



HAWAII

1. Plan Development

Hawaii has successfully created a viral hepatitis plan that addresses HAV, HBV, and HCV. It has been made available to the public, and people with lived/living experience were extensively involved in its development. The state has not committed to publishing progress reports for its plan on an annual basis but should consider doing so.

2. Harm Reduction Laws

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

Although SSPs are authorized by law in Hawaii, the state should consider expanding its syringe exchange laws from a 1-for-1 exchange to a needs-based SSP policy, which would broaden the efficacy of these programs to reduce transmission of hepatitis, HIV, and other diseases. The possession of substance use/injection drug use equipment has recently been decriminalized. Thus, upon a conviction of possession of drug paraphernalia, a person shall only be punished by a monetary fine.

3. Budget Allocation

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

No funds have been allocated to implement the state’s strategies, but viral hepatitis is mentioned in the state’s FY23-25 budget as well as the state corrections budget.

4. Improving Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Treatment, and Outcomes

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

Hawaii 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 to perinatal HBV or HCV information available anymore. However, Hawaii is a Medicaid expansion state and does offer hepatitis training to providers.

Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections

Hawaii is one of just a handful of jurisdictions that has an elimination plan that has been made available to the public that also includes strategies to offer DAA treatment for HCV to all persons with a confirmed HCV diagnosis held in state corrections in accordance with AASLD / IDSA treatment guidelines.

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

There are state-supported targeted interventions available for key populations across Hawaii.

Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources

There is also an enduring Coalition that is state-led and includes people with lived / living experience.

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade

Hawaii has improved its Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade from a D to an A after the fee-for-service program removed prior authorization. However, zero managed care organizations have implemented the policy change. Barriers to HCV treatment persist for most beneficiaries.

5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

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

Hawaii now has an updated HCV epidemiological report available on its public-facing website.