



ILLINOIS

1. Plan Development

Illinois has not yet published a viral hepatitis elimination plan, but work groups have been established to further these efforts. 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

SSPs are authorized by law in Illinois, and they function on a needs-based policy. Although the possession of syringes is illegal, there is an exemption in place for syringes acquired from SSPs via 720 ILCS 635/1(a).

3. Budget Allocation

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

There was no specific state budget allocation identified related to viral hepatitis in the state’s FY23 budget or corrections budget. A designated line item for hepatitis signals a commitment to providing resources to support ongoing efforts to improve statewide viral hepatitis outcomes.

4. Improving Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Treatment, and Outcomes

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

Illinois 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. Additionally, the training resources for providers linked on the website are from 2015 and are now outdated. However, Illinois is a Medicaid expansion state.

Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections

A publicly available, separate, state-drafted guidance for the standard of care for HCV in state corrections does not exist in Illinois. There has been litigation within the jurisdiction though that has prompted changes to be made regarding hepatitis screening and treatment within correctional facilities. In a 2023 ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois’ Eastern Division, it was determined that the Illinois Department of Corrections has failed to create and implement a plan to improve medical care at state prisons, which it was obligated to do via a 2019 agreement.

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

The Hepatitis C Community Alliance to Test and Treat actively provides targeted interventions to key populations disproportionately affected by viral hepatitis. Printed and digital informational materials available on viral hepatitis prevention, screening, and treatment on the state page is provided in several languages in addition to English.

Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources

Although there is a hepatitis-focused Community Alliance, Illinois lacks a task force that is cross-cutting amongst state agencies to plan and coordinate activities and leverage resources. iHEP was a previously active Coalition, but it is not clear that this group is still active.

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade

Illinois has improved its Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade from an F to an A following the removal of prior authorization. Illinois should remove its prescriber certification requirement to improve access further.

5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

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

The state's most recent epidemiological report, which only included data for HAV, is now outdated. To increase transparency, the state should consistently publish viral hepatitis epidemiological data for HAV, HBV, and HCV, and house this data on a public-facing website.