HCR 205 Briefing

HEPATITIS ELIMINATION IN HAWAI'I







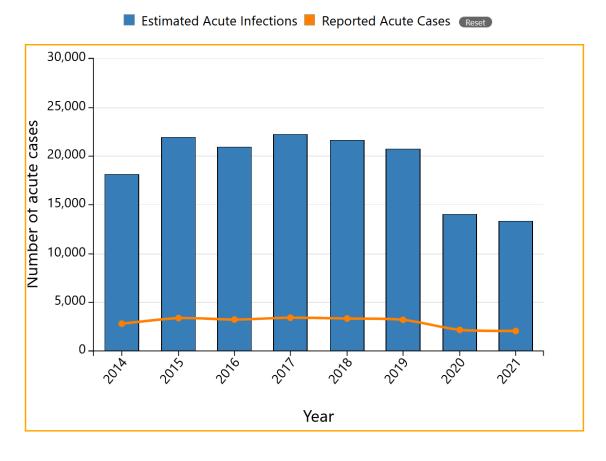
Hepatitis in Hawai'i

TIMOTHY MCCORMICK (HE, HIM)

DOH HARM REDUCTION SERVICES BRANCH



Hep B Burden in US, 2021







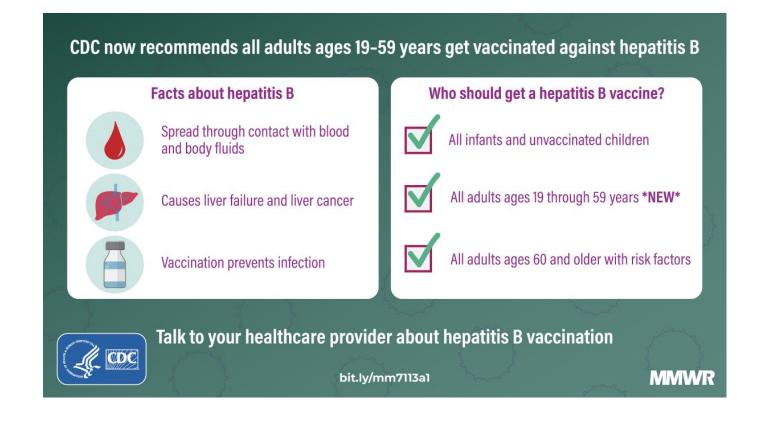
Hep B Burden in US, 2021

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

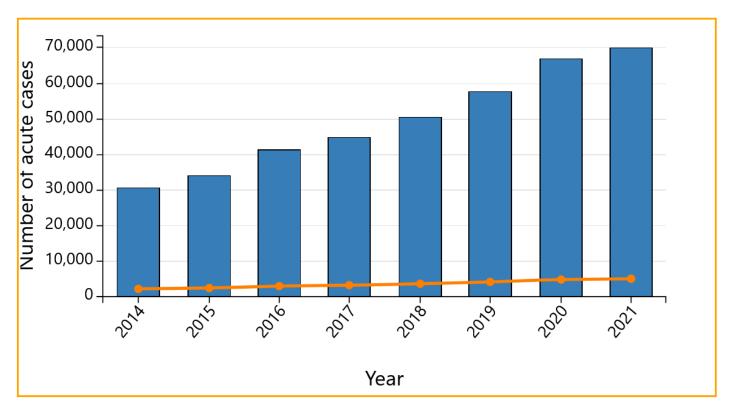
March 2023





Hep C Burden in US

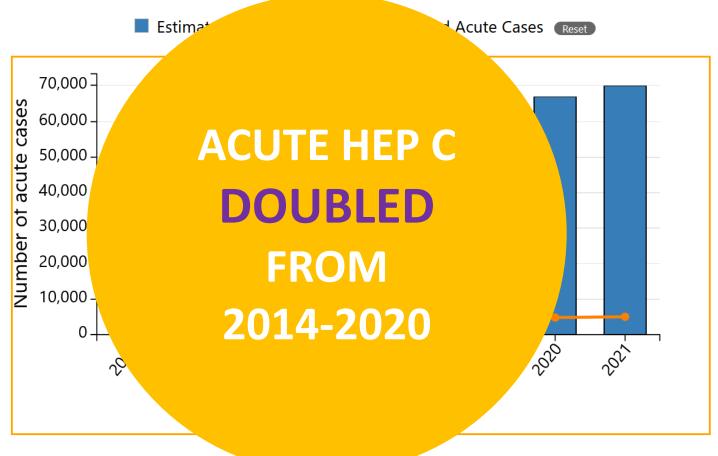








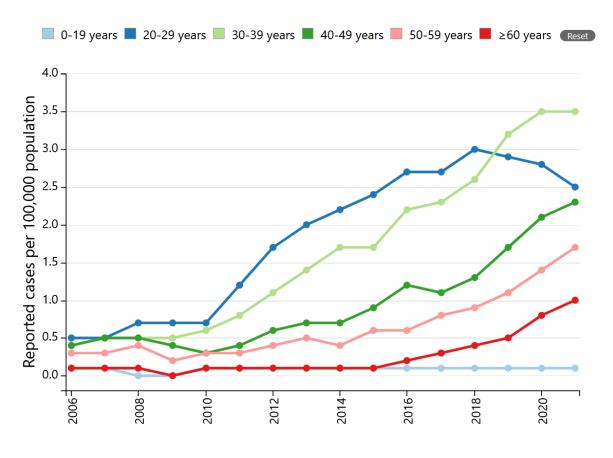
Hep C Burden in US



https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2021surveillance/index.htm



Hep C Burden in US







INSUFFICIENT HCV TREATMENT

June 2023

ADULTS DIAGNOSED AND CURED* OF HEPATITIS C IN THE U.S. 2013-2022









