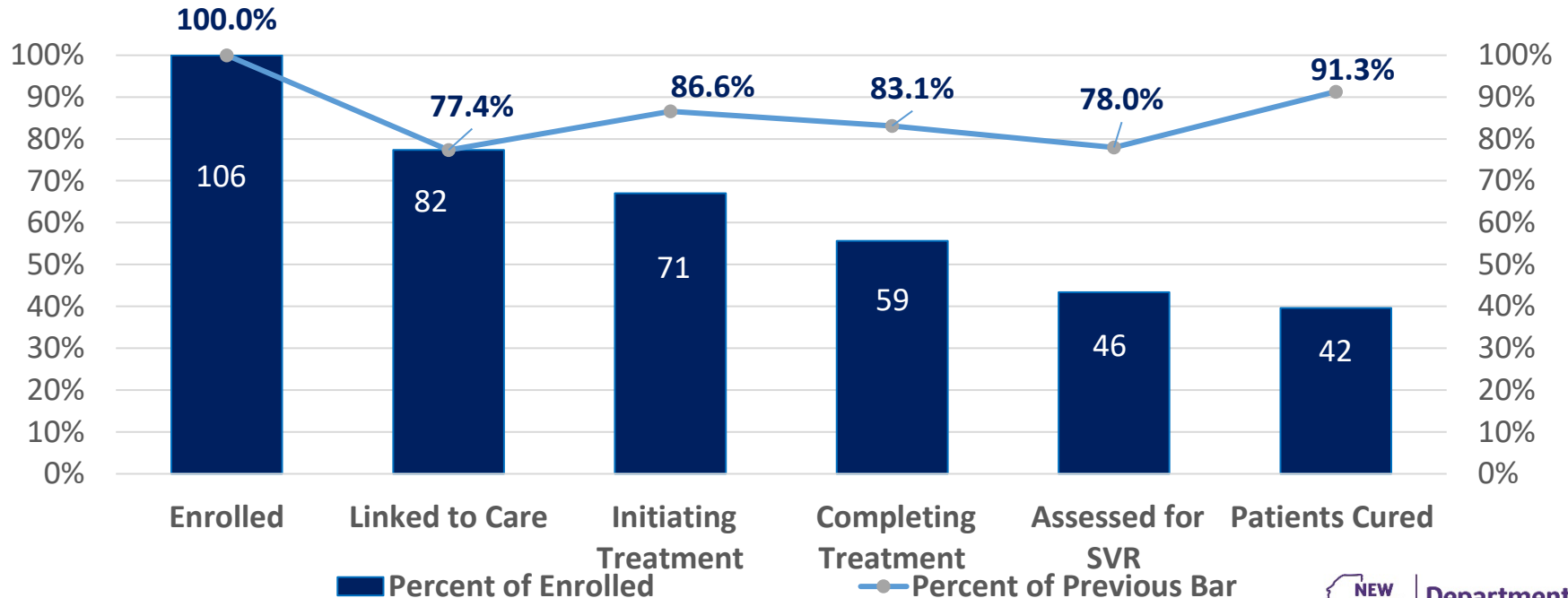
- Brick and mortar clinic co-located within syringe exchange program (VOCAL-NY)
- Program staff: care coordinator, peer, nurse practitioner.
- Mount Sinai nurse practitioner on site three days/week
 - Telehealth option available
- Provide hepatitis C testing and treatment and medication for opioid use disorder.



