



# NEW YORK

## 1. Plan Development

New York drafted its NY Cures Hepatitis C Elimination Plan in 2019 and published it in 2021. The plan only addresses HCV elimination, but it does contain cumulative HCV elimination targets for the state to achieve under the plan by 2030, a commitment to publish at least annual progress reports, and indicates that people with lived experience were part of the plan creation process. The state should take steps to integrate strategies to address testing, prevention, and treatment of HAV and HBV into its elimination plan.

## 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 New York State, and they function on a needs-based policy. Needs-based SSP policies broaden the efficacy of these programs to reduce transmission of hepatitis, HIV, and other diseases. Additional notable harm reduction successes include the decriminalization of the possession of syringes and opening the first Overdose Prevention Centers in New York City. Additionally, there are Good Samaritan protections in place to protect those who call 911 to help others or themselves who need emergency medical assistance.

## 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 FY22 budget, and it does not appear that there will be one in the upcoming budget either. The state should strive to implement specific line-items focused on hepatitis services and elimination in future budgets.

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

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

New York is a Medicaid expansion state; the state distributes viral hepatitis educational information and materials and provides perinatal information / education for HBV and HCV (it provides this information in multiple languages as well). Perinatal HCV information was more difficult to locate because it is only listed under “Educational Materials” and not referenced on the main hepatitis page. The New York State Health Department webpage links to trainings resources for providers as well.

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

New York State's viral hepatitis 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**

New York provides supports for targeted interventions for key populations across the state, including those experiencing homelessness, people who use injection drugs, individuals with a positive HIV diagnosis, and populations at higher risk for viral hepatitis.

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

The New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Task Force was created in July 2018 and includes representatives from community-based organizations, people living with and affected by hepatitis C, health care providers, payers, public health experts, researchers, harm reduction specialists and social service providers. The Task Force structure consisted of community and governmental co-chairs and five workgroup committees: 1) Hepatitis C Prevention; 2) Hepatitis C Care and Treatment Access; 3) Hepatitis C Testing and Linkage to Care; 4) Surveillance, Data and Metrics; and 5) Social Determinants.

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

Although New York still needs to remove retreatment restrictions, New York has improved its Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access grade from a B to an A by ensuring there is parity between fee-for-service and managed care organizations.

## **5. Improving Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage**

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

New York State Department of Health has released a Hepatitis B and C 2021 Annual Report through its website. This is helpful information, and the state should continue to create and publish these reports as data becomes available.