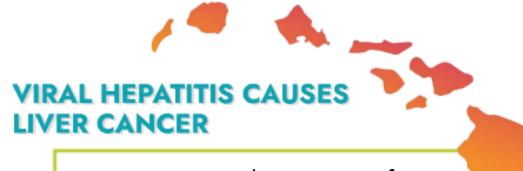
*Cured is defined as viral clearance, which is an undetectable hepatitis C virus ribonucleic acid (HCV RNA) after a prior test result of detectable HCV RNA.

**Referred to as Other (client or self-pay) in the analysis
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention





Hepatitis Burden in Hawai'i



Hepatitis B and C account for 2 out of 3 of liver cancer cases in Hawai 'i

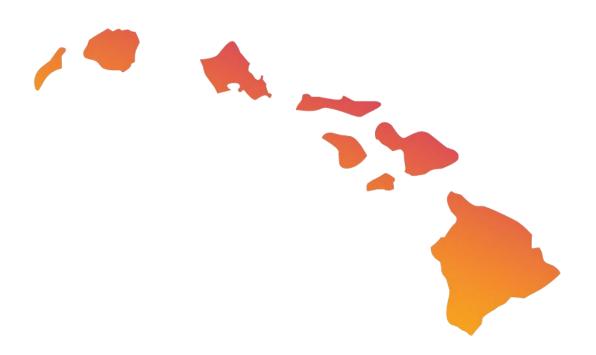


Hawai 'i has higher rates of liver cancer and deaths compared to U.S.

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.

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



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.



