# HEPATITIS ELIMINATION IN HAWAI'I





# Hepatitis in Hawai'i

#### **TIMOTHY MCCORMICK (HE, HIM)** DOH HARM REDUCTION SERVICES BRANCH



#### Hep B Burden in US, 2021

Estimated Acute Infections Reported Acute Cases Reset





#### Hep B Burden in US, 2021

In 2021, the rate of newly reported chronic hepatitis B was **14x higher among non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander persons** than among non-Hispanic White persons



#### **UNIVERSAL HBV VACCINES**

#### April 2022





#### **UNIVERSAL HBV SCREENING**

#### March 2023

Update: All adults should be tested at least once for hepatitis B. Have you been tested?

bit.ly/rr7201a1 MARCH 10, 2023

- Hepatitis B infection can cause liver cancer and early death
- Most people with the virus don't know they have it
- Treatment is available schedule your screening today









#### Hep C Burden in US

Estimated Acute Infections Reported Acute Cases (Reset)





#### Hep C Burden in US





#### Hep C Burden in US

■ 0-19 years ■ 20-29 years ■ 30-39 years ■ 40-49 years ■ 50-59 years ■ ≥60 years (Reset)





#### **INSUFFICIENT HCV TREATMENT**

#### June 2023

#### ADULTS DIAGNOSED AND CURED\* OF HEPATITIS C IN THE U.S. 2013–2022



\*Cured is defined as viral clearance, which is an undetectable hepatitis C virus ribonucleic acid (HCV RNA) after a prior test result of detectable HCV RNA. \*\*Referred to as Other (client or self-pay) in the analysis Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# Hepatitis Burden in Hawai'i **VIRAL HEPATITIS CAUSES** LIVER CANCER Hepatitis B and C account for 2 out of 3 of liver cancer cases in Hawai 'i

LIVER CANCER IS HIGH

Hawai 'i has higher rates of liver cancer and deaths compared to U.S.

Sources: Wong et al, AJS 2015; CDC, Cancer Statistics 2018



#### Hep C Mortality in HI



Residents with hepatitis C died 20 years earlier

on average, compared to rest of state from 2016-2017.



# Hep C Mortality in HI

# Highest proportion of **Native Hawaiian**, **Pacific Islander, and Asian deaths** among HCV-listed deaths (2016-2017), compared to other states.

https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/71/5/1149/5581721



#### **HIGHER RATES**

#### of Hepatitis B Deaths (2000-2020)

#### 3 TIMES HIGHER IN HAWAI'I

In 2019, Hep B mortality rate for <u>Hawai'i</u> was **1.17 deaths per 100,000**, compared to 0.42 per 100,000 for the United States.



#### API RESIDENTS IN HAWAI'I

Hep B mortality rates for Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents were **up to 1.4 times state average** from 2000 to 2020.

https://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/new-hep-b-mortality-article/

### Hep Infrastructure in DOH

**1 FTE Prevention Coordinator** 

- CDC funds since 2002
- ~ \$75,000/year for programs (state)

1 FTE Surveillance Coordinator

- CDC funds since 2020
- Recently approved, pending hire
- No dedicated surveillance for over 12 years



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#### **Community Collaboration**



# Hep Free 2030

#### **THADDEUS PHAM (HE, HIM)** DOH VIRAL HEPATITIS PREVENTION PROGRAM



# Hepfree Hawaii MORE THAN 10 YEARS TOGETHER



# **HEP FREE 2030:** THE HAWAI'I HEPATITIS **ELIMINATION STRATEGY** 2020-2030





### Fail Fast and Amplify Good

#### WHAT DOES MICRO-ELIMINATION MEAN?

Micro-elimination means that we will work on many different, innovative, communitydriven projects at the same time. This allows us to tailor hepatitis elimination to the needs of each community and to change direction quickly if things aren't working.<sup>xvi</sup>



### **Values in Practice**



# **Values in Practice**

#### "OUR FIGHT AGAINST HEPATITIS IS ALSO A FIGHT AGAINST STIGMA, DISCRIMINATION, AND INEQUITY."

- HFH Steering Committee Member, whose uncle had hepatitis B



# **Mission and Vision**

#### Mission

- To empower Hawai'i 'ohana to promote liver health and wellness
- To raise awareness and increase access for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of liver disease, especially viral hepatitis and related harms
- To erase stigma, social and racial inequity, and health disparities surrounding communities affected by liver disease