Mount
Sinai



Treatment Outcomes at Syringe Service Programs; 7/2019-12/2023

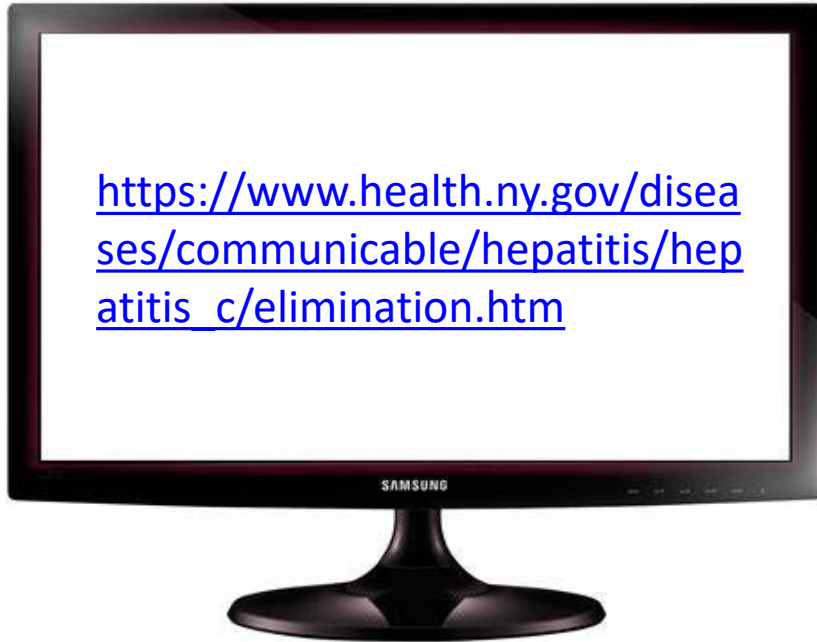



Upcoming Activities

- Perinatal Hepatitis C Prevention.
- Hepatitis C infrastructure survey of New York State community health centers.
- Low threshold treatment models.
- Investing in point of care diagnostic testing.



Track New York State's Progress Towards Elimination






New York State

Hepatitis C Elimination Plan Progress Report

2022

Hepatitis C Elimination Recommendations Met



Surveillance, Data and Metrics Recommendation

Estimate baseline status for key outcomes to inform the development of realistic but ambitious targets for these outcomes as part of the New York State HCV elimination plan.


Social Determinants of Health Recommendation

Fully legalize the possession of both syringes and all non-injection drug use equipment and ensure that any drug residue found on any syringe or non-syringe injection equipment, regardless of the syringe or equipment's origin, be excluded from qualifying as criminal possession of a controlled substance.

Social Determinants of Health Recommendation

Support the evolution of New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) policy away from an abstinence-only service model.

Hepatitis C Key Accomplishments by Focus Area¹



Hepatitis C Prevention

- State corrections and local jails established medication for opioid use disorder programs (P3).
- Two overdose prevention centers opened in New York City (P7).

Hepatitis C Testing and Linkage to Care

- Hepatitis C learning collaborative for substance use disorder treatment programs launched (TLC8,TLC12).
- Hepatitis B and C outbreak and detection response plan developed (TLC9).

Hepatitis C Care and Treatment Access

- Hepatitis C billing guidance issued for opioid treatment programs (CTA5).
- Hepatitis C telehealth collaborative launched in New York State Addiction Treatment Centers (CTA6).
- Hepatitis C telehealth toolkit published (CTA6)

Social Determinants of Health

AIDS Institute hepatitis C care and treatment initiative implemented screening for social determinants of health (SDH8,SDH14).

Surveillance, Data and Metrics

- Elimination metrics were published on the Hepatitis C Elimination Dashboard (SDM6).
- Processes developed to improve hepatitis C laboratory reporting data (SDM1,SDM2).

Hepatitis C Dashboard

[ABOUT](#) ▾[DATA](#) ▾[BLOG](#)[RESOURCES](#)[SIGN UP](#)

MEASURE



TRACK



DISSEMINATE



The purpose of the HCV Dashboard is to **measure**, **track** and **disseminate** actionable information on progress towards **eliminating hepatitis C** as a public health problem in New York State.

ABOUT THE HCV DASHBOARD

<https://hcvdashboardny.org/>



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Acknowledgements

Bureau of
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Epidemiology
Team