HIGHER RATES

of Hepatitis B Deaths (2000-2020)

3 TIMES HIGHER IN HAWAI'I

In 2019, Hep B mortality rate for Hawai'i 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

Hep Infrastructure in DOH

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Community Collaboration



Hep Free 2030

THADDEUS PHAM (HE, HIM)

DOH VIRAL HEPATITIS PREVENTION PROGRAM

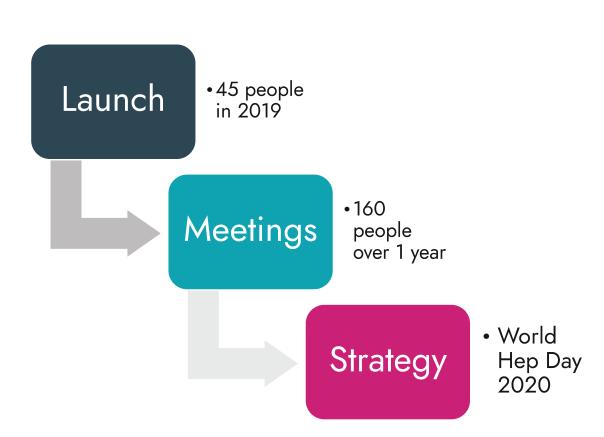








Strategy Process







Fail Fast and Amplify Good



WHAT DOES MICRO-ELIMINATION MEAN?

Micro-elimination means that we will work on many different, innovative, community-driven 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.**



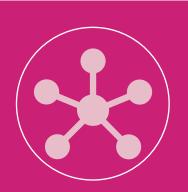
Values in Practice



Harm Reduction



Social Justice



Intersectionality



Aloha



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











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

OMOA with Public Safety for 340B pricing

Trained over 70 healthcare staff

OPiloting 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, hlusk@hhhrc.org

Christina Wang, Medical Director, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center,

cwang@hhhrc.org

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— English or Korean 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











Voices of PWUD

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



"I WANNA LIVE A FULL LIFE"

FULL LIFE"

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

On Meaningful Hepatitis C Treatment

USE SYRINGE EXCHANGES

Syringe exchanges are essential hubs for hepatitis C treatment and other related services.

"Just come to the same spot where the van is. There could be a doctor here who could prescribe."

PROVIDE INFO, REDUCE STIGMA

People who use drugs are concerned about their health, although stigma and misinformation persist.

"I feel like they think that like people that have it are like, dirty."

SHORT, DIRECT MESSAGES

People prefer **visual**, **directive messaging**, especially print materials at syringe exchanges.

"Listen...Hep C is curable!"; "Things have changed. Read this."; "Look. It's curable!"

FOR MORE VOICES, SEE THE FULL REPORT

ttps://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/people-who-use-drugs-talk-about-hep-c





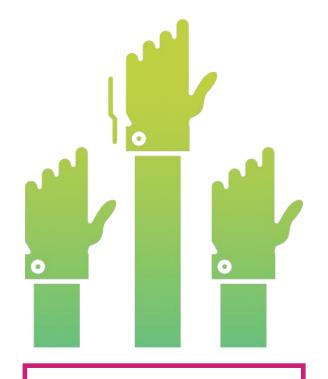
Updated July 31, 2023



CALL TO ACTION

JOIN COALITION

JOIN A WORKGROUP



FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

GIVE FEEDBACK

USE YOUR VOICE



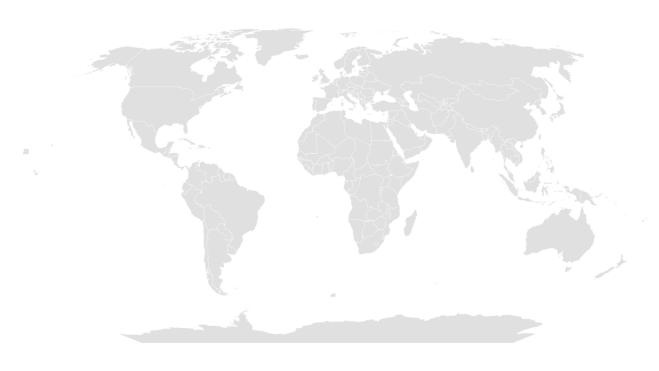
Clinical Perspective

DR. NAOKY TSAI (HE, HIM)

JABSOM; PRACTICING HEPATOLOGIST



Rates* of death with hepatitis C virus infection listed as a cause of death† among residents, by state or jurisdiction United States, 2020



Cases/100,000 Population

0.00–2.34 0 3.51–5.54

2.35–2.65

5.55-10.28

2.66-3.50

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 Pla

* 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.

