



LOUISIANA

1. Plan Development

Louisiana released Hepatitis C Free Louisiana: Louisiana Hepatitis C Elimination Plan 2019-2024 in 2019. The plan only addresses HCV elimination, not HAV or HBV. It is unclear if the committee that worked to develop the plan included people with lived experience. The plan also does not include a commitment to publish annual progress reports.

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 Louisiana, but the law does not appear to provide a clear exemption from drug paraphernalia violations for persons receiving syringes from SSPs.

3. Budget Allocation

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

Viral hepatitis is not mentioned in the state’s FY 2023 general budget, and it is only mentioned in the state’s correctional budget via “contract services” with Louisiana State University. Other than a low average number of inmates being listed as having a hepatitis diagnosis, the corrections budget makes no indication of a dedication of funds to prevention, treatment, or elimination strategies.

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. The website previously included perinatal HCV information, but it no longer does. Louisiana is a Medicaid expansion state, and part of the elimination strategy is the expansion of the state’s health care delivery system and capacity to treat HCV by training and supporting PCPs, substance use treatment providers, and pharmacists, as well as creating a specialty referral system. Training for providers is offered through Tulane University’s ECHO program.

Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections

The state’s viral hepatitis elimination plan includes strategies to offer DAA treatment for HCV 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

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

Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources

The state contracted with 14 community-based organizations to develop the elimination plan. It is unclear whether this committee continues to meet routinely.

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade

Louisiana does not have many restrictions on access to treatment, but its Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade has decreased from an A+ to an A due to at least one additional imposed restriction: the requirement of documentation of chronic HCV infection.

5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

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

At the beginning of 2023, Louisiana published a comprehensive HBV and HCV Surveillance Report with 2020 data. No data for HAV (either through a dashboard or a comprehensive report) has been updated since 2021 though.