



# NEW MEXICO

## 1. Plan Development

New Mexico has published an updated HCV elimination plan. The plan is vague, however, regarding if or when progress reports pertaining to the plan's goals will be published. It does say that "the coalition will continue to meet to track progress." Additionally, the plan does not contain information about whether people with lived experience (PWLE) were part of the plan's creation. The plan simply states: "efforts to engage with persons living with HCV will continue." New Mexico should better define the communities worked with to create their new viral hepatitis elimination plan and better define PWLE's meaningful roles and input.

## 2. Harm Reduction Laws

### **Syringe Services Program Legality, Syringe Exchange Specifications, Medical Emergency Laws, and "Works" Possession Laws and Syringe Exemption**

SSPs are legal in New Mexico via a state law expressly authorizing them. Although first-time applicants to a syringe services program receive an initial packet of thirty (30) needles and syringes, this is not sufficient to qualify as a needs-based model. After this initial allotment, programs function on a 1-for-1 policy. Participants can receive extra syringes, but that is left up to the discretion of the staff of individual programs. This is onerous and makes it much more difficult to patrol the disbursement of syringes. Completely needs-based programs are the preferred model to ensure hypodermic syringes and other injection supplies are not shared or reused; this also improves transmission risk and reduces other associated health issues.

## 3. Budget Allocation

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

New Mexico's FY23 budget mentions viral hepatitis and viral hepatitis elimination. Budget appropriations proposals specify requests from the state Department of Corrections for funding to treat HCV in corrections. In the FY24 proposed budget request though, viral hepatitis is only mentioned in the corrections portion of the budget.

## 4. Improving Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Treatment, and Outcomes

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

New Mexico is a Medicaid expansion state. The state hepatitis site provides comprehensive educational and informational resources for viral hepatitis prevention, such as information on free HAV and HBV vaccines, as well as perinatal HBV (but not perinatal HCV). New Mexico was a pioneer in developing the provider training program, Project ECHO, which continues to be adapted and utilized across the country.

**Standard of Care for HCV in State Corrections**

New Mexico's new viral hepatitis plan includes guidance pertaining to HCV treatment in correctional settings, but this guidance does not include information that there are strategies in place to offer DAA treatment for HCV diagnosis held in state corrections that are in accordance with AASLD/IDSA treatment guidelines.

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

New Mexico provides supports for targeted interventions for key populations across the state.

**Enduring Coalition / Task Force to Coordinate and Leverage Resources**

The New Mexico Hepatitis C Coalition was integral to the creation of the state's new elimination plan. It is a collaborative body with diverse membership, including individuals from the state department of public health, University of New Mexico, and specialty services organizations. EndHepatitisC New Mexico also exists, and people with lived experience are part of this coalition as well.

**Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Grade**

Grade has improved from a D to a B

**5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage****Epidemiological Report / Profile, and Public-Facing Website with Viral Hepatitis Data**

New Mexico's Health and Human Services released a 2022 data book that includes a county-by-county breakdown of HCV rates and total counts.