† 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).

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 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 http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html on January 13, 2022. CDC WONDER dataset documentation and technical methods can be accessed at https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/mcd.html.

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.

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

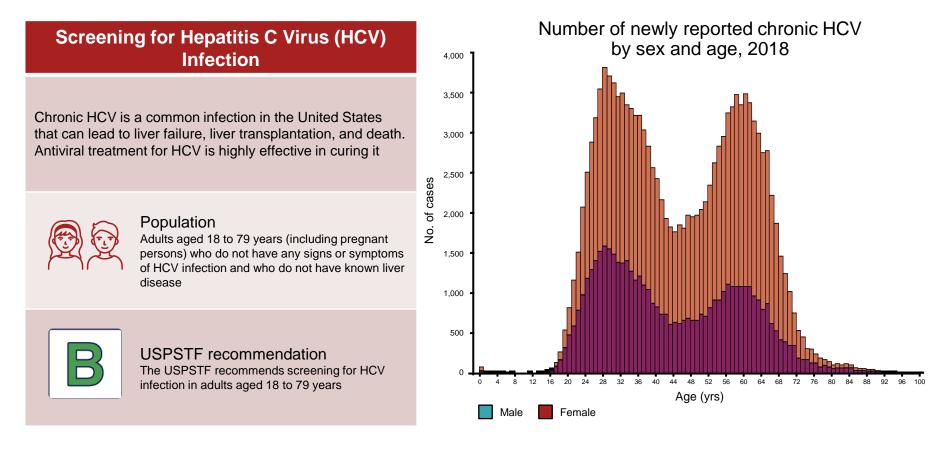
^{*} Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 US standard population during 2000 by using the following age group distribution (in years): <1, 1–4, 5–14, 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45–54, 55–64, 65–74, 75–84, and ≥85. For age-adjusted death rates, the age-specific death rate is rounded to 1 decimal place before 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.

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[†] Cause of death is defined as one of the multiple causes of death and is based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Rev. (ICD-10) codes B17.1, and B18.2 (hepatitis C).

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

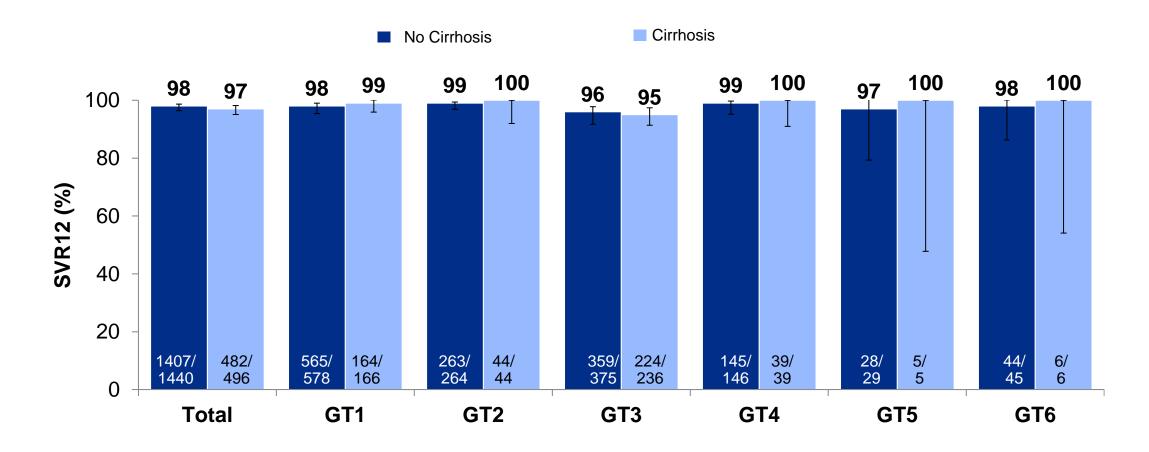
AASLD-IDSA Treatment Guidelines

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.