#### Vision

- To create a Hawai'i free of hepatitis and other liver disease
- To promote liver health by integrating culturally appropriate services within a comprehensive system of care







# WE SAVE LIVES



#### Hep Free 2030 Priorities





# **Priority 1: Awareness and Education**



DIGITAL PRESENCE



CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT



EXPERTISE



HEALTHCARE EDUCATION



#### Hep C ECHO

**•Case-based learning with experts** 

 Networking for providers and healthcare team

Mondays (12-1:30 pm HST) until
November 20

o∼60 attendees during sessions

oRegister and present a case





# **Priority 2: Access to Services**





#### Hep C in Corrections

MOA with Public Safety for 340B pricing

oTrained over 70 healthcare staff

○Piloting Hep C rapid testing onsite

Coordinate post-release transistion w community



Credit: Cory Lum/Civil Beat/2022



# **Priority 3: Policy at All Levels**





#### MedQUEST Reduces Hep C Restrictions



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 18, 2023

CONTACT: Heather Lusk, Co-Director, Hep Free Hawai'i, <u>hlusk@hhhrc.org</u> Christina Wang, Medical Director, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center, <u>cwang@hhhrc.org</u>

> Hep Free Hawai'i Applauds Med-QUEST Memo Reducing Barriers to Hepatitis C Treatment

Policy Change Will Expand Access for Under Resourced Patients Under National Best Practice Guidelines & Strengthen Hawai'i's Hepatitis Elimination Efforts

Move Comes after Hawai'i Receives a "D" Grade in 2022 Nationwide Report

Hepatitis C Virus a Leading Cause of Liver Cancer in Hawai'i

(Honolulu, HI)-Hep Free Hawai'i (HFH), a local coalition dedicated to increasing access to viral hepatitis





# **Priority 4: Equity in Everything**





# **Local Hep Storytellers**



- Okee's story on Youtube- <u>English</u> or <u>Korean</u> subtitles
- Promoted by social media, email, website, press release
- Storytellers become leaders, locally and nationally
- https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/ storytellers



# **Priority 5: Data for Decision-Making**



DATA TO ACTION (CARE CASCADES)



CROSS-CUTTING EVALUATION



SURVEILLANCE INFRASTRUCTURE





#### **Voices of PWUD**

- DOH report featuring "talk story" interviews w PWUD on HCV treatment
- Developed infographic with DOH
- https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/ <u>news/hep-c-voices-report</u>





WHAT PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS SAY ABOUT HEP C CURE

In june 2023, the Hawai'i Department of Health released a landmark report that highlighted insights from people who use drugs to guide hepatitis C elimination programs. Such qualitative research aligns with "Equity in Everything", a chief priority of the Hep Free 2030 strategy (www.hepfreehawaii.org/hep-free-2030).

#### **VOICES OF LOCAL PEOPLE**



Updated July 31, 2023




# **Clinical Perspective** DR. NAOKY TSAI (HE, HIM)

JABSOM; PRACTICING HEPATOLOGIST



#### Rates\* of death with hepatitis C virus infection listed as a cause of death<sup>+</sup> among residents, by state or jurisdiction United States, 2020



#### Cases/100,000 Population



Color Key	Death/100,000 Population	State or Jurisdiction				
	0.00-2.34	IL, DE, CT, NH, NJ, ME, NY, MA, MI, UT, ND				
	2.35–2.65	IA, GA, PA, MO, WI, NE, IN, VA, HI, NC				
	2.66-3.50	AL, NV, SD, MN, OH, FL, SC, AZ, AR, RI				
	3.51–5.54	KS, MD, ID, MS, TX, WA, CA, VT, AK, MT				
	5.55–10.28	LA, WV, TN, CO, KY, WY, NM, OR, DC, OK				

© Australian Bureau of Statistics, GeoNames, Microsoft, Navinfo, Open Pl: Source: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death 1999–2020 on CDC WONDER Online

\* Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 US standard population in 2000 using the following age group distribution (in years): <1, 1–4, 5–14, 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45–54, 55–64, 65–74, 75–84, and ≥85. For age-adjusted death rates, the age-specific death rate is rounded to one decimal place before proceeding to the next step in the calculation of age-adjusted death rates for NCHS Multiple Cause of Death on CDC WONDER. This rounding step may affect the precision of rates calculated for small numbers of deaths. Missing data are not included.

<sup>+</sup> Cause of death is defined as one of the multiple causes of death and is based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) codes B17.1, and B18.2 (hepatitis C).

