



KENTUCKY

1. Plan Development

Kentucky published an HCV elimination plan in July 2022, the development of which included people with lived experience. While there is no commitment to publish progress reports on at least an annual basis, the plan notes that “VHP and evaluation group will meet semi-annually to review, discuss, and determine the progress of goals, strategies, and objectives” and will encourage this group to publish plan progress reports following these meetings. The state should also take strides to incorporate strategies to address screening, prevention, and treatment of HAV and HBV 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 and function on a needs-based policy, there is an exemption in place for syringes acquired from SSPs, and there are Good Samaritan protections for those seeking medical care or offering aid to others for a substance use-related health emergency.

3. Budget Allocation

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

Viral hepatitis is mentioned only in the state’s FY22-24 and nothing further. A designated line item for hepatitis would signal 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

The state hepatitis website provides educational information on HAV, HBV, and HCV, including perinatal information for HBV and the Kentucky Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program. The website previously included perinatal HCV information, but it no longer does. The Kentucky Rural Health Association offers a provider training for viral hepatitis called KHAMP; however, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) website does not make mention of the program. Many links on the CHFS website are inoperable; upon clicking on the link for hepatitis B and C, users are directed to the CDC website for hepatitis B. The state should consider rebuilding a viral hepatitis prevention page complete with resources for the public and providers.

Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections

The state's viral hepatitis elimination plan includes strategies to offer DAA treatment to all persons with a confirmed HCV diagnosis held in state corrections in accordance with the AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines.

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

The state provides financial support to operate syringe exchange programs (SEPs) throughout the state in collaboration with community partners. The Kentucky Pharmacists Association partners with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to operate a mobile harm reduction unit that distributes naloxone and provides HIV and HCV testing throughout the state.

Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources

The state's viral hepatitis elimination plan includes evidence that several Coalitions are functioning in Kentucky, including Kentucky HepatitisTAC and HepatitisFree KY.

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade

The Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade given to Kentucky has not changed since July 2022: it remains a B. To further improve this grade, the state should remove the prior authorization requirement and remove retreatment and other restrictions that are still in place.

5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

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

In July 2022, an epidemiological report was published that included HBV and HCV data. This information was only presented at a conference and is not housed on the Kentucky Department of Public Health website.