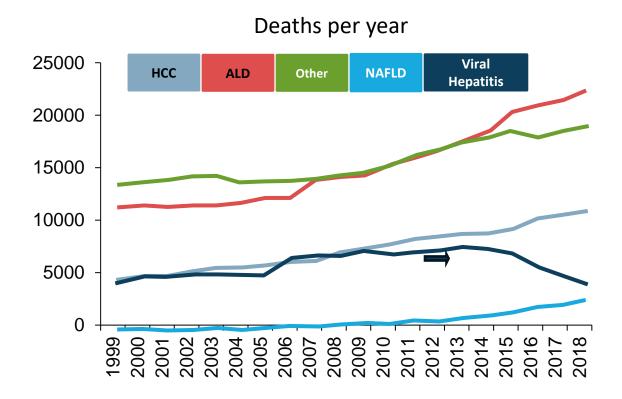
‡

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



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

Access Barriers for Hepatitis C Treatment

- Prior Authorization
- Lack of Providers

Barriers

Opportunities

- Remove PA
- Provider education

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"

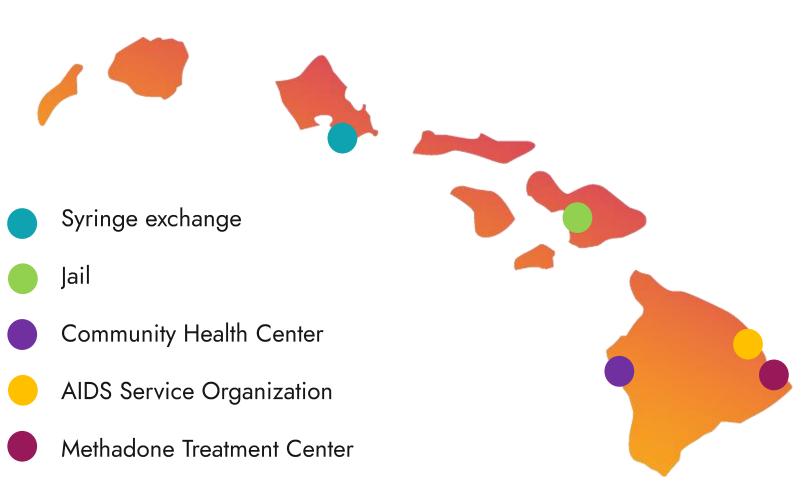
Funded by DOH State Opioid Response Grant

Care Coordination for Hep C and Opioid Use Disorder

Since April 2021



HERO Sites



Medications for Opioid-Use Disorder

Screened existing HCV pts

MOUD improves HCV cure rates

HERO MOUD DATA

- 224 patients referred
- 181 received MOUD

1 in 10

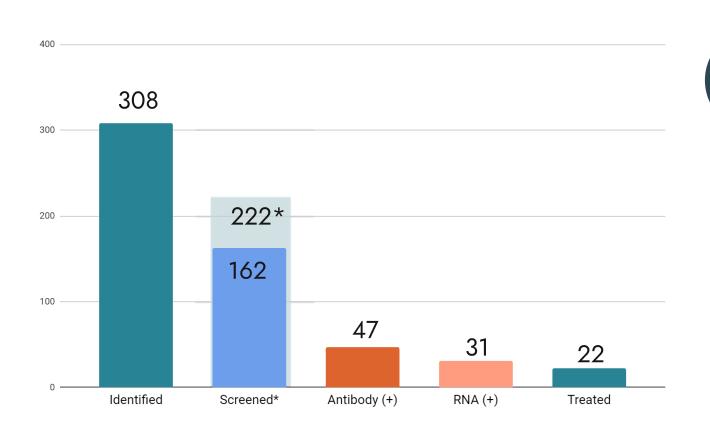
Persons with HCV is also diagnosed with OUD

J Gen Intern Med. 2021 Apr; 36(4): 930-937.