Database. Data are from the 2016–2020 Multiple Cause of Death files and are based on information from all death certificates filed in the vital records offices of the fifty states and the District of Columbia through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Deaths of nonresidents (e.g., nonresident aliens, nationals living abroad, residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and other US territories) and fetal deaths are excluded. Numbers are slightly lower than previously reported for 2016 due to NCHS standards which restrict displayed data to US residents. Accessed at <a href="http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html">http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html</a> on January 13, 2022. CDC WONDER dataset documentation and technical methods can be accessed at <a href="https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/mcd.html">https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/mcd.html</a>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report – United States, 2020. <u>https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2020surveillance/index.htm</u>. Published September 2022.

#### Table 3.7 – Part 1 of 4 Numbers and rates\* of deaths with hepatitis C listed as a cause of death† among residents, by state or jurisdiction United States, 2016–2020

State or Jurisdiction	2016 No.	2016 Rate*	2017 No.	2017 Rate*	2018 No.	2018 Rate*	2019 No.	2019 Rate*	2020 No.	2020 Rate*
Alabama	166	2.63	188	2.97	167	2.54	134	2.06	178	2.67
Alaska	50	5.38	38	4.38	40	5.00	41	4.66	46	5.17
Arizona	500	5.81	480	5.45	348	3.84	277	3.01	329	3.36
Arkansas	184	4.91	169	4.43	150	3.86	134	3.45	138	3.43
California	2,917	6.33	2,630	5.58	2,391	4.98	2,114	4.36	2,209	4.54
Colorado	385	5.74	386	5.62	387	5.48	376	5.24	424	5.84
Connecticut	123	2.52	130	2.61	89	1.72	102	2.03	102	1.97
Delaware	47	3.63	49	3.80	34	2.33	26	2.12	30	1.94
District of Columbia	95	13.37	83	11.42	70	9.40	75	10.08	73	9.65
Florida	1,222	4.26	1,222	4.16	1,005	3.34	1,025	3.31	1,012	3.22
Georgia	368	2.98	344	2.66	326	2.46	313	2.33	318	2.38
Hawaii	70	3.75	67	3.48	49	2.42	45	2.38	55	2.63
Idaho	115	5.40	84	3.82	108	4.87	93	4.07	90	3.88
Illinois	354	2.18	288	1.72	279	1.67	221	1.31	288	1.68
Indiana	295	3.60	269	3.16	259	2.98	241	2.76	223	2.56

\* Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 US standard population during 2000 by using the following age group distribution (in years): <1, 1–4, 5–14, 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45–54, 55–64, 65–74, 75– 84, and ≥85. For age-adjusted death rates, the age-specific death rate is rounded to 1 decimal place before proceeding to the next step in the calculation of age-adjusted death rates for NCHS Multiple Cause of Death on CDC WONDER. This rounding step might affect the precision of rates calculated for small numbers of deaths. Missing data are not included.

Source: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death 1999–2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the 2016–2020 Multiple Cause of Death files and are based on information from all death certificates filed in the vital records offices of the 50 states and the District of Columbia through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Deaths of nonresidents (e.g., nonresident aliens, nationals living abroad, residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and other US territories) and fetal deaths are excluded. Numbers are slightly lower than previously reported for 2016 because of NCHS standards that restrict displayed data to US residents. Accessed at <a href="http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html">http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html</a> on January 13, 2022. CDC WONDER data set documentation and technical methods can be accessed at <a href="https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/mcd.html">https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/mcd.html</a>.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report – United States, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2020surveillance/index.htm. Published September 2022.

#### Universal HCV Screening for American Adults



All persons with risk factors (eg, persons with HIV, prior recipients of blood transfusions, persons who ever injected drugs and shared needles, and persons who are born to an HCV-infected mother) should be tested for HCV, with periodic testing while risk factors persist



Treatment is recommended for all patients with chronic HCV infection, except those with short life expectancies owing to comorbid conditions

MOST PATIENTS WITH HCV VIREMIA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TREATMENT CANDIDATES IF THEY CAN COMPLY WITH THERAPY

**AASLD-IDSA Treatment Guidelines** 

### Recommended Regimens

- Glecaprevir (300 mg)/Pibrentasvir 120 mg).
  - 3 tablets orally once a day with food for 8 weeks.
- Sofosbuvir (400mg)/Velpatasvir (100 mg)
  - One tablet orally daily for 12 weeks.

