



# DELAWARE

## 1. Plan Development

Delaware has not yet published a viral hepatitis elimination plan. The state is expected to publish a plan by 2025 in accordance with CDC PS21-2103. If Delaware has not already done so, the state should convene a group of multi-disciplinary stakeholders to guide these efforts, which will ultimately improve its viral hepatitis strategies and outcomes.

## 2. Harm Reduction Laws

### **Syringe Services Program Legality, Syringe Exchange Specifications, Medical Emergency Laws, and “Works” Possession Laws and Syringe Exemption**

In 2006, Senate Bill 60 was passed, which legally authorized the operation of a syringe services program in the city of Wilmington, Delaware. Over the past 17 years, however, no other legislation has been passed, thus leaving it unclear whether SSPs can operate outside of the city of Wilmington and if the possession of syringes covers individuals who reside or who possess a syringe outside of the city of Wilmington. DE Code § 4762 lists several exceptions for the possession of hypodermic syringes and needles, but possessing a syringe or needle as a participant in an SSP is not included in this list. The legislature should expand the legality of SSPs and the possession of hypodermic syringes and needles beyond the city of Wilmington; it should allow for the exchange of sterile syringes and needles to function on a needs-based policy.

## 3. Budget Allocation

### **Specific Funds Allocated for Plan Implementation, State Budget, and State Corrections Budget**

There is a mention of viral hepatitis in the state budget allocations in the current FY22-23 budget; however, there is no mention of viral hepatitis in Delaware’s corrections budget allocations.

## 4. Improving Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Treatment, and Outcomes

### **Educational and Perinatal Information for the Public, Provider Training, and Medicaid Expansion**

Delaware provides educational information to the public regarding viral hepatitis and previously shared perinatal HBV and HCV data with the public, but it no longer has active links on its Department of Health website pertaining to that perinatal information. It is a Medicaid expansion state, and has maintained provider training resources through the University of Washington’s training program and resources.

**Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections**

A professional services agreement for Correctional Health Services was in effect until the end of June 2023 that outlines guidance for testing and treating individuals in correctional facilities, specifically through an opt-out approach.

**Targeted Interventions for Key Populations and the Provision of Linguistically Diverse Informational Materials**

The state funds mobile SSP programs in collaboration with a community partner organization, but only in the city of Wilmington. The state should expand this program more broadly throughout the state.

**Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources**

We are not aware of an enduring Coalition or task force in existence that includes state agencies, community organizations, and advocacy groups to coordinate activities and leverage resources. If it has not already begun to do so, Delaware should convene stakeholders across various disciplines to form a Coalition that can help build partnership, identify needs, leverage available resources, and further implement targeted interventions.

**Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade**

Delaware's Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade has significantly improved since July 2022 following the removal of a prior authorization requirement, in addition to the removal of several other restrictions. Delaware's Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade has improved from a D to an A+.

## 5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

**Epidemiological Report / Profile, and Public-Facing Website with Viral Hepatitis Data**

In December 2017, Delaware published HCV data in an epidemiological report on a public-facing website. That HCV data, and thus the data included on the public-facing website, is now outdated. The state should consider updating this information as soon as new data is available.