Published online 2021 Feb 10. doi: 10.1007/s11606-020-06389-7



Care Cascade 4/2021 to 3/2023



55% cured

Compare to 1 in 3 national average

17 confirmed SVR

5 LTFU or not yet tested

60 tests

162 tested at time of identification

60 additional patients tested throughout the course of HERO project



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



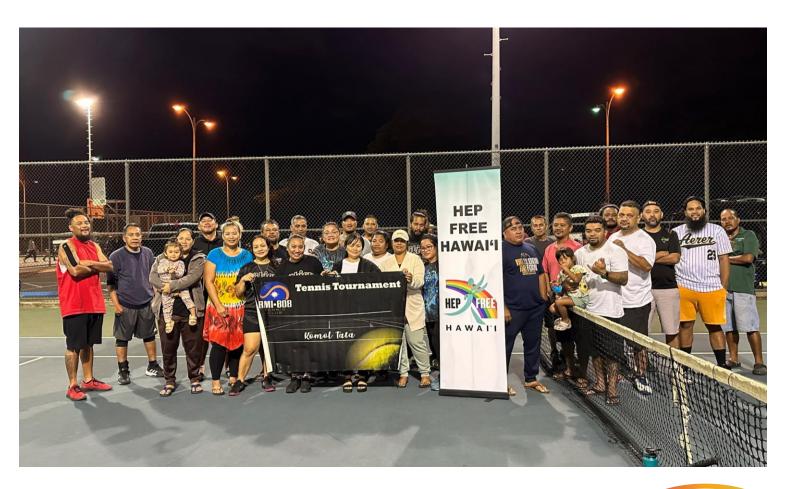


EDUCATION

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



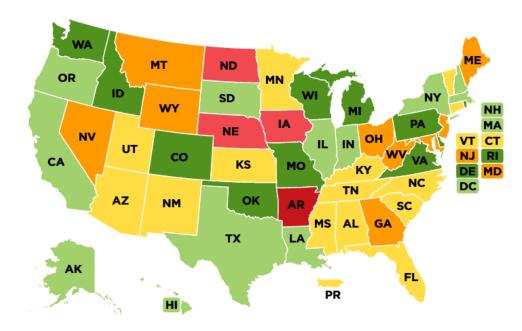


REMOVING PA FOR HCV TREATMENT

Hawaii had failing grade – now an A

MedQuest Memo 12.22 with attestation

Pharmacy barriers



As of August 2025, the following 25 states have removed prior authorization for most patients Alaeka, 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, Wisconsin.

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

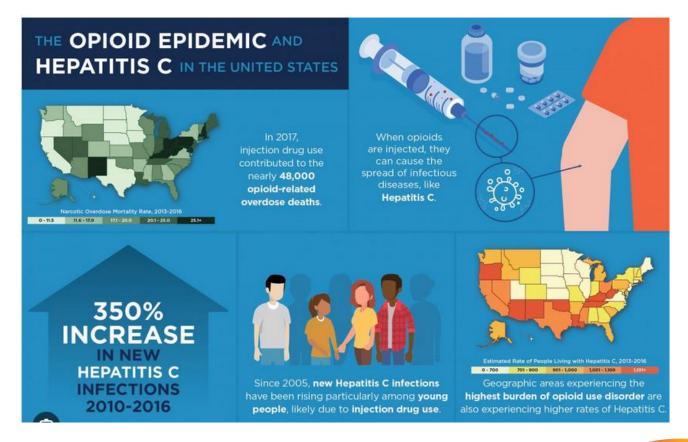


OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

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





QUESTIONS?



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