#### SVR12 by Cirrhosis (ITT Analysis)



‡

#### The 22-year trend of liver diseases in the US

Data were extracted between 1999 - 2018 from the annual National Vital Statistics Reports (deaths: Final Data) from the CDC



#### Deaths per year

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; ALD, alcoholic liver disease; NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

### **Access Barriers** for Hepatitis C Treatment



### **Resource Barriers** for Hepatitis C Treatment

Funding for medication

Funding for health center and providers

Funding for addiction management

# **Community Perspective**

#### **DR. MELISSA BUMGARDNER (SHE, HER)**

DIRECTOR OF PHARMACY SERVICES, HAWAII ISLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



### **HERO Project**

"Health Enhancement to Reduce Opioid-use-disorder"

Funded by DOH State Opioid Response Grant

Care Coordination for Hep C and Opioid Use Disorder

Since April 2021





### **Medications for Opioid-Use Disorder**



#### • 181 received MOUD

## **1 in 10**

Persons with HCV is also diagnosed with OUD

<u>J Gen Intern Med.</u> 2021 Apr; 36(4): 930–937. Published online 2021 Feb 10. doi: <u>10.1007/s11606-020-06389-7</u>



### Care Cascade 4/2021 to 3/2023



# **Patient Perspective**

#### **KENSON ALIK (HE, HIM)** MICRONESIAN EDUCATION FOR LIVER WELLNESS PROJECT





#### Micronesian Education for Liver Wellness Program (MELWP)

How can we take care of our own communities?



https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/micronesian-education-program



### LANGUAGE

Educators speak own language

Materials in Micronesian languages

Work with Office of Language Access





### **EDUCATION**

Culturally respectful talk story sessions

Where community already goes: church, sports, parks

Giveaways, incentives





### **SUPPORT**

#### Individual outreach

#### In-person and by phone

#### Community referrals





### **ADVOCATE**

Local: more hep B resources

National: meetings and policy

Global: ambassadors and World Hep Alliance





# **Policy Opportunities HEATHER LUSK (SHE, HER)** HAWAI'I HEALTH & HARM REDUCTION CENTER



### POLICY RECCOMENDATIONS TO MAKE HAWAII HEP FREE BY 2030

Remove pre-authorizations for HCV treatment

State-funded viral hepatitis program

Opioid settlement funds for hepatitis efforts

#### THE TIME FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION IS NOW





### **REMOVING PA FOR HCV TREATMENT**

#### Hawaii had failing grade – now an A

# MedQuest Memo 12.22 with attestation

#### **Pharmacy barriers**



As of August 2023, the following 25 states have removed prior authorization for most patients: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wissonsin.

The above grades reflect our most up-to-date assessment of Medicaid recipients' ability to access HCV treatment in jurisdictions across the country. For a more detailed breakdown of our assessment criteria, check out our comprehensive rubric or complete state-by-state assessments.

Citation: Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation & National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access (2023), www.stateofhepc.org





### **STATE-FUNDED HEPATITIS PROGRAM**

#### Currently \$75,000 annually in state funds

Leverage intersectionality and HFH plan

Testing, vaccination and care coordination

Based on the core values of harm reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha, our community partners identified five priorities to eliminate hepatitis A, B, and C in Hawai'i:

- 1. Awareness and Education
- 2. Access to Services
- 3. Advocacy at All Levels
- 4. Equity in Everything
- 5. Data for Decision-Making

Evaluation of goals, objectives, and critical issues will take place during monthly meetings and annual stakeholder convenings through 2030.



"NO MATTER WHAT, IF YOU HAVE HEPATITIS... OR WHATEVER YOU HAVE THAT'S DETRIMENTAL, YOU CAN OVERCOME IT."

- HFH volunteer, now cured of hepatitis C





### **OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

People with history of using opioids have higher rates of hepatitis C

Some states using opioid settlement to support hepatitis elmination

SB 1394/HB 1096 would provide HCV testing in opioid treatment programs

#### THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND HEPATITIS C IN THE UNITED STATES In 2017, When opioids are injected, they injection drug use can cause the contributed to the spread of infectious nearly 48,000 diseases, like opioid-related Hepatitis C. overdose deaths. 350% **INCREASE** IN NEW mated Rate of People Living with Hepatitis C. 2013-20 **HEPATITIS C** 0 - 700 701 - 900 901 - 1.000 Since 2005, new Hepatitis C infections Geographic areas experiencing the INFECTIONS have been rising particularly among young highest burden of opioid use disorder are 2010-2016 people, likely due to injection drug use. also experiencing higher rates of Hepatitis (







https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/hep-free-2030





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