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1. Plan Development

Idaho has not yet created a viral hepatitis elimination plan, but the ongoing efforts of the Idaho Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program are promising signs and could mean a plan is developed soon. The state is expected to publish a plan by 2025 in accordance with CDC PS21-2103.

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, the restrictive language of the authorizing law combined with the language of a functioning SSP in the state supports that a 1-for-1 model for syringe exchanges is in place. The state should consider expanding its syringe exchange laws from a 1-for-1 exchange to a needs-based policy because a needs-based SSP policy would broaden the access to sterile injection equipment to reduce transmission of hepatitis, HIV, and other diseases. There is also no existing exemption for the possession of syringes that are acquired through SSPs.

3. Budget Allocation

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

There is no mention of viral hepatitis in Idaho’s FY23 budget. Implementing a designated line item for hepatitis would signal a commitment to providing resources to support ongoing efforts to improve statewide viral hepatitis outcomes. The state’s corrections budget does mention viral hepatitis and includes treatment allocations.

4. Improving Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Treatment, and Outcomes

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

Idaho 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. However, Idaho is a Medicaid expansion state and does offer hepatitis training to providers.

Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections

A separate state-drafted guidance for the standard of care for HCV does not exist in state corrections in Idaho. There has been litigation within the jurisdiction though that has prompted changes to be made regarding hepatitis screening and treatment within correctional facilities. A settlement agreement was reached in 2022 (four years after the initial complaint was filed) that will require Idaho to allocate at least \$29.25 million to hepatitis C treatment for incarcerated people in the state.

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

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

Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources

Idaho's Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program has established the Viral Hepatitis Elimination Technical Advisory Committee for input and insight for elimination planning. It is not clear who the members of the Committee are though.

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade

Since July 2022, Idaho has maintained its A+ Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade.

5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

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

Updated epidemiological data on HAV, HBV, and HCV was not located on the state's department of health website. Idaho should consider publishing updated information as soon as it is available.